

"This fundraiser idea was sparked when we heard Pam Driscoll speak before the Eugene City Council after the Taser assault," says project volunteer "Zap Zapatista." "Pam asked the question, 'Track Town USA? More like Taser Town USA!' and a jolt went through the crowd, a light bulb arced and voila! An idea was sparked."

PARKING BACK TO PARK

After decades of subsidizing the UO football program with about \$135,000 a year worth of parking, the city has finally decided to convert a parking lot back into a park.

Next week the city will begin to restore a gravel, 450-space parking lot along the canoe canal next to Autzen stadium to grass and trees, city staff told the council.

For a decade the city had given the parkland to the UO, charging only 66 cents per car for game-day parking. That's about 75 times less than the \$50 a game other lots near the stadium charge.

UO officials had argued they needed the parking for the stadium but at the same time removed thousands of spaces for an indoor practice facility and stadium enlargement plan. Now the UO is proposing to add a baseball stadium, removing 1,100 more parking spaces.

In 2001 the City Council voted not to

extend the parking giveaway beyond the end of 2007. The UO apparently didn't ask the council to vote on another extension, so city staff moved to restore the area in accordance with adopted city park plans. The plan for the area includes a small parking area for users of the adjacent canoe canal and dog park. — Alan Pittman

FIRE-PROOF YOUR HOME

Now that fire season is upon us, making homes in the foothills "firesafe" should be a priority for rural homeowners, says Native Forest Council's Josh Schlossberg.

"This fire season, where you hear about homes being burnt or even lives being lost, don't blame the natural cycle of wildfire or enviros working to protect the natural wealth of forests from more logging industry destruction," Schlossberg says.

NFC has been looking for volunteers to make their home safe from wildfires. Homes located near the edge of the forest (aka the wildland-urban interface) are particularly at risk of catching fire when the nearby forest burns.

Creating "defensible space" around homes with large risks to wildfire requires trimming dead branches and branches that hang low, cleaning gutters, creating fuel breaks, mowing lawns, storing combustibles in safe areas and other clearing of debris from within 100 feet of the home, also

known as the "home ignition zone," according to the firewise.org website.

Schlossberg says the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM, politicians and the logging industry insist that in order to keep homes and people safe from wildfire, thinning trees out of the backcountry is the number one priority.

Schlossberg says that instead of focusing on saving lives and homes by educating the public about the "firesafe" procedures and steps that need to be taken, attention is focused on logging in the backcountry, which ultimately devastates native forest ecosystems and doesn't protect homes.

More than a quarter-million Oregon residences are located in areas at significant risk of wildfire, according to the Oregon Department of Forestry. According to Schlossberg, studies show that protecting a home with "firesafe" techniques can give houses a "95 percent chance of withstanding even a stand replacement fire." A stand replacement fire is when everything above ground in the forest burns.

If you are interested in protecting your home from wildfire and are willing to offer

your residence for a one-day demonstration on making it "firesafe," contact Josh Schlossberg at 688-2600 or email him at josh@forestcouncil.org.

— Courtney Jacobs

ACTIVIST ALERT

• **Downtown Neighborhood Association** meets from 5 to 7 pm Thursday, July 17, at Davis' Restaurant on Broadway, and will discuss development options, among other items.

• The **Pitchfork Rebellion** will be joining anti-WOPR activists in a major forest practices rally planned for noon Sunday, July 27 at Portland's Pioneer Square on SW 6th Avenue. This all-afternoon event with numerous Eugene speakers kicks off the second annual West Coast Convergence for Climate Action, located near Eugene July 28 to Aug. 4. For more information, contact monicasutopia@riseup.net or visit www.climateconvergence.org

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

- **Low Pass Area:** Weyerhaeuser Company – South Valley (744-4600) will spray roadsides with 2,4-D - LV6, Garlon 3, Tahoe 4E, Razor, Foresters, Accord herbicides and non-ionic surfactants for the Oregon State Forestry Department (935-2283) starting July 15 (#50528).
- BLM will hold a scoping meeting at 6:30 pm July 17 at Harris Hall in the Lane County Public Service Building regarding proposed **spraying of herbicides on BLM lands**. Call Doug Huntington at 683-6415.

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

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