

ensure that coaches receive training on recognizing symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment.” SB 381, a companion bill, went into effect Jan. 1 and addresses the lack of insurance benefit plan coverage for brain injuries and requires insurers to include coverage in their health plans.

- Morrisette sponsored SB 795 which requires persons under 16 to wear protective headgear when skateboarding, riding a scooter or using in-line skates.

- SB 528 bans most field burning in the Willamette Valley.

- SB 355, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, “is expected to have a big impact on health, by curbing prescription drug overdoses and illicit sale of prescription drugs, when it becomes fully implemented,” says Morrisette.

“It is also important to remind consumers of prescription drugs of major discounts available through past legislative action,” he says.

ACTIVIST ALERT

- The **Oregon Board of Forestry** meets at 8 am Jan. 7 in the Tillamook Room in Building C at ODF headquarters, 2600 State St. in Salem. The meeting is a workshop with a public advisory group to continue its review of an administrative rule that guides management of the state forests. More information at www.oregon.gov/odf/board/

- Political author **David Swanson** will speak about his new book *Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union* at 5:30 pm Thursday, Jan. 7, at Canyon Way Bookstore in Newport; and at 7 pm Friday, Jan. 8, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Blvd., in Corvallis. See <http://davidswanson.org/book>

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- Will ex-county commissioner **Jerry Rust** run for his old post now that Bill Fleenor has dropped out of the race? Rust held the West Lane position for 20 years starting in 1976 and was known as a strong environmental and social issues progressive, and a fiscal conservative. Rust is noncommittal at this point, but when we asked, he referred us to the Bard: “There is a tide in the affairs of men. Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.” That particular bit of wisdom from *Julius Caesar* continues, “And we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures.” We’ll hang on a little longer and see if Rust decides to go with the flow and jump into the growing candidate pool, which includes Jay Bozievich, Tony McCown and Anselmo Villanueva.

- The UO unveiled its John E. **Jaqua Academic Center** for Student-Athletes this week. No one knows how much the glowing glass cube and its moat cost to build or how much workers were paid to build it – Phil Knight leased the land and paid for it, including its finer details like the “No food, no drink, no Beavers” icons on the walls that freshman guys are sure to guffaw over on their way to the café. If the UO thinks that making the first

- **State lawmakers** from Lane County will be discussing the February special session and answering questions on Ballot Measures 66 and 67 from 9:30 to 11:30 am Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Eugene City Council Chambers, 777 Pearl St. The public meeting will include Sens. Chris Edwards, Bill Morrisette and Floyd Prozanski; and Reps. Phil Barnhart, Terry Beyer, Paul Holvey, Val Hoyle and Nancy Nathanson.

- A **Single-payer vigil** and educational outreach will take place, 1 pm Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Eugene Public Library. “Scrap the health care reform bill and start over with single payer,” say organizers. Sponsored by Industrial Workers of the World and Health Care for All Oregon. Contact iconoclasmo.scott@gmail.com

- Sociologist **Scott Coltrane**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the UO, will talk about his research on fatherhood at noon Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the Erb Memorial Union Gumwood room on campus. Sponsored by the UO Center for the Study of Women in Society, the free event, “Men and Family Work: What’s Changing, What’s Not,” is part of a luncheon series.

- An academic analysis of **President Obama’s first year** in office is being planned in a series of talks at UO Jan. 13 and 15, March 4, April 9 and 29. All talks are at 7 pm at 110 Knight Law Center on campus, sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center and UO Political Science Department. On Jan. 13 the speaker will be Sidney Milkis, University of Virginia, on “Barack Obama, the Presidency, and the Enduring Quest for Reform.” Future speakers are Robin Jacobson, Leslie McCall, David Cole and Mark Peterson.

