

U.S. crowds welcome Pope Francis
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OUTRUNNING CANCER
SPECIAL SECTION

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EUGENE, OREGON

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Commissioners OK buyouts

The program offered to hundreds of county employees aims to reduce the costs of benefits for future workers

By SAUL HUBBARD
The Register-Guard

After a brief discussion, the Lane County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved a buyout program for which hundreds of county employees will be eligible.

The program comes in exchange for cost-saving changes to future employees' health benefits and vacation accruals. The county expects the one-time severance costs for employees who accept a buyout and leave to be outweighed by long-term savings from cheaper benefits for new

employees.

The buyouts, negotiated with two of the county's smaller unions, will be available to 71 county technicians, engineers and accounting supervisors represented by one union, and 115 road maintenance workers represented by another. It also would be an option for the county's 227 non-union employees, many of them managers and supervisors.

The commissioners all

thanked the two unions for negotiating the deal outside of a normal labor bargaining cycle. Contracts for both unions don't expire until next summer.

"Time and time again our employees step forward with ideas for how we can be more efficient and provide more services," Commissioner Jay Bozievich said.

Under the buyout, eligible

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Police getting more cameras

Eugene receives a \$249,000 federal grant to pay for body cams

By CHELSEA GORROW
The Register-Guard

The Eugene Police Department has received a \$249,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to acquire body cameras for its officers, the department announced Tuesday.

The Eugene department was one of 73 agencies across the country to receive a grant, out of 285 applications, Eugene police spokesman John Hankemeier said. The amount awarded was the maximum allowed for police departments of Eugene's size, he said.

The only other department in Oregon to receive a grant was Beaverton's, which was awarded \$150,000, Hankemeier said.

Eugene police worked with the Lane Council of Governments to apply for the grant.

It was not immediately

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HEROIC PORTRAIT

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS PIETSCH/*The Register-Guard*



Katie Nelson, 8, from Veneta, poses for a souvenir photo with Captain America (also known as Ryan May) in her hospital room at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield. Members of the Portland Superheroes Coalition visited with children. The Emerald Valley Comic Fest will be held in Eugene on Oct. 3-4 at the Lane Events Center.

'Stone Soup' creator retiring daily comic strip



BRIAN DAVIES/*The Register-Guard*, 2007

Jan Eliot works on a "Stone Soup" comic strip in her Eugene home.

Eugene cartoonist Jan Eliot, who says she wants to have more family time, still plans a Sunday edition

By RANDI BJORNSTAD
The Register-Guard

Every once in awhile, something comes along to shake up the everyday world, and this week it's the announcement that Eugene cartoonist Jan Eliot is ending daily production of her locally grown and widely syndicated "Stone Soup" comic.

It's that sort of good news-bad news scenario: Sisters Val and Joan and all their kith and kin — second husbands, feisty mom with the much-younger

beau, kids with all their perverities and even a dog named Biscuit — will still be in full-color print on Sundays, but the last week of the daily black-and-white frames will run the week of Oct. 12.

Eliot could not immediately be reached Tuesday for comment. But according to a news release from her syndicate, Universal Uclick, Eliot simply wants more time for herself.

"Every Monday morning,

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Another housing project proposed

By ELON GLUCKLICH
The Register-Guard

Another large student apartment project is being planned in the University of Oregon area.

Local student housing manager and developer Roy Carver III has applied for an \$11.8 million building permit for a vacant lot at East 15th Avenue and Orchard Street, east of Matthew Knight Arena.

Carver is planning a four-story apartment building on the 1-acre Orchard Street lot, documents filed this week with the Eugene Planning and Development Department show. The property is

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TOM PENIX/*The Register-Guard*

IN THE NEWS

NATION

Hillary Rodham Clinton says she opposes construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, breaking her longstanding silence on the issue/A4

CITY/REGION

Speakers stress the urgency of local agencies working closely together to determine how to best prepare for a major earthquake/B1

BUSINESS

Lane County's unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent in August, the first decrease after three consecutive months of increases/B4

COMING UP >>

If you think you know what to expect from Japanese prints, a Jordan Schnitzer show might alter your point of view/Thursday in Arts



QUOTABLE

"Just because I'm sitting somewhere doesn't mean that I'm entitled to kiss this stranger."
— **Elaina Crockett, a senior at Syracuse University, where the school is considering canceling its "kiss cam" at events/A4**

