

news Briefs

COPS WANT MORE CASH WHILE CRIME DROPPING

Eugene plans to boost police spending while cutting pool and library services, but the local crime rate fell last year in one of the safest cities in the nation.

According to FBI data, Eugene's violent crime rate fell 5 percent last year and the property crime rate fell 8 percent.

In the last dozen years, Eugene's crime rate has fallen 49 percent and its property crime rate has fallen 38 percent, according to FBI numbers.

Compared with 265 cities with more than 100,000 people, Eugene now ranks 203rd in violent crime rate. That puts the city in the top 25 percent of the safest cities in the nation.

Eugene ranks higher compared to other cities in property crime rate, 42nd out of 265. Most of that higher ranking is skewed by a comparatively larger number of more minor larceny/theft cases in Eugene.

Congressional Quarterly has produced a leading ranking of city overall crime rankings for 16 years. *CQ* leaves out larceny/theft, citing concerns from the FBI that the very large category skews overall crime rates. According to the *CQ* rankings, Eugene is about average for overall crime rate — 204th lowest out of 393 cities.

Eugene's drop in violent crime last year was largely caused by a drop in robbery and aggravated assault. The drop in property crime was due largely to declines in larceny/theft and car theft.

Eugene plans to spend \$800,000 this year to increase the police budget while laying off non-police city workers and cutting library and pool services.

The Eugene police budget has received little apparent scrutiny from the City

Council or Budget Committee. Eugene has a similar overall crime to Salem, but Eugene's police budget is about one-third higher, according to city budget documents. — Alan Pittman

ROMP RIDES FOR AMPUTEES

It's a ride that few would undertake: a 3,500 mile bike trip from Eugene to Guatemala. But on June 19, Eugene local Greg Krupa plans to do it in order to raise \$50,000 in support of amputees and disabled people around the world through the Range of Motion Project (ROMP).

"The need is absolutely tremendous," said Krupa, noting that 80 percent of the world's amputees live in the developing world and only 2 percent have access to health care. "Most of these people are unable to work or provide their family with the resources they need to better their lives or even have enough to be properly nourished," he said.

Organizing the event, Krupa and fellow bike enthusiast Pat Mathay are working on behalf of ROMP, a non profit that provides prosthetic limbs and orthodontic braces to amputees and people living with disabilities.

"Yes, we're providing people [in need] with physical limbs," said Mathay. "But more than that, we are giving them the opportunity to interact with society, with their communities in a whole new capacity."

The public send-off, 9 am at Skinner Butte Park, will see approximately 70 people, including State Sen. Floyd Prozanski, riding alongside Krupa and Mathay for the first leg of the journey from Eugene to Florence. Additionally, bilateral amputee and paralympic athlete Kevin Saunders will be joining the ROMP riders in California for three days.

And anyone is invited to participate anywhere along the coastal route, regardless of his or her biking experience or time commitment. "The bike ride will not only be fun and scenic," said Krupa. "It's a unique opportunity to cycle with others dealing with limb loss and other physical challenges."

Donations from individuals and companies throughout the world have assisted this trip by providing accommodations and



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTH FARM

YOUTH FARM OPENS STAND

FOOD for Lane County's Youth Farm is planning a grand reopening of its produce stand from 10 am to 2 pm Saturday, June 12, at 705 Flamingo Ave., off Game Farm Road in Springfield. The sale of fresh veggies benefits the Youth Farm program.

Despite the soggy spring, the stand will offer strawberries, peas, lettuce and salad mix, spinach, cucumbers, carrots and more. The stand will be open Saturdays through mid-October.

Low-income teens, ages 14-18, participate all summer long in growing more than 35 different kinds of fruits and vegetables. The majority of the farm's produce (about 92,000 pounds grown in 2010) is donated to FOOD for Lane County for distribution to agencies countywide to help alleviate hunger and poor nutrition.

Youth-led tours of the farm site are available. For more information, contact FLC at 343-2822 or visit www.foodforlanecounty.org

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

CHU "CASSIE" CHEN



"All kids in China study English," says Chu Chen, who adopted "Cassie" as her English name in grade school in Rui'an, on China's east coast. Chen studied Chinese literature in college, 400 miles south along the coast in Xiamen, the Island City, and continued for a masters in environmental literature. "My advisor was professor Wang," she says. "He wrote the book that introduced the concept of environmental literature to China." Wang asked her to stay on for a Ph.D., but Chen wanted to see the world and instead got a scholarship in the UO environmental studies masters program in the fall of 2007. "I took a class in political ecology that brought me a lot of vision and knowledge," she says. "I studied natural resource policy and collaborative environmental management." After graduation and a trip home to visit her parents, Chen

returned to Eugene last November to start a one-year volunteer internship with ELAW, the nonprofit Eugene-based international environmental law firm. Her main job is contacting potential Chinese ELAW fellows, lawyers who are working in the environmental field. "Work and practice is more important to me than getting paid. I wanted to stay in Eugene," says Chen, who was married in May to Yan Guo, a Ph.D. student in physics.

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

- **ODOT** is still conducting spraying of highways and ramps throughout District 5 (Lane County area) and will be spraying invasive species through June. Call Tony Kilmer at 686-7534, Mike Spaeth at 744-8080 and (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information. See forestlanddwellers.org/News/2010-News/ODOT/

- **Districtwide roadside spraying on timberlands:** Roseburg Resources (935-2507) will spray roadsides in additional units in Townships 17-20 South, in various Ranges 5-8 (see maps) with Triclopyr Ester and Amine, Glyphosate, Sulfometuron Methyl and 2,4-D herbicides starting June 15 (No. 781-00529).

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