

tricted into this district and though he won the last election, people were not familiar with him and he did not have an opponent who ran a serious campaign.”

This week Barnhart responded to the above statements as again “misleading.” “On taxes, he’s probably referring to Measure 30,” says Barnhart, who supported the measure, but didn’t vote on it since it was referred by petition. “The actual vote on Measure 30 in the district was 48.9 percent yes to 51.1 percent no — not exactly an overwhelming repudiation. I think it’s actually pretty good that that percentage of the district was willing to raise their own taxes to pay for basic public services such as schools, health care and public safety.”

Barnhart also says he was not “redistricted in” but rather has lived in the district for 50 years, though the district boundaries have changed to include less south Eugene and more rural areas and small towns. He says he knows the new district very well, and is well known in return. He says he did have a serious opponent in fellow Democrat Al King, in the 2002 primary, but his Republican challenger in the general election did not actively campaign.

Spasaro has also accused Barnhart of supporting a sales tax, citing a story in the *Hermiston Herald* that says Barnhart “thinks a sales tax is a better long-term answer, but doesn’t see any public support.” Barnhart says, “Mr. Spasaro is really stretching” to read that quote as supporting a sales tax. “The quote in the paper does not say I support a sales tax, in fact it says the opposite.” The *Herald* story goes on to quote Barnhart say-

ing, “We need to not spend time on the ideal tax system but on the realistic one that people will accept.” — *TJT*

**MAJOR UO BIZ CONFAB COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

Registration is now open for a major UO business conference that will focus on the

“practical applications of sustainable development and climate change policies and programs for Eugene-Springfield, Lane County, and other Northwest local communities.” The event will be held Sept. 23 at the UO Downtown Baker Center, 975 High St.

The conference title is “Making Sustainable Development Work” and is spon-

sored by the UO Sustainability Leadership Academy along with numerous UO, city and state organizations and agencies. Featured speakers will include mayor-elect Kitty Piercy, along with mayors and sustainable business experts from across the nation describing their successful initiatives and enterprises.

Early registration is recommended since space is limited. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch. For more information, visit <http://cwch.uoregon.edu/conference> or call 346-4231.

**WEBSITE REPORTS BUSH IS ON DRUGS**

*Capitol Hill Blue* magazine ([www.capitolbluehill.com](http://www.capitolbluehill.com)), which June 4 reported that President Bush is prone to “erratic and paranoid” behavior, now says Bush is reported to be taking “powerful anti-depressant drugs” to control his behavior.

The July 28 report by magazine editor Teresa Hampton, says, “Although GOP loyalists dismissed the reports as anti-Bush propaganda, the reports were later confirmed by prominent George Washington University psychiatrist Dr. Justin Frank in his book *Bush on the Couch: Inside the Mind of the President*. Dr. Frank diagnosed the president as a ‘paranoid meglomaniac’ and ‘untreated alcoholic’ whose ‘lifelong streak of sadism, ranging from childhood pranks (using firecrackers to explode frogs) to insulting journalists, gloating over state executions and pumping his hand gleefully before the bombing of Baghdad’ showcase Bush’s instabilities.”

**Happening people** BY PAUL NEEVEL

**MARY ELLEN BENNETT**

After growing up on a Hood River orchard, Mary Ellen Bennett came to the UO for a degree in Community Health Education. She stayed on in Eugene and currently coordinates a variety of energy-assistance programs for Lane County’s



Human Services Commission. A couple of years ago, Bennett purchased an empty lot directly behind her house, a few blocks from downtown Eugene. “I didn’t want to see it developed,” she explains. “Then I thought, ‘Now, what do I do?’ I hardly keep up with the dandelions in front!” Bennett approached her neighbors with the idea of starting a community garden. “We had talked about it before, like, ‘what if ...’” she says. “I was amazed – easily 20 people pitched in.” Neighbors from two blocks around showed up for work parties to remove blackberries and till the soil. Hoses, implements, and hay bales were donated, and the first garden was planted in the summer of 2003. This year’s garden has 10 vegetable plots plus a communal flower garden. “I have berry patches available to everyone,” Bennett says. “But I’m not in charge. They do all the work – it’s a symbiotic relationship.” — *Paul Neevel*

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