

The alliance of environmental organizations sent a letter to lawmakers and supporters dated May 26, calling for protecting the Metolius as an Area of Critical State Concern (ACSC). The letter outlines the broad ecological values of the area and noted that the U.S. Forest Service concluded in the mid-1990s that the area has already reached "full capacity for recreational use."

"Construction of destination resorts in the Metolius will not generate enough jobs to significantly alter our region's economy," reads the letter. "The costs to the public of allowing this construction and the return to the boom and bust housing cycle far outweigh the benefits. In the long run, destination resorts seriously compromise the destinations."

See www.metoliusfriends.org for maps, updates and contact information for lawmakers. — *Ted Taylor*

EW TAKES 8 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

The Oregon and Washington Society of Professional Journalists held their annual awards banquet May 30, and *EW* picked up eight awards, including two first-place nods for arts coverage.

In the category for non-daily print publications with a circulation greater than 8,000, Camilla Mortensen took third place in environmental reporting for "One Good Tern Deserves an Island."

Molly Templeton took second place in the consumer, food, lifestyle, home category for "Much More Than a Mimosa" in the Uncorked issue.

Jason Blair took first place in arts and criticism for "Forging Ahead" his review of *The Counterfeiters*. Suzi Steffen took second place in arts and criticism for "Operation Sharing Their Truth."

In the category for alternative newsweeklies in region 10: Alan Pittman took second place in government reporting for "Blind Oversight." Camilla Mortensen took second place in consumer/environmental affairs reporting for "One Good Tern Deserves an Island."

Suzi Steffen took first place in arts reporting for "Buddhist Visions." And *EW* staff took third place in special sections for "Water Day," edited by Suzi Steffen and designed by Todd Cooper.

Links to these stories can be found on the *EW* blog.

ACTIVIST ALERT

• "Paper, Plastic, or Neither? What the Choice Means for Our Environment" with

David Tyler, is a free Science Pub talk at 7 pm Thursday, June 11, at Cosmic Pizza, 8th and Charnelton. Tyler is a chemistry professor at UO, currently teaching the chemistry of sustainability.

• Mayor Kitty Piercy and Rep. Terry Beyer are hosting "Looking Back, Moving Forward: **A Transportation Town Hall**," at 6:30 pm Tuesday, June 16, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 10th and Charnelton. The free event is organized by BikeLane Coalition, and will be looking at transportation priorities outlined in the TransPlan adopted 10 years ago.

• **ODOT** is inviting the public to a drop-in open house from 5 to 7 pm Tuesday, June 16, at the Springfield City Hall Library Room. The topic will be plans to lift 11 bridges crossing I-5, including the Centennial Boulevard Bridge and I-105 overpasses. Information will be included about the anticipated traffic control plans, detour routes, and proposed construction schedule for the overpass raisings. For more information call Ken Kohl at 747-1496 or email kenneth.l.kohl@odot.state.or.us

• **Local improvement districts** are on the agenda of the Eugene City Council in June, involving levy assessments on property owners for street improvements. The Crest Area project is scheduled for council action June 22. Property owners have complained about high assessments for paving and sidewalks. Is compromise on the table? See the city website at www.eugene-or.gov for agendas and times.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• In our June 27 Summer Guide listings last week, the price for the Sustainable Lifestyles Festival in Pleasant Hill should be \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Some workshops require a separate fee. See www.herbaltransitions.com or call 736-0164, or see Happening People this week.

• In Slant last week we wrote about the County Commission cutting off dues for the Association of Oregon Counties. That should be the Association of O&C Counties. Funding continues for the AOC.

ON THE WEB THIS WEEK

• More letters to the editor.
• On the blog: Breaking news and comments about *The Register-Guard's* layoffs. Alan blogs about the *R-G's* fear tactics regarding funding for jail beds. Suzi writes about the free symphony concert coming up at the Cuthbert in July.

