

• We look at the flags flying at half mast and note that millions are taking time off work to mourn the passing of one of America's greatest individuals, and it is fitting that we honor a man who has touched us all so deeply with his gifts of love, joy and beauty. *A song of you comes as sweet and clear as moonlight through the pines.... Still in peaceful dreams I see, the road leads back to you.* We'll miss you, Ray.

• Predictably, the mayor's Committee on Economic Development is not jumping up and down to prioritize a study on the impact of big-box stores on jobs and the local economy. But even a cursory reading of the research done by other cities points out major problems associated with Wal-Mart and other mega-stores. Living-wage jobs are lost and local cash is sucked out of state to finance construction and acquisition of more concrete and asphalt atrocities elsewhere. An easy solution is a moratorium on the size of retail outlets until the research can be done.

• As the Goldschmidt scandal plays out it's becoming evident that a disturbing number of people knew about the former governor's sexual indiscretions, including the statutory rape of a 14-year-old girl. Was Kulongoski in the loop? We're speculating that he knew more than he's letting on. He has a lot to lose. Our governor likely would have known about Goldschmidt's habitual sexual indiscretions, and if he didn't know about the teenager, he should have. But unless someone else credible comes forward to substantiate Fred Leonhardt's claim that Kulongoski knew about the teenager long before the scandal broke, we are inclined to give our governor the benefit of the doubt.

• Our cover story this week on the persistent local peace movement follows news that more Oregon soldiers have died in Iraq. Among the latest is a National Guard soldier from Corvallis whose six-year military commitment was extended. He was scheduled to return to civilian life two months ago. More than two dozen people with ties to Oregon have died in the Iraq War, and many more have been injured and disabled. Reading about these soldier's lives at home reminds us that war destroys not only human bodies, resources and landscapes, but also precious dreams and aspirations. The most important things obliterated in war can never be repaired or replaced.

• What do our friends across the Atlantic think about American politics? Our globe-trotting editor recently returned from Western Europe and found people there who dismiss George W. Bush as a crackpot and religious fanatic. But they are particularly angry with the British prime minister. They say Tony Blair has given Bush just enough credibility that he can get away with murder – literally.

work and raise a family. We owe it to our children to protect our public lands.”

The proposed logging area near Shady Cove was affected by the 27,000 acre Timbered Rock fire in 2002. The area includes 19 spotted owl territories and 18 miles of coho salmon habitat within the fire perimeter.

GOVERNOR CALLS FOR WILLAMETTE CLEANUP

Gov. Ted Kulongoski is pitching his plans for how citizens can join government, business and industry to help restore the health of the Willamette River. In a statement sent to selected newspapers along the river, including *EW*, praised the work of SOLV's “Down

by the Riverside” program and made the following suggestions to citizens:

- Planting more shrubs or plants in gardens or using straw, mulch, or plastic sheeting will help to stabilize soil and prevent damaging run-off. Switching from hosing to sweeping a driveway it is another simple way to reduce contaminants seeping into the river and to save water.

- Conserving water on our lawns and in our homes not only lessens the water bill, it also lessens the high costs and environmental impacts of

new dams, pipes and treatment plants. Even in Oregon, water resources are limited and we must take care to keep them clean and useable.

- Reducing the number of toxins on our lawns, such as pesticides or excessive fertilizers, and increasing our use of environmentally friendly products in our homes are other small ways we can each contribute to a cleaner Willamette River.

Governor Kulongoski's Plan for The Willamette River Legacy



REPAIR • RESTORE • RECREATE

The suggestions are part of the governor's Willamette River Legacy.

July 4th • 5 p.m. • Island Park, Springfield
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