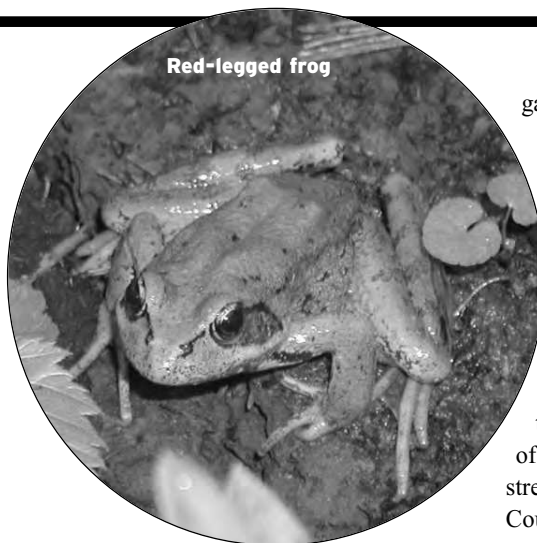


FROGGIE FOUND IN NECTAR WAY

The fight to save a 40-acre Eugene forest from development took a hop forward Aug. 17, when state biologist Jeff Ziller confirmed that animals photographed on the property were a red-legged frog and a pileated woodpecker, both sensitive species in Oregon. The red-legged frog is also a federally listed species of concern, endangered in California and Canada.

The property, now known as the East Fork Amazon Headwater Forest, sits between Nectar Way and Dillard Road in southeast Eugene. The city lost an opportunity to buy it in 2004, when it capped its offer to DDA Oregonia Local Manager Munir Katul at \$300,000. Developer Joe Green then offered



Red-legged frog

\$325,000, but the city wouldn't go higher. "I would have sold it to the city for \$326,000!" Katul says.

Neighbors and land use activists quickly

galvanized an effort to save the forest from development. The city followed suit, offering first to buy the property for \$430,000 and then to re-negotiate a purchase price, but Green rebuffed their efforts (see news brief, *EW* 8/18).

The city still has some wiggle room as Green pushes forth with his development plans. The upcoming Goal 5 inventory of natural resources may restrict the developer's options, and the discovery of two sensitive animals on the property strengthens the case for preserving it. City Councilor Betty Taylor suggested in an e-mail to City Manager Dennis Taylor that the city can deny Green's development permits or use its power of eminent domain, the government's right to appropriate private property for the public good. — Kera Abraham

QUOTABLE

"Since Bush became president, the largest five oil companies operating in the U.S.—ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco, ConocoPhillips, BP and Shell—have enjoyed profits of \$254 billion, with ExxonMobil leading the way with profits of \$89 billion. Clearly, there is a direct correlation between record prices paid by consumers and record profits enjoyed by oil companies. For example, the profit margin for U.S. oil refiners has shot up 79 percent from 1999 (the year Exxon and Mobil merged) to 2004. But rather than hold these price-gougers responsible, the energy bill signed by Bush this month gives \$6 billion in tax breaks and subsidies to oil companies."

— Wenonah Hauter, director of Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program (www.energyactivist.org)

SLANT

- News that PeaceHealth is planning to maintain a full urgent-care hospital at Hilyard and 13th *after* building a regional mega-medical center in north Springfield is adding to the pressure on McKenzie-Willamette. The Springfield hospital is being forced to find a new home in Eugene, go out of business or sell out. PeaceHealth appears to be seeking a monopoly on hospital services in the region. We've seen very little effort on the part of PeaceHealth to collaborate with other providers of medical services. In fact, the big non-profit has been a ruthless competitor, contrary to its mission statement: *We value the involvement, cooperation and creativity of all who work together to promote the health of the community. ... We build and evaluate the structures of our organization and those of society to promote the just distribution of health care resources.* If PeaceHealth board members really believe those benevolent words, they will initiate a meeting with McKenzie/Triad board members to hash out the "just distribution of health care resources" in our region.

- Bush calls himself a "war president," but he's really an "oil president." The oil industry gets just about anything it wants, including a seat at the policy table and unfettered gouging. The rise in



gas and diesel prices is not all bad news in that people might finally wake up to the unsustainability of fossil fuels. But all that profit is in itself power that can be used to buy the next oil president and oil Congress. What condition will our planet be in when the oil industry finally collapses? It's time to get educated, get political, get active.

- Anybody else notice the bare-chested young woman leaning against the WOW Hall downtown one afternoon last week? Hey, it's not illegal and it's damned hot out there on the streets. Public nudity is

rare in prudish Eugene, so any little exposure causes head-whipping, and even fender-benders in the case of the Bikini Carwash. Maybe the shock value can be put to good use. Suppose our police officers were to show up at scenes of domestic violence or bar brawls wearing nothing but gun belts, boots and badges? Maybe skip the guns. What

better way to defuse a tense situation? How about, "Eugene: World's greatest city for the arts, outdoors and skin?" Suppose our city councilors, mayor and managers were to disrobe for council meetings? Citizen attendance and the Community TV audience numbers would likely skyrocket. Well, then again If nothing else, Naked Fridays at the office would encourage a lot of us to spend more time at the gym.

- Speaking of the Bikini Carwash, a Google search for "topless carwash" turns up a how-to-do-it website. First, put

up your signs, then collect money and direct cars to drive behind the building where your crew washes the sides of cars, but you guessed it – not the tops.

- The Eugene Celebration is coming up the last weekend in September and organizers from Big Green Events tell us a lot of the activities this year will be indoors or in tents to encourage people to show up even if the weather's a repeat of last year's soggy disaster. A film festival at the McDonald Theatre is being planned, but no film list is yet available. Check out the entertainment and get involved by visiting www.EugeneCelebration.com And if you liked our story on wild mushrooms last week, mark your calendar for the Mushroom Festival at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum the last Sunday in October.

- Our favorite press release this week is from Invention Technologies about an Oregon resident who has invented the Instant Vac, a device designed to quickly "remove any fowl odors from a bathroom." Now here's an argument why PR and advertising *should* be taught in journalism schools.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

Think More

City Club or Civic Conversations 6:30p.m. - 7:30p.m. M
Alternative Radio 6:30p.m. - 7:30p.m. Tu
Living on Earth 6:30p.m. - 7:30p.m. W
New Dimensions 6:30p.m. - 7:30p.m. Th



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