

Something Eug!



"urban renewal" law to divert \$40 million from school and government services and taxpayers. The city wanted the money to instead subsidize parking garages and other hand-outs for chain-store development downtown.

Now, the state Legislature is considering a bill to limit Portland's ability to use urban renewal's tax diversion financing, *Willamette Week* reports.

Multnomah County Commissioner Jeff Cogen told *WW* he objects to a Portland idea to spend up to \$40 million in urban renewal to subsidize a private developer's major league soccer project. "The city is talking about taking money from school kids and the poor to fund a soccer stadium."

Portland Democrat Nick Kahl has proposed a bill that would require Portland to get county approval for the tax diversion and allow urban renewal money to be spent on social services such as helping the homeless.

The bill apparently wouldn't apply to Eugene. But it could be amended. Using urban renewal for the Eugene Public Library has been popular with voters here. But diverting school and social service money to destroy historic buildings and trees to build parking garages for developers has not. In 2007 local State Rep. Paul Holvey and County Commissioner Peter Sorenson said they were interested in legislative reform.

Statewide a total of about \$165 million a year in tax money is diverted for "urban renewal." That diversion is now occurring at a time when schools are cutting instruction days and/or increasing class sizes and state and local governments are complaining they lack funding for basic safety and social services. —Alan Pittman

PROPAGATION PUSHES FOOD INDEPENDENCE

The Eugene Permaculture Guild, other local volunteer groups and non-profits are joining this year to put on the Spring Propagation Fair, a free exchange of fruit-tree cuttings (called scions) and veggie seeds.

The event is from 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, March 14, at the LCC Cafeteria. LTD bus service is available and carpooling is being coordinated by Julie at 762-1051.

"The long-established scion exchange in Portland attracts thousands of attendees," says Nick Routledge, chief organizer of the event. "This is the first occasion I have heard of where a seed and scion exchange

have been combined."

The event is designed to support home orchardists and vegetable gardeners in and around the southern Willamette Valley. A great variety of scions and seeds will be provided free of charge. Grafting assistance and workshops will be provided, with rootstocks (mostly the super-dwarfing, dwarfing and semi-dwarfing stocks favored by home-gardeners) available for a nominal fee. Spanish-language support will be offered.

Everyone is welcome. "You don't have to bring scions or seed to share freely in the bounty" Routledge says, "but gardeners can support the event by bringing labeled cuttings and divisions of figs, grapes, berries and other fruits, along with fresh seed, plants and divisions."

Co-sponsors of the fair include EPG, the Seed Ambassadors Project, LCC Garden Club, Victory Gardens For All, the School Garden Project of Lane County, Huerto de la Familia, ECOS, the Springfield Transitions Garden, Food Not Lawns, Food for Lane County's Gardens Program, the UO's Urban Farm and OSU Extension Service in Lane County.

ACTIVIST ALERT

• A fundraiser for **Lane Bus Project** is being held to raise at least \$3,000 to get the group's "little bus insured and on the road ASAP, so we have a vehicle for hands-on democracy that is also street legal," according to organizers. The Lane County ShowBUSINESS featuring food, fun, talent and "ninja waiters" will be from 5 to 8 pm Sunday, March 15, at Davis' Restaurant, 94 W. Broadway. A \$40 minimum donation is being asked. On stage will be Rep. Chris Edwards, Sen. Vicki Walker and "special surprise guests." RSVP at <http://lanebus.org/370/> or send a check to OBP, care of Rose Wilde, PO Box 1301, Eugene 97440.

• An event March 16 will commemorate the sixth anniversary of the death of Evergreen College student **Rachel Corrie**, who was crushed to death in 2003 by an Israeli Defense Force bulldozer while attempting to block the demolition of a Palestinian home. The program, sponsored by the Al-Nakba Awareness Project, will show the film *Occupation 101* in which independent Portland journalist Alison Weir appears, followed by discussion led by Weir, who has documented U.S. media bias in reporting the Israel/Palestine conflict. The event begins at 7 pm Monday at Harris Hall, 8th and Oak in Eugene.

• With the short-lived **Oregon Daily Emerald strike** apparently being smoothed over, we're struck by just how bad journalists are at communicating. Why didn't the paper's board respond to the student staff about their concerns? Why didn't the board pass the concerns on to consultant Steve Smith? Why didn't they all sit down and talk about whether Smith's proposed salary of \$80,000, almost 10 percent of the small paper's revenues, was really sustainable? Why didn't the newsroom staff talk to Smith about their serious concerns before the strike? Most of the blame for the misunderstandings falls on the board; they're supposedly the more mature adults here.

Moving forward, maybe the students should use their cyber savvy and start their own truly independent online news website (they blogged at independent-journalism.wordpress.com for a while during the strike, and we hear they may continue). That would provide great, cutting-edge job experience, and the well-wired campus offers a fertile market. All week, we've been reading suggestions from other college journalists that they do just that, and as the *Emerald* newsroom staff and board hammer out the hiring strategy for the publisher, we know we'll see more and more information online.

• **The recession is not hurting** local bicycle, scooter and motorcycle dealers and repair shops. Shane Ayrsman of

Revolution Cycles (www.revolutioncycleaseugene.com) says "business is expanding and more products will be offered here than last year. So far spring is a bit slow, but a bit more sun and watch out. Winter was really good, and all indications are positive for the future."

And while medical care for humans is feeling the economic hit, we hear some veterinary care is expanding. Mark McConnell, vet and co-owner of the Emergency Veterinary Hospital in Springfield, now has a new Animal Urgent Care clinic in Eugene at 11th and Beltline, and it will remain open 24 hours a day on weekends in addition to regular weekday hours. The Springfield clinic at 103 West Q St., is already open 24/7.

More encouraging news? Check out our report on Eugene's bar scene in *Swizzle* this week.

• The **invasion of Iraq began March 20, 2003**. The mainstream media ignores Iraq these days, despite the continuing death and destruction. The number of Iraqi civilians who have perished has been estimated as high as 1.2 million, mostly from the civil war that followed our dismantling of Iraq's police and military. Some 5,300 Americans have died in the war, including at least 1,100 American civilian contractors. More than 31,100 U.S. soldiers have been wounded, nearly half so seriously that they were not allowed to return to duty. In our own Civil War in the 1860s even minor flesh wounds could mean death by infection. In this new war it is common for soldiers to survive massive head injuries and loss of multiple limbs.

Our new president promises to end the war, but he can't do it alone. This weekend begins a series of public events (see News Briefs) intended to mobilize support for ending the war, and also educating ourselves about the challenges ahead, not only in Iraq but also in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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

GloryBee® Factory Store

Natural Soap and Skin Care Class

Saturday, March 21st • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Price: \$40

Call (541) 689-0913 x138 to register by Friday, March 20th

Local soap maker Lori Dennison teaches this popular, craft-packed class.

- Learn melt and pour and cold-process soap making basics
- Try your hand at lotion, lip balm, salt scrubs and more
- Choose your own scents and colors and take home your creations
- Learn to make healthy, handmade gifts for your friends and family



The largest selection of Essential Oils in Lane County
Soap Making and Natural Craft Supplies
Factory-direct Natural Ingredients

Open to the Public M-F 9:00am-5:30pm
55 N. Seneca Rd., Eugene, OR 97402 (541) 689-0913
www.GloryBeeFoods.com

