

11 acres of ground that is tainted with arsenic at the J.H. Baxter facility. The cap is an interim measure, the DEQ says.

The area had been used by the creosoting plant to store telephone poles, but is no longer needed for that purpose.

Creosote is a mixture of chemicals formed by heating coal tar to a high temperature, according to the EPA. It has no residential uses and is a fungicide, insecticide, miticide and sporicide. It is used to protect wood, primarily utility poles and railroad ties. Creosote is a possible human carcinogen, the EPA's draft risk assessment says.

Other products used in wood treatment are pentachlorophenol (toxic if inhaled, absorbed or ingested) and inorganic arsenic compounds (possible carcinogens).

The J.H. Baxter plant has a had a problem with pentachlorophenol contaminating groundwater in a plume reaching out to residential neighborhoods north and west of the area. Thus far, nearby wells are not affected, but residents are told not to drink the groundwater.

The soil cap will not address the groundwater issue but will protect workers at the plant and prevent arsenic contaminated soil from blowing off the property.

The soil capping process involves laying a strong fabric over the contaminated soil, then placing 6 inches of compacted soil and 6 inches of crushed rock on top of that. The area would then be fenced off and would require regular inspections.

The DEQ says that there will most likely be addition cleanup needed for the rest of the site, including groundwater treatment. Other final remedial actions for the entire site will "likely include" capping contaminated soils, soil excavation and "other technologies and institutional controls," according to the DEQ.

The site has been part of a Superfund Health Investigation and Education Program (SHINE) looking into community concerns of heightened levels of cancer in the Bethel, River Road and Trainsong neighborhoods.

The Eugene J.H. Baxter plant is not the

WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003
(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- 3,707 U.S. troops killed* (3,707)
- 27,279 U.S. troops injured* (27,279)
- 118 U.S. military suicides* (118)
- 297 Coalition troops killed* (292)
- 417 contractors killed** (417)
- 77,272 Iraqi civilians killed*** (76,623)
- \$455.7 billion cost of war (\$453.7 billion)
- \$129.5 million cost to Eugene taxpayers (\$129 Million)

* through Aug. 20, 2007; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly

** estimate; source: icasualties.org

*** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 to one million

company's only problematic site. The J.H. Baxter plant in Weed, Calif., has been under investigation and clean-up by the EPA since the 1980s.

The DEQ seeks public comment on the Eugene J.H. Baxter plan. Send written comments or ask questions through Sept. 26 to: Geoff Brown, DEQ, 1102 Lincoln St., Suite 210, Eugene 97401. For more information, call 686-7819 or go to www.deq.state.or.us/wr/LocalProjects/BaxterIRAMFactSheet.pdf

— Camilla Mortensen

GM ALFALFA IN LANE CO.

Lane County is one of 18 counties in Oregon in which Roundup Ready alfalfa was planted. Last week Monsanto appealed

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

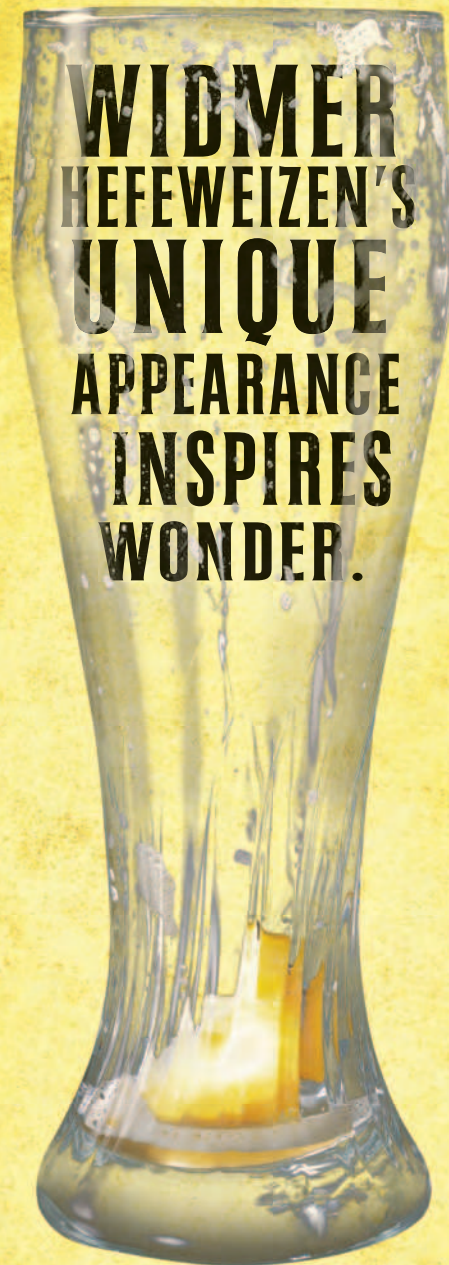
RON BURLEY

A Californian with family roots in Grant's Pass, Ron Burley began his broadcast career at age 16 with a summer job at a radio station in Redding. He worked at KIOI radio as a student at San Francisco State and joined CNN as an

intern in its first month on air in 1981 and again as a reporter in Hawaii. "I was writing on consumer issues," he says. Using software he had written as an amateur programmer, Burley and a partner launched the Hawaii News Network to bring island news to 17 affiliate stations. "We had two reporters to avoid duplication on competing stations," he notes. After selling HNN, Burley moved his software business to Eugene in 1997. He also began traveling to bring his seminar series, The Unscrewed Solution, to consumer groups and companies. When his book *Unscrewed: The Consumer's Guide to Getting What You Paid For*, came out a year ago, AARP Magazine took notice and asked him to do a regular consumer-advice column: "On Your Side." The first column appeared in July. "The response was tremendous," Burley says. "More than 100 per week." Learn more at unscrewed.biz.



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