

and approved this new hospital first, there might be no 'need' for McKenzie-Willamette's planned new hospital. This would be a great disservice to physicians in both Eugene and Springfield."

A letter from Dr. Denise G. Waugh said, "PeaceHealth's senior management has been deceptive and unethical in their dealings with the people of this community. Please do not grant them a monopoly on health care here. We need a choice, we need our state officials to look beyond the nuts and bolts and statistics, and do the right thing for medical care in Eugene/Springfield."

Disputing the monopoly argument, Terrett said there are no plans for operating rooms at Hilyard, and there are "enough beds for both hospitals to expand."

"In the final analysis," said Pryor, "we continue to be disadvantaged by state CoN statutes that are biased toward larger hospitals. PeaceHealth was able to decide to move to Springfield with no regulatory review whatever — a step which has caused the near chaos in the local health care delivery system. On the other hand, McKenzie-Willamette faces regulatory review for a move anywhere outside 97477 or 97478 Zip codes."

— Ted Taylor



WAL-MART UNDER FIRE

A coalition of more than 600 unions, churches and small business groups are joining together to launch the new Robert Greenwald film *Wal-Mart: the High Cost of Low Prices*, that will be screened as a DVD in private and public viewing parties next week. The filmmaker himself will be in Eugene for the Nov. 18 showing at LCC.

The documentary is highly critical of Wal-Mart's anti-union tactics, tax breaks, importing of cheap foreign goods, and the impact of the retailer on local economies across the nation.

The first public showing of the film in Corvallis will be at 2 pm Sunday, Nov. 13, at the First United Methodist Church. Showings in Eugene begin at 6:30 pm Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Cosmic Pizza; 7:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 150 Columbia, UO; and at 7 pm Friday, Nov. 18 at Building 17, LCC. At LCC, Greenwald will answer questions after the showing, and will be joined by County Commissioner Pete Sorenson, Rep. Paul Holvey, and UFCW union official Jeff Anderson.



Some showings are free; others, such as at LCC, ask a small fee at the door. See updated showing list of showings at www.WalMartMovie.com

"What makes the movie so powerful is the totality of the portrait, both in its details and its sweep," reads a review in *Salon*. "Most of these people are entirely unexceptional Americans from the working class or lower-middle class, believers in flag and country and God and capitalism, not left-wing activists or academics with some theoretical critique. Most of them believed in Wal-Mart, too, and were genuinely horrified to learn that its low prices depended on enforced poverty, whether theirs or somebody else's."

PAPÉ GAVE GOV \$60K

Randy Papé, brother of Eugene City Councilor Gary Papé and a member of the powerful Oregon Transportation Commission, is a key backer of the West Eugene Parkway (WEP). After the Eugene City Council voted last month to not support the freeway through rare wetlands, Randy Papé quickly said he would oppose state support for a city study of alternatives to help solve traffic problems.

Unlike Eugene's mayor and council, Papé, CEO of the Papé Group which sells heavy equipment for construction projects, wasn't elected, but appointed to the commission by Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Papé and his company have given Kulongoski at least \$60,000 in campaign contributions since 2002, according to campaign finance reports.

Papé is a Republican and Kulongoski is a Democrat. But Papé, who sells highway construction equipment, could financially benefit directly from big freeway projects like the \$169 million WEP. Papé has denied any conflict of interest.

— Alan Pittman

FAST TRACK FOR LOGGING

On Nov. 3, U.S. Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Brian Baird (D-WA) introduced a bill that would allow the Forest Service to bypass environmental protections in order to log and build roads after natural disturbances — including rain storms, droughts, fires and floods — in National Forests.

The bill, called the Forest Emergency and Recovery Act (HR 4200), would allow the Forest Service to waive the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) after some natural disturbances. NEPA requires the Forest Service to conduct an environmental review and hold public hearings before making major decisions about public forest management.

Conservation groups such as the American Lands Alliance and The Wilderness Society attack the bill as the result of too-close relations between politicians and the timber industry. They maintain that according to the best available science, there is no ecological emergency to log forests after natural events.

Forest industries are consistently Walden's top campaign contributors, pouring more than \$110,000 into his 2004 race. Walden was a principle author of Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, which allows the Forest Service to bypass environmental reviews after wildfires.

Congress will hold a hearing on Walden's bill on Nov. 10. On that day, the House Resources Committee could also vote on the bill and send it to the House floor for a vote.

In response to Walden's bill, Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM) introduced an alternative bill, the National Forests Rehabilitation and Recovery Act (HR 3973). That bill would set up five pilot projects to test rehabilitation methods for National Forests after natural disturbances. The projects would be in compliance with current environmental protections, carried out with community collaboration and monitored by a national scientific committee.

LTD EMPLOYEES QUESTION BOSS

Some employees of Lane Transit District, which provides public bus service

around Lane County, are becoming increasingly aggressive in their call for the removal of the agency's general manager, Ken Hamm, who has led LTD since 2000.

In July, LTD driver Dave Barton delivered a petition to board member Gerry Gaydos. The petition, signed by 164 employees — 90 percent of the non-probationary union drivers — complained that Hamm had lost employees' trust, took retaliatory actions against employees who confronted him, spun reality in media pitches and was not truly committed to LTD. The message was simple: "Ken Hamm needs to be replaced."

The Amalgamated Transit Union, which represented the operators during the labor negotiations and strike last February, did not endorse the petition.

LTD commissioned its own community research study, concluded in July. A majority of the survey's 225 respondents held LTD's services in high esteem and deemed the agency an important part of the community. However, a majority also gave the management below average or poor ratings on keeping costs down and using taxpayer dollars efficiently, and rated the competence and efficiency of both the board and the management, as well as the accountability of the board, below average or poor.

LTD hired Portland consultant Dennis Westlind to interview employees about the management. In an Oct. 13 memo to LTD's board and human resources committee, Westlind summarized meetings with 17 non-management LTD employees from administrative, operations and maintenance departments.

Westlind wrote that the lack of confidence in LTD's management indicated by the petition "are widely held and are not simply the opinion of a few outspoken employees." Critical issues, as perceived by employees, included "a lack of trust and respect for upper management," a lack of managerial accountability, increased hostility between union members and upper management, the loss of a "family" atmosphere at LTD, and the "growth of capital projects at the expense of employee benefits and community service."

Members of the LTD board met in a session closed to the public on Nov. 8 to discuss Hamm's performance. Meanwhile, the governor's office is soliciting applications for three board seats that will become available at the end of the year.

EW will keep you posted.

— Kera Abraham

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Our story last week on Alzheimer's prevention failed to mention the \$10 fee for attending the "Maintain Your Brain" seminar planned for 1 pm Saturday, Nov. 12 at the PeaceHealth Downtown Clinic. For more information, call the local Alzheimer's Association Cascade Coast Chapter at 345-8392.