

RALLY FOR EDUCATION

School's out for Presidents Day Monday, Feb. 19 but it's not a day off for the Oregon Legislature, so hundreds of teachers, administrators, parents and students will be gathering on the steps of the state Capitol building to rally for progress on school funding.

An estimated 300 Lane County residents will be carpooling and riding buses to Salem for the noon rally. Buses leave at 10 am from South Eugene High School and Clear Lake Elementary School and will return after the rally. Morning and afternoon trainings and legislative meetings are available for people who arrange their own transportation.

The purpose of the rally is to draw attention to the need for better funding for K-12 school programs and Oregon Head Start, according to Joy Marshall of Stand for Children. Marshall sees hope in the new Democratic leadership in Salem.

"After a decade of disinvestment, this is our best chance to make progress that will improve student achievement in every community in Oregon," she says.

Where will the money come from? Marshall says the group will be lobbying lawmakers to support legislation to increase the corporate minimum tax, keep the corporate "kicker" tax refund, reinstate cigarette taxes, overturn the double-majority rule for ballot money measures, and other reforms.

People can sign up for the rally and reserve bus space by calling 912-2921, emailing joy@stand.org or visiting www.stand.org/or/2007rally

'REPTILIAN' PARKING

Donald Shoup, a UCLA professor and leading urban planning expert, came to Eugene Feb. 5 to lecture city officials and citizens about the evils of parking.

Shoup said less parking reduces driving, pollution, congestion, energy consumption, and greenhouse gases and frees up space and money for affordable housing.

City "zoning ignores homeless people, but it makes sure there are no homeless cars," Shoup said at the downtown library. But although the logical arguments against parking are clear, Shoup said, "when people think about parking, they use their reptilian cortex."

Shoup came to Eugene at the invitation of the city, and Eugene planning and development staff filled the audience. But it's unclear how deeply Shoup's message penetrated the minds of local planning leaders.

City efforts to revive Eugene's failed downtown have revolved around providing huge amounts of parking for decades, with little to show for it.

Since the 1970s, Eugene has spent almost all of its downtown revitalization money on parking garages, building five massive concrete structures with a total of 2,544 spaces.

Despite all the garages, Eugene's downtown has withered, losing most of its retail business, and is plagued by vacant buildings and the blank, ugly walls of dead garages. Even at peak hours, more than half the downtown parking garage spaces now sit empty.

But that hasn't stopped city officials and developers from claiming downtown needs even more garages. Last year, the city proposed building two new garages for the then-proposed Connor/Woolley/Opus and Whole Foods developments at up to \$35,000 a space.

— Alan Pittman

Lane County Herbicide Spray Schedule

- **Near Jackson Marlow Road in Gillespie Corners area:** Western Helicopter Services, (503) 538-9469, will aerially spray 36 acres with 2,4-D Ester, Clopyralid, Sulfometuron, Hexazinone and Glyphosate herbicides for Transition Management, Inc. (484-6706) starting Feb. 20 (#781-50146). For more information call Robert Johnson, stewardship forester, Western Lane District Office of the Oregon Department of Forestry at 935-2283.
- **Oregon Department of Transportation** will begin placing Casoron (dichlobenil) Herbicide around landscaped areas soon. Call Dennis Joll at 686-7526.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, Forestland Dwellers: 342-8332, www.forestlanddwellers.org

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NOTICE TO PARENTS

school's open!

Visit your neighborhood school – and more!

Learn about Eugene School District 4J schools. Start by visiting your neighborhood school. With the district's school choice policy, parents may send their children to any school within the district, provided there is space available. All 4J schools focus on nurturing the success of each child.

You can enroll in your neighborhood school at any time. To enroll in another district school, the school choice period is from NOW until March 2 for the 2007–08 school year. The 4J Schools Guide — available at any school, at the 4J Education Center or at www.4j.lane.edu — offers an overview of each school.

Schools throughout the district will be open for visits:

Mon. Feb. 12 – Fri. Feb. 16

Please phone ahead or visit www.4j.lane.edu, as each school offers different activities and times when parents can visit.

District-wide Information Meetings

Meetings at the 4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe, will provide general information about the school application and enrollment process. Spanish translation will be provided.

Sat. Feb. 10: 9 – 10 am

The Application Process

To enroll your child in a school other than your neighborhood school, follow this process:

- Pick up an application at any school, at the 4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe, or at www.4j.lane.edu.
- Return the application no later than March 2 to the 4J Education Center.



More information is available at

Eugene School District 4J

200 N. Monroe Street Eugene, OR 97402 • 687-3481 TDD: 687-3447 • www.4j.lane.edu

School's open – and you're welcome to visit.