

R-G LOSES LABOR CASES

Two labor fights involving *The Register-Guard* and the Eugene Newspaper Guild dating back to 2000 were resolved in a July 7 appeal ruling by the National Labor Relations Board. The Guild prevailed in the cases, according to a story by Andy Zipser, editor of the national *Guild Reporter*. See his full story at <http://newsguild.org>

Zipser wrote that the ruling upholds the appeal of the Eugene Guild "which had concluded that two emails sent by then Guild president Suzi Prozanski violated *The Register-Guard's* email policy. At the same time, the appeals court rejected a company petition that objected to two related NLRB opinions, both decided 5-0, that the company had committed unfair labor practices by disciplining Prozanski for a third email, and by barring Ronald Kangail, a circulation department district manager, from wearing a union armband."



Suzi Prozanski at the R-G offices on Chad Drive

Famed union-busting Tennessee lawyer L. Michael Zinser spearheaded the unsuccessful appeal on both counts.

Prozanski, no longer employed by the paper, said this week that *R-G* management "chose to pursue this case all the way to federal Appeals Court, seeking wins on all counts. Instead, they lost on all counts. But here's the kicker: As long as the company was appealing the case, the *R-G* did not have to change its policy against union email. Management also was able to keep intact the 'unwritten policy' that prohibits wearing union insignia on the job, a right that has been protected in U.S. workplaces for decades. So for the last nine years, the *R-G* successfully prohibited workers from exercising their legal rights to express pro-union views. The irony of a newspaper muzzling free speech still boggles my mind."

Prozanski says the newspaper also "paid big money to L. Michael Zinser (he doesn't come cheap) to pursue the case when the newspaper industry is facing extraordinarily difficult financial times. Could some *R-G* workers' furloughs have been avoided if the *R-G* had that money in hand instead of forking it over to Zinser?"

R-G Editor and Publisher Tony Baker did not return a message by press time asking for comments on the rulings. — *Ted Taylor*

NEW LATINO PUBLICATION TAKES SHAPE

Three successful first-generation immigrants from Mexico and El Salvador are starting up a new bilingual monthly newspaper in the southern Willamette Valley called *Adelante Latino*.

The three founders are Nelson Rosales, president of the Latino Business Network of the Eugene Chamber; Lorenzo Herrera, vice president of the Latino Business Network; and Carlos Sepulveda of Mid-Earth Design. Rosales is also owner of the Rodeo Steak House in Junction City; Herrera and Sepulveda also work for SELCO Credit Union.

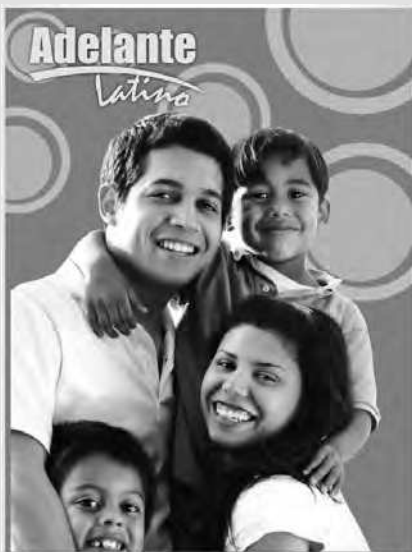
The first issue will be in September and the publication plans to print and distribute 10,000 copies, mostly in the Eugene-Springfield area, but also around Linn and Benton counties.

"Our intention is to help the minorities succeed within the community," says Sepulveda. "Our articles talk about success stories from people within the community. We have a sports column, financing tips, free classified ads, directory information and events information."

The publication comes out of the Latino Business Network, which is part of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We found out that there were not a lot of media channels that really target the Spanish-speaking population," says Sepulveda. "The Spanish-speaking population in this area is underserved in many different services like financing, housing, education, legal aid and counseling."

