

Oregon Wild meeting addressing their legal issues?" Sean Stevens of Oregon Wild said, "We don't accept taxpayer dollars and then not disclose how we use that money." He added, "Taxpayers generally don't like it when you take their money and then don't tell them what you're doing with it."

Earlier this year the commissioners also voted not to fund the Lane Metro Partnership, a group, which had received \$100,000 in membership fees from Lane County. Handy said, "It's been remarkable that there's very little public interest," in de-funding the LMP. "Silence has spoken volumes," said Handy. He said the funds were instead put into Lane County's own Community and Economic Development Program, which is working on proposals to build renewable energy parks in Junction City and Goshen.

Handy also said that in efforts to solve Lane County's funding woes as well as investigate sustainable solutions, all five of the commissioners have been working to implement a plan to use Lane County forests for carbon sequestration that they hope to have included in an upcoming federal energy bill. — *Camilla Mortensen*

SWASTIKA CENSURE

Inspired by a large flag bearing a swastika on Highway 36 as well as other local incidents of hate speech, the Lane County commissioners voted unanimously Oct. 20 to issue a proclamation against hate speech in Lane County that also attempts to give a nod to the right to free speech.

Commissioner Rob Handy said of the proclamation, "Hateful speech is protected by the First Amendment," but so, he said, is condemning the images, such as the swastika that was hung on private land near Hwy 36 and Lawrence Road, that "often precede hate activities and violence."

With Veterans Day around the corner, the proclamation states that the commissioners remember and understand the sacrifices made by veterans to protect American's free speech, but it notes that hate speech "is hurtful to the community as whole."

Handy said, "constructive responses to hate activity make Lane County safer for everyone." — *Camilla Mortensen*

ACTIVIST ALERT

- The city of Eugene and the Energy Trust of Oregon are sponsoring a free workshop on "**Small Home Design**" from 9 to 11 am Thursday, Nov. 5 at the Eugene Public Library. More information at www.energytrust.org

- A hearing on plans for a **large new UO dorm** on parking lots near Moss St. will be held from 1-2 pm, Nov. 10 at the UO Longhouse behind the law school.

- Local Dems are preparing for their annual **Democratic Party of Lane County** Gala Auction set for 5 to 8 pm Saturday, Nov. 7, at Mallard Hall, 725 W. 1st Ave., in Eugene. Gourmet food, entertainment, and DNC consultant Dan Carol will be keynote speaker. Only 200 seats are available. See www.dplc.org

- A Year of the Book event: Harvard librarian and former *New York Times* journalist, Robert Darnton, will discuss Google, libraries and the future of books in his talk "**Digitize, Democratize: Google, Libraries, and the Future of Books**," on Thursday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. in 175 Knight Law Center, UO.

- *The Singing Revolution* is a documentary film about **Estonia's successful nonviolent struggle** for independence. It will be shown twice in Eugene in conjunction with a Nov. 16 Estonian music concert conducted by visiting music professor Hirvo Surva, who is prominent in the film. Free public screenings will be held at 7 pm Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the UO's Lillis Building, room 111, and 7 pm Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Eugene Hotel, 222 E. Broadway. Discussion with Surva will follow the Nov. 10, screening. Surva is preparing his Revalia Men's Chorus for a West Coast tour starting at 8 pm Nov. 16 at UO's Beall Concert Hall. The concert of music from Estonia is titled "New Bridges of Song" and will also feature the UO Chamber Choir and Women's Choir. Tickets will be at the door for \$10 and \$8 with discounts for students and seniors.

- Get dressed to the nines — that is equine, canine and feline— and support a cluster of local nonprofit animal organizations. "**An Event for the !Nines!**" happens 7pm to 1am Saturday, Nov. 7, at the U.S. SportsPlex, with proceeds going towards Emerald Valley Equine Assistance,

- Whoa Betsy! Gov. Ted Kulongoski let a corporate tax break give a huge mule kick to state school funding. The Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) program was supposed to be about green energy and jobs. But as recent investigations by the *Oregonian* and *Register-Guard* demonstrate, it's more about giving away a quarter-billion-dollars of much needed **school funds to Walmart** and other corporations. At a time of packed classrooms and furloughed teachers, this is outrageous. It's so deliberate and absurd that we can only wonder if people in Oregon government are on the take. The attorney general and FBI should launch an investigation and the Legislature investigative hearings. But don't hold your breath: These kinds of blue light specials for corporations have been going on for decades in the name of jobs with only one of the nation's highest unemployment rates to show for it. Now the jobwashing is sloshing with greenwashing. Hydropowered Oregon's carbon footprint is mostly about freeways, and Kulongoski has never seen one that didn't make him drool.

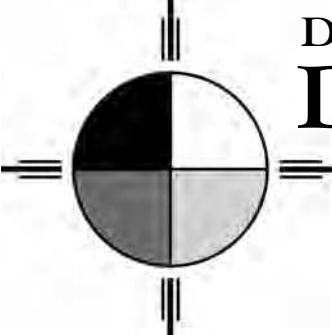
- **Lane County's political divide** makes for contentious elections and dramatic showdowns in public meetings, all part of a healthy democracy. But are there issues where we need to come together? We expect to hear soon from a local citizens' group that wants to step above the political fray and do something positive about public safety in the county. Is this even possible? Maybe. Trust in politicians, left and right, is extremely low right now, but a citizen-led group would have more credibility, particularly if a major focus is on supporting crime prevention, rehabilitation, education and community policing — and not just more jail beds and squad cars.

- Is **Bill Fleenor going to campaign to keep his West Lane County Commissioner** seat after all? He announced in September that he did not intend to run again, but supporters have been asking him to change his mind, and rumors are afloat that he might. In recent email to *EW*, when asked if he had decided to reverse his decision, he responded, "Stay tuned!"...

- The threat of football concussions could give new meaning to the "**lights out**" slogan of Duck boosters. The stars of today shouldn't be left as doddering dim-wits in middle age. Young people should come to the UO to enrich their minds, not have them battered stupid. New rules against head contact are needed and will save future lawsuits. Will that spoil the violence that fans crave? Some of it. But the leatherheads of yore still had lots of fun while not using their more vulnerable noggins as battering rams.

- In Afghanistan, we're there because we're there. There are more Al Qaeda now in Afghanistan than before the war began eight years ago. They're there because we're there because they're there because ... It's a circular argument of **endless war**. In Afghanistan we are fighting ourselves. The more we bomb, the more they fight. The more money we give to the Pakistani military, the more the Pakistani people resent us and the more the Pakistani secret service supports our enemies. We've been there eight years but have learned nothing. Like ugly American tourists, our soldiers only scream louder in English when Afghanis can't understand us. The more we yell, the more hearts and minds we lose. Fighting ourselves, we cannot win. Mr. Obama, tear down this war.

- We're usually ranting about the disproportionate money and attention showered on athletics at our favorite institution of higher learning, but we admit to getting caught in the updraft with this **Duck football** team, ranked 7th in the country, and Chip Kelly, their out-of-the-box coach. Traditional coaches don't bring their teams to the Saturday Market, send a personal check to refund a disgruntled fan or hide under the Duck mascot head. His players clearly believe in this guy, and for this moment, so do the Oregon fans. Stanford's brand of power football will be a tough test Saturday.



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