

had the maximum possible surgeries on her back.”

“Among other things,” he says, “disabled people could not complete the required nightly three minute mass naked showers that terrify so many at the Mission.”

The Egan Warming Center last winter drew the support of more than 500 community volunteers in its second year, and new hope has been kindled. “Still,” Smith says, “it feels that most of the hope is in greater volunteer support rather than an increase in money. We need to keep shelters open for kids by themselves. We need to keep 1st Place Family Development Center open for homeless families with children.”

Springfield is currently ahead of Eugene, says Smith, with “the valiant Marion Malcolm among the leadership there.” Malcolm says she will attend one of the upcoming meetings of the revived group “to share our experiences in Springfield, and will want to collaborate if they get it going. My focus, though, will stay with the Springfield Shelter Rights Alliance.”

Smith can be contacted at 686-6193 or email jerryjane@comcast.net to get on his mailing list.

— Ted Taylor

EUGENE TOPS IN BIKING

Eugene has the highest bike commute rate in the nation for a city of its size or larger, according to the U.S. Census.

Nearly 11 percent of workers commuted to work in Eugene by bike in 2009, according to American Community Survey data released this month.

Eugene’s bike commute rate increased by a third in 2009 compared to the 8 percent rate in 2008. But a large part of the increase is within the reported margin of error for the Census survey.

Eugene’s 11 percent biking rate is

almost double the 6 percent rate in Portland, the number one large city for bike commuting. Portland has almost four times the population of Eugene.

Eugene trails Davis, Calif., with a 21 percent rate and Boulder, Colo., with a 12 percent bike commute rate. But Eugene is more than twice the size of Davis and is a third larger than Boulder. — Alan Pittman (*This story first appeared at Eugenecycles.com*)

FAIR POSTS BOARD HOPEFULS

The Oregon Country Fair is perhaps the first organization in Lane County to post videos of board member candidates talking about the organization, what they can bring to it, and what they would like to see happen with it.

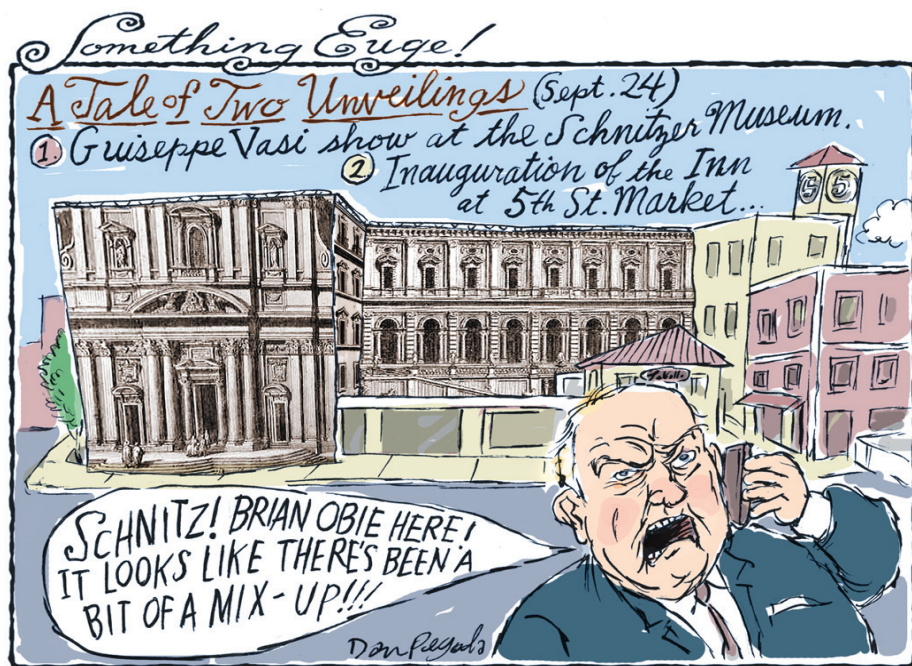
The site has individual statements from each board member candidate and also includes a forum presentation in question and answer format, according to Rich Locus, a volunteer with OCF.

“This media allows our voters from out of town, or those who do not attend the voters forum, to make an informed decision about our candidates,” says Locus. “This site was a large undertaking from many individuals, and we believe we are nurturing the democratic process.”

The videos are available at www.oregoncountryfairforum.org. The annual meeting with board elections is Oct. 16.

ACTIVIST ALERT

• Cartoonist and author **Ted Rall** will speak at 6 pm Thursday, Oct. 7, at the Downtown Eugene Public Library. His new book is *The Anti-American Manifesto* (see review in *EW* at <http://wkly.ws/tk> or in the 9/30 paper).



IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER

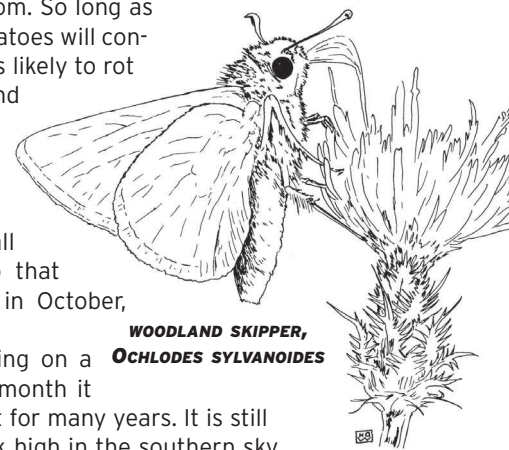


October is a funny month, full of surprises every year. We expect it to usher in the rainy season but it is most unreliable. Some years it hardly rains at all in October and some years the tomatoes and grapes ripen right up to the end of the month. With the crummy tomato summer we've had, I'm hoping for the latter. However, this would mean that the mushrooms won't be as plentiful. Either outcome is good: no rain and the tomatoes ripen, lots of rain and it's mushrooms erumpent.

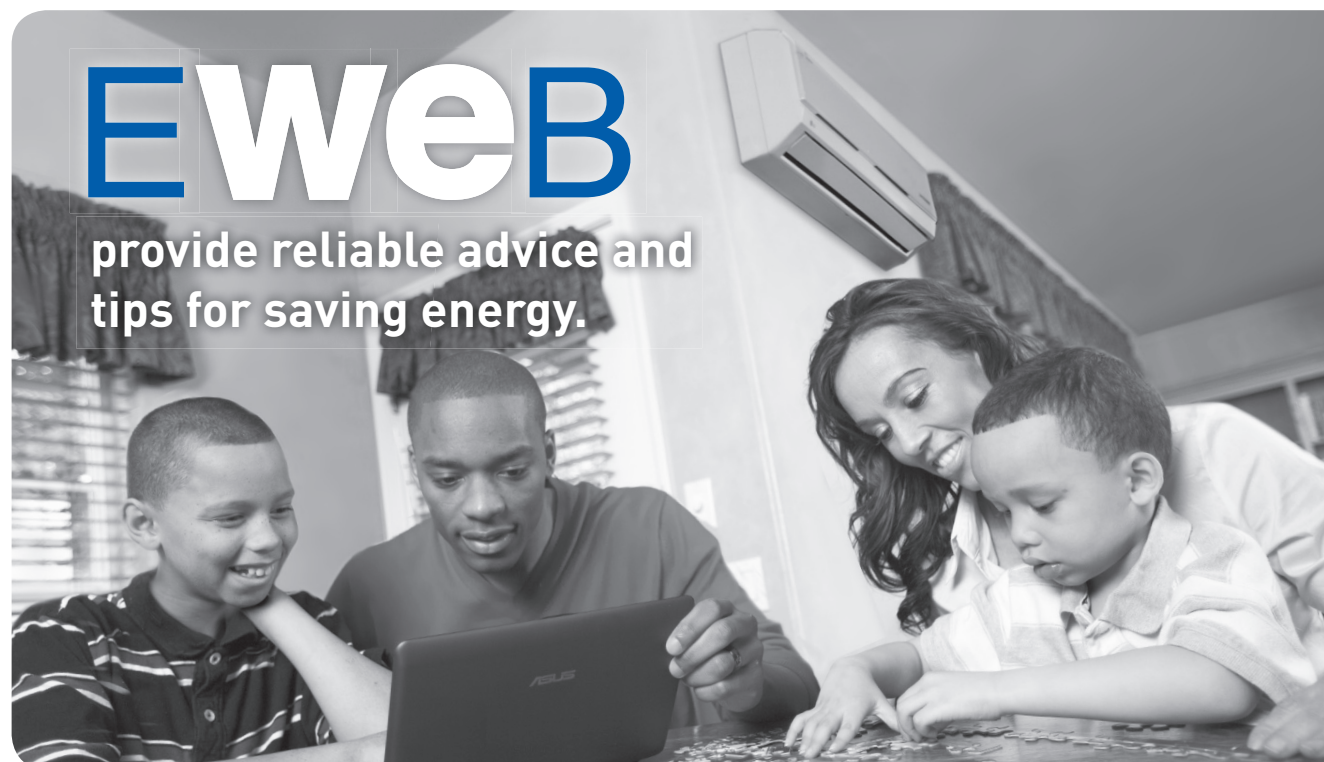
If the season does end abruptly it is possible to ripen tomatoes still on the vine, but in the shed. I've had pretty good luck uprooting an entire tomato plant, shaking off the dirt, pruning lanky branch tips, and hanging upside down in a cool storage room. So long as it doesn't freeze in there, the tomatoes will continue to ripen nicely. They are less likely to rot on hanging vines than if picked and spread on newspapers.

I love late season butterflies, especially the little golden brown skippers. They are especially noticeable around fall blooming asters. There are two that might show up in your garden in October, sache and woodland skipper.

Do not overlook Jupiter putting on a show in the night sky. Late last month it was as close to earth as it will get for many years. It is still the brightest star in the sky. Look high in the southern sky between 11 pm and midnight.



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



EWEB

provide reliable advice and tips for saving energy.

Here's a tip from the Eugene Water & Electric Board:

Install a ductless heat pump to replace your baseboard, wall, or ceiling heat.

A ductless system will use 25% to 50% less electricity than these other heating systems. EWEB's ductless heat pump program offers qualified homeowners either a \$1,500 rebate or a 0% loan up to \$4,000. For more info, visit eweb.org.

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