Demographics and other information about the publication are available from *Adelante's* account executive Jo Schechter, josuccess@comcast.net and Sepulveda can be reached at 788-3186. — *Ted Taylor*



news Briefs

NEW POLL SAYS OREGONIANS BACK MEASURES

Oregonians by a 2-1 margin approve of the Legislature's recently enacted tax increases on corporations and the wealthy, according to a new poll released last week by the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCCPP).

Opponents of the tax measures have begun collecting signatures to repeal them at the ballot box. The poll by Grove Insight showed that if the election were held today, 62 percent of likely voters would vote "yes" to uphold the tax hikes, 26 percent would vote "no" and 11 percent are undecided.

"Oregonians clearly favor protecting funding for education, health and public safety," said OCCPP policy analyst Joy Margheim. "On the whole, they appear to believe that the Legislature came up with a balanced and fair solution to the

BEING BLACK IN EUGENE

In a response to last week's New Briefs item, "Gates Case Compared to Gainer," former UO professor Ajuan Mance said, "the Skip Gates case immediately brought back memories of John Gainer's experiences with the Eugene Police Department."

Gainer, founder of the UO's gospel choir, moved to San Francisco in 2000, due in part to multiple confrontations with Eugene police.

EW asked Mance, one of UO's few black scholars, why she left Eugene after only a short time. "Strictly speaking, I did not leave Eugene because of racial issues. Race was a part of my decision, but so too was the draw of a larger metropolitan area. The UO was kind to me, and I had wonderful colleagues in the English department.

"I must say, though, that I found the absence of African-American community rather daunting and, in the end, I was compelled to leave because of the dearth of black people both on the UO campus and in the larger Eugene community."

Mance said the campus was "a relatively welcoming atmosphere," but "the city of Eugene was sometimes a challenging place. I never experienced any harassment by police, but I did find myself turning heads when I entered certain stores and restaurants, and I did experience a couple of instances of overt hostility."

Mance moved to the San Francisco Bay Area 10 years ago. She teaches at Mills College and edits the Black on Campus blog. "I look back on my experiences in Eugene with an appreciation for many of the wonderful qualities of that city," she said. "It can, however, be a lonely and difficult place for someone whose ethnicity marks them as a perpetual oddity and, occasionally, as a threat."

— *Ted Taylor*



Ajuan Mance

state's fiscal crisis brought on by the recession."

Grove Insight conducted the poll between July 29 and Aug. 2, interviewing 500 Oregon registered voters likely to participate in next January's election, should it take place. The poll carries a margin of error of 4.4 percent.

Lawmakers voted to balance the budget in part by raising \$733 million dollars in new revenue. That move avoided even deeper cuts to public services than those already set to take effect. More than 90 percent of Oregon's budget funds education, health and human services and public safety.

One measure raises the state's corporate minimum tax from \$10 to a sliding scale that ranges from \$150 for small businesses to \$100,000 for corporations with annual sales in Oregon above \$100 million. It also temporarily raises the top tax rate from 6.6 percent to 7.9 percent for corporations with taxable income over \$250,000 in 2009 and 2010, decreasing to 7.6 percent in 2011 and 2012.

The top corporate tax rate increase expires in 2013, returning the rate to its pre-recession level for all except the larg-

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

- Next to Triangle Lake School: Weyerhaeuser Company (744-4684) will ground spray 600 acres near **Low Pass, Horton, Blachly, Triangle Lake School, and Greenleaf** near **Long Tom, Michaels, Hayes, Fish, Congdon, Swartz, and Lake creeks** with Garlon 4, Arsenal, and Chopper herbicides plus Moract adjuvant starting Aug. 15 (#50456).
- Western Helicopter Services (503-538-9469) will aerially spray 166 acres for Giustina Land & Timber Company (345-2310) with Garlon 4, Oust, Arsenal, Escort, Chopper, Razor and Foresters herbicides near **Gillespie Corners** near **Doak, Coyote, Broad Tree, and Fox Hollow creeks** starting Aug. 20 (#50459)

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