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‘An extraordinary act’



Members of the Eugene Police Commission gather around a table for a meeting inside the Kilcullen classroom at the Eugene Police Department on July 10. **HALEIGH KOCHANSKI/EUGENE REGISTER-GUARD**

Police Commission hears from people concerned about cameras, ICE

Haleigh Kochanski
Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than 50 people attended a Eugene Police Commission meeting on July 10 to listen to policy discussions and submit public comments regarding the department’s recent installation of license plate reader technology across the city and controversy related to federal immigration enforcement.

“This is definitely the largest police commission meeting I have ever seen for public comment. I am very impressed,” Jensina Hawkins, chair of the Police Commission, said.

The commission is a 12-person citi-

“You are our local guardrail and you are bending.”

Jacob Griffin
A local Jewish trans man

zens’ advisory group that reviews policies generated by the police department and provides recommendations based on community values and resource priorities to the city’s police chief, city council and city manager.

License plate reader technology a contentious topic

Many commenters criticized the police department’s lack of notification to

the community before deploying license plate recognition cameras across Eugene.

“Surveilling the total population of Eugene without our knowledge, let alone consent, is an extraordinary act,” Bailey Gilmore said. “Certainly, it demonstrates that EPD is uninterested in building trust between the community and the police.”

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ODOT manager pushes back on agency cuts

Zach Urness
Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

A longtime manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation said Cascade Range highways near Diamond and Crater Lake will become “impassable for weeks and months” during winter, impacting school bus routes, commerce and tourism, if the planned cuts to the state agency go through.

After lawmakers failed to pass a transportation package during the legislative session that ended June 27, Gov. Tina Kotek announced layoffs to an anticipated 600 to 700 employees who oversee the state’s highways and roadways.

Dan Metz, a manager for 18 years of ODOT’s High Cascades region, said his last day would be July 31.

Normally, including himself, there are 15 employees in summer and between 20 and 22 in winter for ODOT’s High Cascade region. Under the cuts, that number would drop to five.

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Access to Crater Lake, one of the snowiest places in North America, will be “impossible” in winter if ODOT cuts go forward, an ODOT manager said. STATESMAN JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

New food truck brings gourmet sandwiches to Eugene

Samantha Pierotti
Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

Arable Brewing is a quiet oasis within the industrial parks of West Eugene. Starry Bites, the shiny new food truck stationed outside, is the perfect addition to the space. The food truck owners, Mark and Brooke Ford, are bringing

vibrant, delectable sandwiches to their customers.

Brooke and Mark moved to Eugene in August of 2024 without ever visiting the city before. The couple decided they wanted to retire to Oregon after a trip to the coast, and then said to themselves, “Why wait?”

“We were working grown-up jobs in Florida and just weren’t happy in our

lives,” Brooke said. “We just wanted to live more truthfully, so we decided to sell our house, everything we own, and move to Eugene and start a food truck.”

Brooke and Mark have loved their time in the city so far. The weather, community and farm-to-table atmosphere have all inspired the menu at Starry Bites. Red Hen Kitchen’s bread, which is featured on all of the sand-

wiches at Starry Bites, also motivated the menu.

“Mark wanted to do something accessible, and you can make great sandwiches at a price point where most people can afford to come eat here,” Brooke said. “Also, we fell in love with Red Hen Kitchen bread. That really solidified the

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