- **Eugene Rising Tide** 2010 kickoff: “Confront the root causes of climate change and resource depletion,” at 7 pm Wednesday, Jan. 13, at Growers’ Market, 434 Willamette St. Free and open to the

floor of the athlete Taj Mahal available to the rest of campus will prevent other students and faculty from feeling a little bitter, then maybe it should take a look at some of the classrooms non-athletes are occupying. Students are crowded into spaces with not enough desks and 1980s-era technology, and learn from underpaid faculty and adjuncts. We Eugeneans love our Ducks (despite the Rose Bowl loss) but we’d love to see the rest of the university get more love as well.

Parking at the Taj is a whole other issue, and rumors are flying about faculty losing parking spaces, and the unfairness of athletes getting priority parking permits. Stay tuned.

- A decision on banning **gas-powered boats on Waldo Lake** is on the agenda of the Oregon State Marine Board at 9 am Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Portland Expo Center (see www.boatoregon.com) and we urge the board to approve the ban. Complex legal issues remain regarding which agency has the power to regulate boating on Waldo, but the legal squabbles are incidental to far greater concerns for protecting the lake’s unique and fragile purity. Older two-stroke engines can discharge as much as a third of their oil/gas

IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER

The wind was blustering across the top of Gillespie Butte when I pulled my wife close and gave her a sudden kiss. “What brought that on?” she asked. “Look up,” I replied, “we’re under the mistletoe.”

The old oak trees on the top of Gillespie Butte have gnarly branches with mistletoe. The branches stand out strongly this time of the year, naked nearly two months now and to remain exposed like this until spring is well under way. Oak trees with swollen, twisted branches are admired as icons of toughness



and durability. One on Gillespie Butte has been designated a legacy tree by the Eugene Tree Foundation. However, there are oaks much older than this legacy tree that don’t show this kind of tortured branching, but instead show rather graceful, wavy, upward forking patterns.

It is the mistletoe that causes the gnarly character of our oaks. Mistletoe is a stem parasite, sending probing, absorptive organs called haustoria into the living tissue of the oak branches. These haustoria take the place of roots for mistletoe, sucking water and nutrients from the oak host. The oak responds by attempting to smother the roots in masses of woody scar tissue. The lumps and twists in the branches grow wherever the infection turns, squeezing off its nutrient supply. The very few vestiges of mistletoe that occasionally persist on old infection burls prove that smothering works. Only near the tips of branches, where mistletoe infections are young, do you see large clumps of vigorous mistletoe.

David Wagner is a botanist who has worked in Eugene for more than 30 years. Every year he makes the Willamette Valley Nature Calendar, available this month at Down to Earth and the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Reach him at fernenmosses@me.com

public. Contact: schirill@uoregon.edu

- **Phone banking and canvassing** for passage of Measures 66 & 67 continues. Contact Joy Marshall at jmarshall@stand.org or Keith McAleer at (715) 864-1045. **Stand for Children** canvassing will meet at 10 am Monday, Jan. 18 (MLK Day), at Oregon Community Credit Union, 11th and Ferry in Eugene. Phone banking continues in late afternoon and evening shifts Jan. 19 and 20.

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

- In our Dec. 24 “Just Give It!” collection of worthy nonprofits, the Lane County Arts Council should have been just Lane Arts Council. The organization is not affiliated with Lane County government.

- **On a more upbeat note**, we hear our free “I Saw You” ads were used in our Dec. 17 issue to locate a young woman who accidentally left a fat packet of cash at metalworker Margaret Weller’s booth at Holiday Market. Gotta love happy reunions and honest merchants. Our “Lost and Found” ads are also free.

- **Wall Street mega-banks** are looking back at a record year of profits in 2009, thanks to taxpayer bailouts and government guarantees, while small community-based banks are struggling along. What can we do as individuals to equal the playing field in 2010 and bolster our local economy? *The Huffington Post* last week had a suggestion. If you have a money market account, retirement fund or other kind of deposit in one of the greedy, corrupt Wall Street banks, move it to a local bank or credit union. Check out <http://wkly.ws/2y> to see how it works. The idea is inspired in part by the citizens rescuing a local bank in the holiday classic film *It’s a Wonderful Life*.

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