

leged most of the homeless people downtown were homeless by choice, wandering drunks and addicts, according to minutes.

Police Lt. Scott Fellman said an "exclusion" ordinance banning people accused of crimes from the area would help reduce the problem. A similar ordinance was in effect when the area was a pedestrian mall, but the approach raised questions of civil rights and simply shifting problems to other areas.

Police staffer Tod Schneider suggested security cameras, classical music and high pitched "mosquito" sirens that older people can't hear but that irritate young people. But Schneider said the real "elephant in the room" was the number of empty buildings along the street.

Much of the vacant property is owned by Tom Connor and Don Woolley. Critics have accused Connor and Woolley of blighting the area by forcing tenants out and leaving buildings vacant or boarded up rather than investing in redevelopment or selling or renting them for reasonable prices. — Alan Pittman

\$26 PER VOTE BUT TORREY STILL LOST

Republican Jim Torrey, the former mayor of Eugene, spent \$26 per vote, a total of \$614,000, to try and get elected to the Oregon Senate, and lost.

Incumbent Democrat Vicki Walker trailed the money race with a total of \$532,000, but she won the election with 52 percent of the vote.

Torrey's campaign was funded largely by timber barons, polluters, developers and corporations either directly or through their political action committees (PACs) or Republican Party leaders, according to finance reports.

Walker was funded largely by teacher and

Lane County Herbicide Spray Schedule

• At least 86,284 acres within Lane County have been targeted in Oregon Department of Forestry notifications filed between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30 to receive aerial or ground applications of herbicides in 2006. Visit www.forestlanddwellers.org for details of locations, land owners and herbicide application operators.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, Forestland Dwellers 342-8332

November 17-19, 2006 Converge on Fort Benning, Georgia

Thurs., Nov. 16, 2006: Benefit Concert in Atlanta, GA

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Social movements are changing the Americas



**School of the Americas Watch
Organizing Packet for the
November 2006 Vigil**

other public employee unions either directly or through their PACs and Democratic Party leaders.

In the last week of the election, Torrey's donors pumped \$109,000 into his campaign. The money came mostly through Republican leaders and their PACs who are funded largely by timber, corporate, polluter and developer interests.

Walker reported \$57,000 in contributions in the campaign's final week, \$35,000 from a state teachers union PAC.

The \$1.15 million combined total the two candidates spent on the race represents a new record for a Lane County election. State Measures 46 and 47 also on the ballot sought to limit the influence of big money on elections.

But the constitutional amendment Measure 46 failed while 47's contribution limits passed. Measure supporters hope the Oregon Supreme Court will reconsider its earlier ruling that big political contributions are constitutionally projected free speech. If not, they hope that at least the additional disclosure and reporting requirements in Measure 47 will remain in effect.

Oregon's secretary of state last week said no part of Measure 47 will go into effect, but measure backer Dan Meek was critical of the statement and predicted the issue will be settled in the courts. — Alan Pittman

ACTION TO CLOSE SOA

An estimated 22,000 peace activists participated in a "Close the SOA" Action at Fort Benning, Ga., last weekend, including a delegation from the Eugene area. Here at home, about three dozen people showed up for a rally and vigil in downtown Eugene Saturday, standing in solidarity with the protests in Georgia.

The School of the Americas (SOA) was

re-named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) in 2001, but activists use its historic name to highlight the continuing human rights abuses by graduates of the school.

Sunday's mass gathering in Georgia was at the gates of Fort Benning and featured a funeral procession led by Latin American torture survivors and social justice movement leaders, among them Renato Antonio Areiza from the Colombian Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. Last year, Renato's sister was murdered by troops under the command of an SOA graduate. Five activists from the Eugene area were there but were not ar-

rested: Peg Morton, Sister John Maureen Backenstos, Laeh-Maggie Garfield, Dorothy Blackcrow Mack and Trudy Maloney. Morton has been arrested in previous actions and spent three months in a federal prison.

More than a dozen protesters were arrested when they breached the fence and entered the military base.

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

• In the Slant column last week regarding the departure of KOPT's Nancy Stapp, the wrong call letters were used in reference to the public radio station that carries Jefferson Exchange. The station is KRVM.

• The Gold Lake Sno-Park shelters mentioned in "Snow Trek" (11/9) do not require reservations and are free for shared public use. Two overnight shelters southeast of Oakridge on Forest Service Road 21 — Warner Mountain Lookout and Timpanogas Snow Shelter — are \$40/night and can be reserved by visiting www.reserveusa.com or calling (877) 444-6777.

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

RANDY STENDER

"I was artistic as a kid," says stockbroker Randy Stender, local arts activist and a founder of the Downtown Initiative for the



Visual Arts (DIVA). "My creativity in recent years has been creating venues for public art." After high school in the Bay Area, Stender came north for degrees in business and history from Lewis and Clark. He spent a year in Europe, then returned to Portland, where he began a 27-year (so far) career at Merrill Lynch, and met his wife, Susanne. Four years later they moved to Eugene. In the early '90s, Stender and Dottie Chase founded the Gallery at the Airport, now in its 14th year. "I wanted to support visual arts," he notes. Ten years later, Mayor Jim Torrey asked him and others to look at the old Sears Building as a possible art center. "Too big and too ugly," they reported. Instead, they expanded their group and launched DIVA three years ago in offices vacated by the Oregon Festival of American Music. "We just had to slap some paint on the walls. It's perfect for what we had in mind," says Stender. "We've had 12,000 visitors and shown 200 artists in the last year."

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