

## West Eugene EmX: We're listening.

The West Eugene EmX (WEE) project is nearing an alignment decision and your input is important!

At its March meeting, the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) requested an additional public hearing to provide the public an opportunity to speak specifically about the EmX routing alternatives (including the West 6th/7th/11th Avenue, and West 13th/11th Avenue alternatives), and to the Build or No-Build decision.

*Your voice needs to be heard!* Plan to attend this hearing to provide your feedback. Sign up to speak between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. - everyone signed up by 8 p.m. will be heard. Written testimony also will be accepted at the hearing.



**MPC Public Hearing**  
Tuesday, April 5, 6 p.m.  
Lane Events Center  
Wheeler Pavilion  
976 W. 13th Avenue, Eugene

**Plan to attend!**



American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available with 48 hours notice. To learn more about the project, visit the West Eugene EmX website at [weemx.ltd.org](http://weemx.ltd.org).

These gigantic sea-faring birds also have a tendency to eat the myriad of plastic flotsam that comes off of trash barges. Safina showed a picture of a decomposing bird with nothing but Bic lighters in its stomach. It takes some albatrosses up to 10 years before they reach sexual maturity, he said.

Oregon's Legislature is currently debating a ban on plastic grocery bags, another source of ocean trash.

The pH levels of the ocean have been decreasing as well. This change in acidic content is dissolving coral reefs, which are also struggling with massive overfishing. Fishermen in these tropical areas have aided in the destruction by using such creative fishing methods as blast fishing — using explosives — and poisoning the water, Safina said.

The speech discussed in brief a few ways to reduce the damage being dealt upon our oceans, focusing more on describing the problems than offering solutions. Safina book-ended his speech with readings from his new book *A View from Lazy Point*.

"The worst thing anyone should be able to say about their life may also be the best: 'I tried my best.'" — *John Locanthi*

## BOGUS NUKE BACKGROUND?

Questions about radiation levels in Japan run the gamut, and responses vary from residents in Japan opting to stay near the leaking plants to freaked out Americans buying potassium iodide because of trace amounts of radiation detected in Oregon precipitation.

Recent updates in the media include the

figure 620 millirems as the average amount of annual radiation exposure in the U.S. But portraying this figure as typical is not representative of normal exposure, according to Gerry Pollet, executive director of Heart of America Northwest, a citizen's advocacy group working on issues related to Hanford nuclear site.

Pollet says that including data for medical treatments like MRIs, CAT scans and radiation used to kill human cells in cancer treatments drives up the reported average. "What's so misleading is that this is not background radiation," Pollet says.

"Essentially these figures show what a tremendous rise there has been for 15 years or so in terms of the amount of medical scans in one term or another," Pollet says. He says that the decision to use radiation exposures to diagnose or treat health problems also acts differently on the human body than a higher radiation background level, which is cumulative.

Instead of focusing on average background levels, Pollet says, the human health outcomes are important. "Even if it's not very much, the important question is how many additional cancers will be caused by this level of radiation, which makes the background radiation totally irrelevant," Pollet says.

A UN Report to the General Assembly on radiation says it is "impossible to make reliable quantitative estimates of risk" because of the difficulty in determining the dose that an individual has received. The report also states that the thyroid cancers of individuals exposed as children in the Chernobyl incident are much higher than expected, echoing the finding that children are more susceptible to the effects of radiation than the adult males that most

## Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL



### Indra Stern-Hayworth

Raised in Chappaqua, NY, the home of Horace Greeley, Indra Stern-Hayworth headed west in 1972, with a BFA from Ohio Wesleyan, her friend Kat Parker, a dog and two cats, in her baby-blue Ford van.

"We had a blast," says Stern, who arrived in San Diego late that year, then discovered Eugene on a visit to the Oregon Country Fair in '73. She returned in '74 and found work at Mama's Home-Fried Truck Stop, a hub of community activism that hosted meetings for the OCF and the Community Center for the Performing Arts (WOW Hall). "I was involved in initial stages of the CCPA. It's one of my proudest moments," says Stern, who also served as OCF staff from '76 to '84. She met Stan Hayworth in 1978, raised a family and had a long career as a jewelry buyer for local stores. Stern is a founding mother of two long-lived local arts institutions, the Radar Angels performance troupe (since 1979) and the Jell-o Art show (since 1988). This year's Jell-o Art Show, on view one night only, Saturday, April 2, 5-8 pm, at the Maude Kerns Art Center, features the Radar Angels extravaganza, "A Toast to Jello," at 7 pm. "The event is tongue-in-cheek," Stern says, "but it's paramount in any community to promote the arts, to keep art alive."



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