

# Extension service faces uncertain future in county

By Rosanne Roberts

Of the Emerald

The Lane County Extension Service probably will be forced to leave Lane County unless the City of Eugene approves a special tax district.

Eugene city councillors decide today at noon whether to support the proposed Lane Extension Service district, which would allow the people of Lane County to vote on a tax base to support the existing service.

The extension service wants to restore positions cut during the past several years, including agents who answer questions and participate in urban horticulture, home economics, 4-H clubs and livestock programs.

Last week the Lane County Board of Commissioners told the extension service they would not be able to support the service through its general fund. The commissioners told the extension supporters to go back to the cities of Eugene and Springfield and ask again for their support, since the county's money may be available only if the extension

service continues its attempt to form a special tax district.

Money for the extension service usually comes from the Lane County commissioners general fund. Because the county lacks money due to the drop in revenue from federal timber sales, the county can no longer afford to support the service.

"For three-and-a-half years I have opposed the idea of a special district because I thought the money should come from the basic budget," said Bill Rogers, Lane County Board of Commissioners chairman. Rogers said he now supports the special district because he realizes the county will not be able to finance the extension service.

Rogers also said the majority of commissioners believe the service district is the only way the extension service will get their money.

"There's no other way for the extension service to remain satisfactory," Rogers said. However, Rogers added that the need for additional sheriff's deputies and contingency funds

was much greater than for the extension service.

In 1981 Lane County contributed \$145,000 to support extension, but in 1982 the county's financial support dropped close to zero. More recently, support holds steady at \$50,000 per year and use of their building. The creation of a new district and passage of a serial levy would assure continued funding free from the restraints of Lane County's general fund.

"At our level of staffing the county should be paying \$300,000 a year," senior extension agent Steve Woodward said.

The idea to create a special district, with the Lane County commissioners as its board of directors, could levy a property tax of possibly \$560,000 to pay for clerks, aides and office rental. The tax rate would be eight cents per \$1000 of assessed property value, or \$4 for the owner of a \$50,000 home.

Volunteers for Extension is circulating petitions calling for formation of the district. Before

the measure can go to the voters next November, every incorporated city in the county must pass a resolution approving the district. All the cities in the county have done so, except Eugene and Springfield. The Springfield city council will discuss the issue on Monday.

If Eugene doesn't go along with the special district proposal, Woodward said. "The city is vetoing the right to let people vote on it."

Woodward expects "gobs of people" to show support for the extension service at today's city council meeting at the Eugene Council Chamber, 777 Pearl St. "It would be great if university students came down," Woodward said.

The extension service receives 25 percent of its funds from federal money, 50 percent from the state, 17 percent from

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## Et al.

### MEETINGS

**The Literary Society presents** "Between the Eyes," a poetry reading by graduate students in the creative writing department tonight at 8 at the Beanery, 790 E. 14th Ave.

**The UO/UES Sister University Project** will meet today at 4:30 in Century Room A, EMU. "Study in Spain" — an informational meeting to discuss the 1988 Seville Study Program will be held today at 4 in 360 Oregon Hall. Call 686-3206 for further information.

**Interested in doing something worthwhile?** Come to an Alpha Phi Omega organizational meeting tonight at 7 in the Maple Room of the EMU.

### LECTURES

**Neuroscience Seminar:** Janis C. Weeks of the University of California at Berkeley, will speak on "Hormonally Mediated Change in Neuronal Structure and Function during Insect Metamorphosis" today at 3:30 in 331 Science II.

**Laurinda Dixon**, a Syracuse University art historian, will speak on "Bosch's Garden of Delights Triptych — Alchemical Imagery" tonight at 7:30 in 107 Lawrence. Dixon is widely published in the field of Northern Renaissance art, alchemy and occult science. Sponsored by the art history department, Center for the Study of Women in Society and the EMU Cultural Forum.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**"Citizen Action toward Pesticide Reform"** — A video and discussion tonight at 6 in Studio E of the Instructional Media Center.

**"Applying to Law School"** is the workshop sponsored by Academic Advising and Student Services today at 3:30 in 164 Oregon Hall.

**Applications for Peer Health Advising** positions and Practicum Student Internships for Fall Term 1987 now are being accepted. Application forms are available at the Health Education Center located in the Student Health Center. For further

information, call 686-4456 or 686-4401.

**The University Outdoor Program** is sponsoring the video "Winds of Everest" today at 12:30 in the Outdoor Program room in the basement of the EMU. Join the 1984 American China-Everest team as they once again attempt the North Face, this time successfully placing one member on the summit.

**The University Outdoor Program** is sponsoring a windsurfing and whitewater equipment swap today at 5:30 at Orchard Point, Fern Ridge Reservoir. A variety of used equipment will be available including sail boards, sails, kayaks, rafts and canoes. For more information, call 686-4365.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.

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