

PESTICIDES IN SCHOOLS

It might be hard to believe that the place children are most at risk for exposure to harmful toxins is the place they spend most of their time — at school. A survey released recently by the Oregon Environmental Council found that pesticide use is common in most Oregon schools, and that 70 percent of schools did not comply with Oregon's pesticide use reporting law. The survey also found that only 13 percent of Oregon school districts say they never use pesticides, while the remaining 87 percent use pesticides mainly to control weeds on athletic fields, lawns, and playgrounds.

"Children are most susceptible to the potentially harmful toxins that may be found in the pesticides the schools are using because their bodies are still developing," says Ray Berardinelli, marketing consultant and program manager of the study. Berardinelli also says that he does not think the children are

necessarily in danger, but that there is definitely room for improvement in schools' use of pesticides.

Many schools do have hope for a toxin-free, or close to toxin-free, future. Of the nearly 70 percent of schools surveyed that do not comply with the pesticide reporting law's requirements, the entire 70 percent is interested in finding out about newer methods of controlling pests that avoid or minimize the use of pesticides. Most schools are not familiar with but are interested in learning about Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which could reduce the amount of toxins and pesticides used on school premises. IPM involves a combination of pest-control techniques,

many of which do not incorporate chemicals. The study also provides recommendations about training, technical assistance, and incentives to schools to promote IPM practices. — Emily Freeman

RAFFLE FOR LOCAL ARTIST

Community artist, husband, father and

friend Anthony Vanderford, 34, is battling liver cancer. A raffle of prizes donated by local artists and businesses will raise funds for Vanderford and his family.

Vanderford has given countless

Community artist
Anthony Vanderford



hours and boundless energy to local arts nonprofits such as Lane Arts Council, YouthArts programs, Saturday Market, Circle of Hands, and the Oregon Country Fair. In 1999, Vanderford founded Survival Arts for Empowerment (SAFE), a project that provided art opportunities, skills, and supplies to at-risk youth at the Downtown Eugene Mall.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20, available at Lane Arts Council, Saturday Market, Circle of Hands, and Morning Glory Café. Donations may also be sent directly to: Anthony Cancer Fund #380101, Oregon Community Credit Union, PO Box 77002, Eugene 97401.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

A local chemist pointed out an error in last week's cover story on water fluoridation. Fluoride replaces hydroxyl, not calcium, on the tooth's surface.

SLANT

• As the legislative session comes to a close, we're disappointed with the lack of environmental progress. This could have been one of the state's greenest sessions in decades, but the governor has been AWOL when we needed him most. As a result, even the best environmental bills were riddled with compromises. The Legislature passed a bill banning some toxic flame retardants, but not the most worrisome kind. A biofuels bill contains a huge tax break for polluting industries. Measure 66 dollars to fund parks and salmon aren't being used as voters intended. Bills to prohibit "toxic mixing zones" in our rivers and protect ocean resources have gone nowhere. The tentative budget passed on July 25 includes long-overdue funding for the pesticide use reporting system, but it allows farmers to report such generalized data that it may not be very helpful. The budget includes funds to clean up the Willamette River, but only enough to bring the state into compliance with the federal Clean Water Act. Kulongoski's blueprint for restoring the Willamette (published quietly last month) looks promising, but the fixes are administrative, not legislative, and air quality budgets have been ransacked to pay for improved water quality. The Department of Forestry budget allows exorbitant timber harvest levels at a time when our state's public trees are fetching rock-bottom prices. Worst of all, the budget prevents the DEQ from implementing stricter auto emission standards, making Oregon the weak link between California and Washington and dashing hopes for a West Coast clean air regime. It's not all Kulongoski's fault — the Republican-controlled House consistently stymied the Democratic Senate — but the governor just didn't make things happen in the Legislature this session. Maybe in



KULONGOSKI

the next election, environmentalists should look to greener pastures.

• Congratulations are in order for BRING Recycling. The organization has successfully matched a \$250,000 challenge grant from the Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. The endowment brings the total raised in the capital campaign to nearly \$1.2 million. About 375 individuals and businesses have contributed to the campaign over the past year. Construction on BRING Recycling's Glenwood Planet Improvement Center is beginning this summer, and high school students from LCC's Summer Construction Academy turned out last week to pour concrete for BRING's new office floor. Some folks are wondering just where in Glenwood the new center will be. From Eugene, take a right at U-

Haul. It's just before the railroad overpass. More donations are needed to bring the full vision to fruition. Check it out at www.bringrecycling.org

• What else is going on in Glenwood? That long-ignored, funky stretch between Eugene and Springfield is finally getting some attention. Despite the haphazard roadside shops, car lots and trucking businesses along Franklin Boulevard, the area has tremendous potential. Williams Bakery is relocating there on 15 acres, and we hear buzz about investors working up plans for riverside condos north of Franklin. The Wildish family owns a lot of the available land in Glenwood and we hear they are being selective in who they sell to, trying to shape a more liveable and attractive future. Some industrial sites are being considered, but they will likely be in south Glenwood on Wildish

land towards McVay Highway. The idea of a regional convention center in Glenwood is getting attention, and it could compete with plans for a new Eugene regional convention center. We've always liked the idea of PeaceHealth building in Glenwood, but construction of its new hospital has begun at RiverBend. McKenzie-Willamette doesn't seem to have Glenwood on its radar, despite the latest roadblocks to the hospital acquiring the EWEB site in Eugene.

• We hear rumors that Springfield Mayor Sid Leiken is getting some encouragement from local folks with money to run for higher elected office. He's not denying it, but he's also not saying much, other than he's enjoying being mayor.

• Myspace.com users and Internet nerds of all stripes: Rupert Murdoch wants you. He wants your thoughts, your creativity, and most of all he wants your hip young dollar. Yes, the media mogul who owns Fox Broadcasting, the *New York Post*, *The Sun* and even part of the L.A. Lakers just bought InterMix, the firm behind the online community Myspace.com, for \$580 million. Wtf?! Murdoch says he's just playing catch-up with the online world. But as the BBC pointed out, the move is most likely a grab at the personal info, online behavior and market value of Myspace's 23 million users — thousands of 'em in Eugene. You can check out Murdoch's Myspace profile at www.myspace.com/rupert_murdoch



Media mogul Rupert Murdoch looking a little MySpace-ed out.

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

JASON WALDRIP AND RIVER DONAGHEY

Good friends since kindergarten at Willard School, Jason Waldrup and River Donaghey have also played music together since sixth grade at Roosevelt. Both were featured on guitar when their band, The Tunnel Kings, played recently at Cozmic Pizza. "Our school talent show was embarrassing — we had technical difficulties," Waldrup admits. "The microphone shocked me on the lips," explains singer-songwriter Donaghey. The pair of 14-year-olds got their start in politics last year when they volunteered for the Kerry campaign. "My dad is really into politics," says Waldrup. He and Donaghey skipped their middle school graduation ceremony last month to take part instead in the Walk for Truth, Justice, and Community, sponsored by the Rural Organizing Project. ROP supports local human-dignity groups in rural Oregon. "My mom was on the peace march from L.A. to D.C. in '86," says Donaghey. "She found this one on the Internet." Donaghey and Waldrup were among a core group of 100 who walked the entire five-day route from Salem to Portland, attending rallies and camping overnight along the way. Learn more at rop.org

