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news Briefs

leadership that talks about the front door to the university and articulate a relationship with Franklin Boulevard.”

A “Visions and Findings” brochure is available online at www.franklincorridor.org. The brochure focuses on the overall vision for the corridor, broken down by memorable gateways, public waterfronts, “green fingers” connecting neighborhoods to the river, mixed-use buildings in centers of activity and the creation of a multi-way boulevard “connecting Springfield, Glenwood and Eugene that allows for mixed modes of travel with safe and convenient access to neighborhoods and waterways.”

Google Earth now features a map and discussion of the collaboration. From the Google Earth website, click on “Featured Content” and look for “American Institute of Architects” and “Blueprint for America.”

— Ted Taylor

WINDFALL GIVINGS TAX

A Eugene City Council advisory committee recommended this month that the city study how to tax windfall profits from urban growth boundary (UGB) expansions and Measure 37 claims.

The Value Added Charge Advisory Committee said that Eugene could use a proposal by the Portland Metro Council’s Fair Growth and Farmlands Project as a model.

In a report last year, Metro found that farm and forest land added to the UGB “in-

creases dramatically in value, by 200, 400 or even 1,000 percent, because this government action allows the land to be used for intense urban uses, like subdivisions, shopping centers or office buildings.”

Metro began to study a windfall tax for UGB expansions in late 2002, and in 2005 added Measure 37 windfall profits to the study. Metro estimates that over 20 years, it could generate \$100 million to \$1 billion in taxes from the windfall profits.

Most of the revenue from the tax could pay for planning and infrastructure (roads, schools, sewers, etc.) for the expansion areas, the Metro report recommended. Under the current system, taxpayers subsidize most such growth costs to increase developer profits.

Remaining windfall tax funds could help pay for infrastructure needed to create compact growth inside the UGB, for the purchase of conservation easements to protect farmland and for a “fairness fund” to pay Measure 37 claims rather than waiving regulations, Metro found.

The Eugene city attorney warned the Eugene committee that there may be a legal issue with trying to collect the tax at the time of property transfer. The Metro report recommended collection of the tax when a developer sought a permit to develop the property.

Eugene city staff recommended that the Eugene Council hold off on taking up the windfall tax until after a September or November vote on a Measure 37 fix referred by the state Legislature. The fix may eliminate many, but not all, large Measure 37 claims.

Developers have also pushed a bill

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL



RACHEL PARRA

Sacramento native Rachel Parra grew up in a bilingual household with six biological and two adopted siblings. “My mom is Caucasian and my dad is Spanish,” she says. “I have an African-American brother.” An all-state softball player, Parra married her high-school sweetheart and has three children, two of whom play on the Little League baseball team she coaches. When she started work as a bilingual assistant at HACSA (Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County) in 2001, Parra saw employment discrimination at the agency. She took classes at the UO Labor Education and Research Center and joined the NAACP in 2005 to activate its dormant legal redress committee. “I lost my job when I began to advocate,” she says. “They said I was involved with militant groups.” Her job was restored after she filed a grievance, but Parra says she continues to work in a hostile environment. “My mission is bigger, to give a voice to others,” she says. “My mouth is big enough.” Parra organized the MLK march this year and is currently planning a three-on-three basketball tourney for late July to benefit the NAACP.