



news Briefs

been set up at Oregon Community Credit Union.

A website with photos, a flickr slideshow and remembrances by family and friends can be found at moonwater13.blogspot.com Writers on the site refer to her beauty and kindness and her "radiance, wisdom and vitality."

'KEEP OREGON AWESOME'

She combines a perky Midwestern friendliness with the kind of idealism you find only in Eugene. U.S. Senate hopeful Candy Neville is making the Democratic race to defeat incumbent Republican Gordon Smith even more fun. She was the first Democrat to put her name in the hat for the Senate race but remains one of the least known.

Until now.

Neville officially started her campaign in Eugene the weekend of Nov. 16 with small gatherings at the UO campus and Skinner Butte Park.

Even fitness guru-candidate Pavel Goberman had gotten more press than Neville before this week. Goberman proclaims: "Be Healthy, Get Fit, Be Energized, Vote for Me!" He went before Portland's City Council to chide them for not taking up his 3-minute fitness workout and to try to persuade them to revoke *The Oregonian's* business license for not reporting on him.

Neville points out that she's different from the other candidates, well-known and not. Rather than just talk about replacing politicians like Smith, she says that she wants to get the attention of the people who are in office "right now" who can do something about the war in Iraq.

She is indeed different from other Democratic candidates such as experienced state lawmaker Jeff Merkley and hook-wielding lawyer Steve Novick. She admits that some of her ideas "almost sound Pollyanna-ish," such as her plan to market

Oregon's timber as a "designer label" in order to both save trees and promote industry. But, she points out, "People make a lot of money following ideas like that." It's part of her plan to "keep Oregon awesome."

Neville describes her work background (including a one time stint as a door-to-door pie seller) as entrepreneurial. She has been a real estate agent and developed a small subdivision here. And as wide-eyed as she seems, she's got the savvy to skirt questions on downtown development, saying, "Eugene and all towns have to grow and prosper."

Neville has no political background in political office and no staff. According to blogger Kari Chisholm on the progressive political website BlueOregon, "she's not a serious candidate" because she doesn't have a fundraising account with them. She does have a MySpace page with a "determined" smiley face emoticon and encouraging messages from her daughter.

She also managed to get both the *R-G* and the *Oregonian* to cover her recent campaign kick-off, which is pretty impressive for what many call a "fringe candidate." The *R-G* acknowledges that Neville's husband is an editorial writer for the paper.

Mainly what Neville has is a whole lot of optimism and a mission to end the war in Iraq and "stop the rising death tolls."

She's not a one-issue candidate, she says. She sees health care and mass transit as big issues. In fact, she plans to try to use the bus and trains as much as possible during her campaign. She's also interested in education and programs for foster children. "A strong candidate can't be an ignorant candidate," she says.

Everyone needs to "lift a finger," says Neville. This mother of three, a former Quaker minister, felt that the current war and possible plans to attack Iran meant it was time to do a little more. "It's a wonderful time to have a campaign," she says. "People have to be active and have to stand up." — *Camilla Mortensen*

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Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

KARA PENNIMAN

"My co-workers wouldn't recognize me," says Kara Penniman, by day a social worker at Churchill and South Eugene high schools. "I help kids and families in crisis. It's what I always wanted to do." Four nights a week, Penniman transforms into Burnadeath of the Flat Track Furies when the Emerald City Roller Girls work out at the Regional Sports Center in Springfield. Last winter, when Penniman was feeling lonely and low, her sister in Baltimore suggested she look at roller derby. "A group of us saw the Rose City Rollers in Portland, and I was hooked," she says. "I hadn't exercised in 20 years." Emails and a post on Craig's List drew six people to a first meeting in January. Ten months later, ECRG has grown to 75 members and three teams, plus an additional 25 newbies or "fresh meat," according to league founder and President Burnadeath. "Most of us had never played team sports before," she says. "We like to say, 'Roller derby saved my soul.'" ECRG's first public bout, in October, sold out in 30 minutes. The next is set for Feb. 17. Learn how you can be fresh meat at emeraldcityrollergirls.com

