

• Is it **just a coincidence** that the KWG plans for Broadway redevelopment include a 58,000 sq. ft. food store, and last year's failed Giustina plans for a Whole Foods store was nearly the same at 55,000 sq. ft.? One thing we've learned over the years is that urban developers on the West Coast all know each other, and most have strong personal connections with building contractors, sand and gravel companies, big retailers, PR firms, even city staffers. These friendly, back-scratching relationships are something to keep an eye on, particularly when lots of public money is involved.

• Speaking of downtowns, a few weeks ago in this column (8/2) we talked about the **Portland Business Alliance** and the Street Access for Everyone (SAFE) collaboration that's "cleaning up" downtown Portland. PBA's Mike Kuykendall praised the program during his visit to Eugene July 27. But it seems Portland's city government is just as political and contentious as Eugene's. We see the *Portland Mercury* blog has been shredding the collaboration, criticizing the armed "rent-a-cops" as "chomping at the bit to get out and clobber downtown's homeless with it." The blog is claiming the alliance is wanting to implement the program before providing the promised benches, bathrooms, etc. Bitching is part of the democratic process. We're happy to see people paying attention to their downtowns, whether it's Portland, Eugene or any town that tries to have a vital city center.

• Most media attention is on big plans for downtown, but some **smaller projects downtown** are also in the works. We heard from Eugene attorney Martin Henner that a co-housing project we have been following is getting closer to reality. Henner says building permits could be filed soon, and groundbreaking is tentatively set for Sept. 21. The complex will be built at 11th and Lincoln, and old buildings on the site are already being moved or demolished. The contractor is Gale M. Roberts Inc. Some units are still available, and the prices should be fixed in September when financing and construction contracts have been signed, says Henner. For more info, email henner@impartial.com or visit eugenecohousing.com. Members of the group will also have a booth at the Eugene Celebration.

• **Nike's CEO became a billionaire on the backs of millions** of third-world sweatshop workers. Then he gave the UO \$100 million for a basketball arena. At the current wage of about 40 cents an hour at Nike factories in Asia, that \$100 million represents about 250 million hours of sweatshop labor. That's one year of work for about 130,000 poor people to build the UO another sports palace to play in.

• Last week in Slant we looked ahead to the **2008 elections** for Eugene City Council and Lane County Commission. The county races usually draw experienced candidates with solid backgrounds, and it's always a good, lively contest, but it's a different dynamic at the city level. For example, no one stood up against Mike Clark in Ward 5 last year when Gary Papé decided not to run again. Now we're stuck with a pro-sprawl, anti-environment conservative on the council until 2011. Maybe that's what Ward 5 wants, but we never had the public discussion. Why the dearth of qualified city candidates? It's simple. We ask our councilors to work nearly full-time, but we pay them \$13,000 a year. Commissioners make \$72,800 with bennies. Eugene is evolving from a town to a real city, and looking ahead we need to update our city government to give our councilors and mayor more responsibility, more power and, yep, a salary they can live on. Until then, we will have a small pool of retired or wealthy candidates, or people who will need to work day jobs in addition to their expanding council workload.

• Hey readers! Let's get those **Best of Eugene ballots turned in** so we can start counting. OK, so the deadline isn't until Sept. 10, but there's no harm in voting early. In fact, we rather like it. Look for the full-page ballot in our issue this week, or better yet, go to www.eugeneweekly.com and do it online. No cheating!

• In case you've been backpacking in the Cascades and missed it, a remarkable 1994 video **interview with Dick Cheney** is making its way around the Internet, including YouTube. At the end of the Gulf War, Cheney was asked on camera if the U.S. should have gone on into Baghdad and taken out Saddam Hussein. Cheney's response: Overthrowing Saddam and his government would be a bad idea since it would destabilize the region and lead to a "quagmire" of U.S. occupation and a large loss of American lives. "The question for the president," he said, "was how many additional dead Americans is Saddam worth? Our judgment was, not very many, and I think we got it right." The video is easy to find. Just Google "Cheney video 1994."

• Our neighbors on the other side of the Snake River might be a little more open to moderate or even progressive leadership right now. **Idaho wasn't always the "reddest" state in the country.** Cecil Andrus, a progressive Democrat who grew up in Eugene, was governor from 1971 to '77 and again from '86 to '95 with a tour as Jimmy Carter's secretary of interior sandwiched inbetween. Remember Sen. Frank Church, a classy Idaho Dem who made the state proud until Idahoans were persuaded that he was too involved in foreign affairs. The line that beat him: "There ain't no foreign countries in Idaho." Larry LaRocco, former Idaho Dem congressman who lost to Larry Craig in '92, already has announced that he's running for the Senate in '08 against Craig—or his successor.

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com

a ban on the sale of the genetically modified crop placed by the U.S. District Court in Northern California.

The bright green hay is used as forage for horses, dairy cows and goats and as a food for companion animals. It is also eaten by humans in the form of alfalfa sprouts and as a dietary supplement.

Roundup Ready alfalfa is produced by Monsanto. It has a bacterium inserted into the seed that makes it resistant to Monsanto's Roundup herbicide. The plant was developed in conjunction with Forage Genetics, which specializes in alfalfa breeding and biotechnology.

The judge ordered the injunction on Roundup Ready alfalfa until the USDA completes an environmental impact statement on the effects of the plant. The judge also ordered that the exact field locations of over 200,000 acres of Roundup Ready alfalfa be identified. The ruling placed restrictions on the production, harvesting and marketing of the crop. Concerned farmers can

call (866) 724-6408 to get exact locations of the genetically modified crop.

The Center for Food Safety, which sued the USDA over the crop, contends it has as potentially dangerous effects on human health and animal health and that it could contaminate other alfalfa plants through cross-pollination by bees.

The case will move to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, but no date has been set. — *Camilla Mortensen*

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

In our Aug. 16 news story "Alien Species," the day of the week for the Science Pub presentations was incorrect. The interactive presentations at Luna take place at 7 pm on the second *Thursday* of each month. On Sept. 13, UO physics professor Jim Brau will talk on "Particles, Energy and Our Mysterious Universe."

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

Near Fox Hollow area: Transition Management Inc. (484-6706) will ground spray roadsides with Triclopyr ester and amine, Imazapyr, Sulfometuron, and Glyphosate herbicides plus Crop Oil throughout 227 acres near Fox Hollow and Preacher creeks starting Aug. 29 (#50941). Call Curt McKinney at Transition, or Robert Johnson at Oregon Department of Forestry (935-2282).

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

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