

ardous materials can accumulate in the body," Arkin says. "The damage it can cause can be life lasting."

The testing happens at the Science Factory from 10 am to 3 pm Saturday, Dec. 13. Admission is \$4, and each adult can bring two toys with them. Extra toys can be tested for \$2 each. The screening process only takes about 10 seconds.

For more information on the Oregon Toxics Alliance, visit www.oregontoxics.org and for more information on the Science Factory, go to www.sciencefactory.org — Courtney Jacobs



REQUESTS FOR FOOD RISE TO RECORD LEVELS

Requests for emergency food are skyrocketing to record levels throughout Oregon, according to the Oregon Food Bank Network's first-quarter reports (July 1-Sept. 30). Distribution of emergency food boxes increased 13 percent in Oregon compared to the same period in 2007. In some parts of the state, distribution has increased more than 40 percent.

"Layoffs, foreclosures and other economic disruptions are taking a terrible toll on our neighbors," said Rachel Bristol, executive director and CEO of Oregon Food Bank. "Nine of our 20 regional food banks report that distribution of emergency food boxes has reached record levels as unemployment hits its highest level in four years."

The news follows an annual report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Food Security in the United States." The report shows that even before the economic downturn, Oregon had jumped from number 19 (in 2002-04) to 15 (in 2005-07) in the ranking of the nation's states for food insecurity and has shot from number 18 to three in the "very low food security" category.

Oregon had 12.4 percent of its population (458,000) living in households that struggled with hunger or were "food insecure" during 2005-2007, according to the report.

In Eugene, comparing the first quarter of last year to the first quarter of the year, the number of food requests have increased 7 percent, from 19,646 to 21,009. Springfield numbers were not provided separately.

In Corvallis, food requests during the same period have risen 11 percent, from 8,545 to 9,521.

FOOD for Lane County is accepting

food donations at various sites around the valley, including Goodwill stores, Northwest Community Credit Union sites and the Eugene YMCA. Financial donations can also be made online at www.foodforlanecounty.org

BUTTERFLY EXPERT GIVES FREE TALK

At a time when the summer's butterflies are long gone from Eugene's parks, the Rio Grande Valley's International Butterfly Park is alive with wings.

Those lamenting November's lack of flutter can take a vicarious trip to tropical southern Texas on Monday through a lecture by butterfly expert and author Jeffrey Glassberg, founder and president of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). He will be speaking at 7 pm Monday, Dec. 1, at EWEB in Eugene about Mexican butterflies and native plant restoration at the NABA International Butterfly Park. His talk is free and open to the public.

The Butterfly Park, which is close to the Mexican border, comprises 100 acres of land that used to be farmed for cotton and sugarcane. NABA is attempting to restore the land back to its native state and so far has planted six acres with native species. The park's blooming native plants attract thousands of butterflies and hundreds of butterfly species, some of which



WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **4,204 U.S. troops killed*** (4,201)
- **30,832 U.S. troops injured*** (30,793)
- **167 U.S. military suicides*** (167)
- **314 coalition troops killed**** (314)
- **1,123 U.S. contractors killed**

(accurate updates NA)

- **97,337 to 1.1 million civilians killed***** (97,094)

- **\$573.9 billion cost of war** (\$571.9 billion)

- **\$163.2 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (\$162.6 million)

* through Nov. 24, 2008; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly

** sources: icasualties.org, defenselink.mil

*** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 (Lancet survey, 2006) to 1.1 million (Opinion Research Business survey, 2008)

TULSI WALLACE

Portland native Tulsi Wallace came to the UO to study metal-smithing. After a few years away to explore spiritual paths, she returned to finish a degree in landscape architecture in 2001. "My first job out of college was an urban water study under a grant for EWEB, working with Thurston High School students," she says. "We took bacteria counts in east Springfield and developed a dog-waste disposal campaign." Wallace currently works for EWEB as a land-management consultant, facilitating projects with at-risk kids. She has developed a stewardship model for the Leaburg and Walterville hydroelectric facilities of the lower McKenzie that includes a number of trails and bird gardens. "They're really native plant gardens," she explains. "The first one is being installed by students from the Lane Metro Youth Corps, on Camp Creek Road at mile marker 7." Another aspect of the model is the Native Wildflower Seed Bank: students from Walterville School will plant seeds gathered in the area earlier this year to create a small native upland prairie. "I call it, 'Celebrating our Partnership with Nature,'" Wallace says. "We need to evolve into a pattern of giving back." Learn more online at eweb-birdgardens.org



SLANT

• We've heard about **buy-local campaigns** for years, so what's the big deal? Well, our economy is tanking, things could get a lot worse, and it's maddening to watch our federal government pump billions into unsustainable businesses and industries, propping up greed and incompetence. But we can do something to help make our local economy stronger. Instead of simply cursing the darkness, we can light a hand-made candle from the Holiday Market or Down to Earth.

Our news story this week eyeballs the economics of buying locally. It makes sense anytime, but this year we have an excellent excuse to evolve our buying habits: It's a matter of survival. Love Starbucks? Fine, but also try the coffee at an independent coffee shop. New iPod on your gift list? OK, but who on your list might like something hand-made from Holiday Market? K-Mart sells hats and scarves from China, but have you seen the selection at Greater Goods? Apples can be purchased just about anywhere, but the quality and price at Kiva or the Farmers' Market might surprise you. Adore good beer and wine? No need to buy anything trucked in from out of state (or even out of county).

Our Gift Guide focuses on locally owned businesses and local vendors to give you some ideas, but there are plenty of other locally owned places to go. Check our website this week and sign up to pledge to spend at least \$100 at a locally owned business. You could win a prize, a gift certificate to – you guessed it – a locally owned businesses.

• It looks like new rules **providing access for the police auditor** are going to be shelved despite strong objections raised by the public at the City Council meeting Monday night. Inviting the police chief, police union and Police Commission to weigh in on these proposed rules over the next four months is an awful idea, the worst we've seen from the council in a while. So what could go wrong? Without trying to be too paranoid, we predict the loaded panel will argue that these rules are just fine but need just need a wee bit of tweaking to make the auditor and Civilian Review Board's work "more efficient."

At some point the panel will conclude that so many fine details need to be worked out that this process should be delayed a few more months. A comprehensive package will be drafted, and someone on the panel will suggest that it really needs to go back to the voters. And another year or two will go by, and independent police oversight will once again be compromised.

• **Greenwashing?** Corporations are constantly talking about the environment to cover up their ongoing destructive practices. Some Eugene students are involved in a new website dedicated to "greenwashing awareness." The website is a PSU capstone project and can be found at <http://sites.google.com/site/ecomerge2008> The site is still very basic, and its real value might be in its links. To suggest new links, email Tina Lymath at jonandemsmom@hotmail.com Meanwhile, some good academic work on greenwashing is happening at UO with School of Journalism and Communication prof Kim Sheehan and others; and Mark Robinowitz has a couple of politically loaded local sites, www.greenwasheugene.com and www.sustaineugene.org

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