• **Whole Foods still looking** at Eugene? We've heard the rumors, but the company's not saying much. We did hear from the Whole Foods corporate office in Texas that a Eugene store is not happening anytime soon, but they didn't rule it out. Whole Foods is currently working on its Interbay shopping center anchor store in the Queen Anne area of north Seattle. It appears the high-end grocer is still looking to expand but is being cautious. The Interbay store, if built, will be quite a bit smaller than originally planned.

For those new to town, Whole Foods and local developers negotiated to build a new store at 8th and Mill downtown back in 2006, and the proposal included the city coughing up \$9 million for an adjacent parking garage. Public opposition to subsidizing the project was strong. Eugeneans tend to balk at the idea of paying national corporations to build downtown and compete with local businesses.

• **The X factor?** Last week in this column we wrote about the growing number of part-time subsistence farmers in Japan, but that was only half the story. What do these farmers do with the rest of their time? Japan not only has economic problems, but also a crisis in mental health, with more than 30,000 suicides each year. The new lifestyle offers people the time to pursue their individual talents and passions, whether profitable or not. It's being called "half-farmer, half-X," and Naoki Shiomi, who popularized the concept, helps people find their X factor, their "real calling" in life.

• The **Helios Resource Network** is a local nonprofit that doesn't get much attention but does a lot of good work through small matching grants to 22 very local projects around Lane County, such as the Oregon Toxics Alliance, School Garden Project, Huerto de la Familia, Community Alliance of Lane County, etc. The organization began with a small family endowment, but we hear the original grant is running out. Fortunately, some folks in the community are supporting Helios with one-time and monthly donations. Check out www.heliosnetwork.org

• Members of the Lane County **Friends of the Birth Center** (FBC) are meeting with PeaceHealth officials this week to ask some tough questions. At issue is the surprise gap coming June 30 in PH's out-of-hospital birthing services (see News Briefs, 5/28). Back in January the hospital's CEO announced that construction on the new Birth Center could not begin until all costs were met upfront, including sale of the building. A short gap in services was anticipated, but now it looks like it could be nearly a year. The FBC wants to know why the interim plan does not include a temporary facility for out-of-hospital births, why there was a delay in communication, why this particular project needs 100 percent capitalization while others have not, and what can be done for the families who were already on track for significantly cheaper out-of-hospital births.

We asked some of these questions ourselves, and got partial answers. PH spokesperson Andrea Ash did tell us, "Moving Birth Center patients to Sacred Heart at RiverBend's birthing suites during the interim was not our first choice, but given our goal to make the best use of our limited resources, we have chosen to invest in the future Birth Center rather than the complex and costly process of developing an interim location."

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

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEI

DR. SHAROL TILGNER

On the weekend of June 27-28, Wise Acres Farm east of Pleasant Hill will host the first Sustainable Lifestyles Festival, featuring a full schedule of lectures and workshops on such topics as solar hot water, raising chickens, and making beer. Wise Acres is an organic and biodynamic educational farm focused mainly on medicinal herbs, owned and operated by Dr. Sharol Tilgner, author of *Herbal Medicine from the Heart of the Earth*. "We're expecting 300 to 500 people," says Tilgner, who grew up on an isolated farm outside La Grande, did pre-med studies at PSU and finished a four-year N.D. degree in 1990 at the National College of Natural Medicine in Portland. "I started an herb company while I was in school," says Tilgner, who moved the business, Wise Woman Herbs, to a farm near Cottage Grove to raise herbs in the mid-1990s. Ten years ago, she sold the business and purchased the Wise Acres property. Other summer events at the farm include the fifth annual NW Herb Fest on the weekend of July 25-26 and a nine-day intensive course in herbal preparations in August. For a complete listing of course offerings and festival schedules, visit herbaltransitions.com



Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

• Gypsy moth spraying (southeast Eugene): If you feel you or your family members were sickened, your property contaminated, or your rights violated by the forced exposure to the Oregon Department of Agriculture's aerial spraying of the biological (and chemical) insecticide FORAY 48B during April and May, you need to file a "Report of Loss" form no later than Friday, June 26, in order to preserve your right to recover damages. For forms and information, go to forestlanddwellers.org/News/GypsyMothSpray/

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