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Sicilian Sausage.....	\$5.25
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Jalapeño Cheddar Frank.....	\$5.25
Chili Dog Supreme.....	\$5.50
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MON: Knock-Out Knockworst.....	\$5.25
TUES: Hungarian Garlic Sausage..	\$5.25
WED: Cheddar Frank.....	\$5.25
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SLANT

• What is the **future of electrical power** in Eugene? City Club July 22 provided a fascinating look into local energy management with Clay Norris, director of power resources for EWEB, and Julie Daniel, executive director of BRING and a member of EWEB's Integrated Energy Resource Plan (IERP) advisory panel. We learned that: Americans consume twice as much power per person than Europeans. About 40 to 45 percent of the energy used in the Northwest is from coal, natural gas and nuclear reactors, but 70 percent of EWEB's energy is from hydroelectric dams and wind turbines. One of the biggest challenges is balancing production and needs, particularly with our "wacky" weather patterns. Wind and water are irregular power sources. Right now, EWEB's highest power usage is cold winter mornings, but in the future, electric car charging is expected to boost power demands in early evenings. "Aggressive conservation is the most prudent tactic to take," says Norris. "Conservation beats renewables every time."

If you missed the program live, a video can be watched soon on YouTube by searching for "City Club of Eugene 2011."

• What's going on down at **Scobert Park** in the Whiteaker? The little park has a long history as a hang-out for drug dealers, drunks, prostitutes and people who are homeless, but it's also a nice bit of grass, shrubbery and shade for local residents out for strolls or dog walking, and Scobert has seen many neighborhood picnics and outdoor music events. Eugene police and neighbors keep an eye on the park and we hear meetings are happening between EPD and city parks people to discourage illegal activities. But will the benches and shade trees go away in the process? Will there be more fences? Some landscaping work is reportedly already under way.

Mayor Piercy has kind words for the "wonderful" neighbors and the work they do "to keep good stuff going on there" at Scobert Park. She says local residents "rarely complain but every once in a while the type of activity going on there gets hard for people to live with and they ask for some help." What will that help look like? Scobert Park is on the agenda of the Whiteaker Community Council at 7 pm Aug. 10.

• **Roseburg is a tough place** to be a Democrat, and it appears to be getting worse now that the Tea Party fanatics are crawling out from under the rotting stumps of Douglas County clear-cuts. Some 16 Democrats, mostly women age 65 and above, were having a quiet MoveOn.org potluck in River Forks Park July 16 when they were accosted by about 35 rude and hostile, flag-waving Tea Party rednecks, according to a story by Heather Morse in *The News-Review* (see <http://wkly.ws/13b> and video at <http://wkly.ws/13c>). Forced to leave and fearing for their safety after they were followed to a private home, the women called the Sheriff's Office and are now considering filing a criminal complaint for harassment. Sheriff John Hanlin never showed up and is apparently not investigating the incident. We hear he's a Harley-riding Tea Party guy himself.

EW reader Michael Hinojosa of Drain says he visited the Americans for Prosperity/ Tea Party booth at the North Douglas County Fair last weekend and knows most of the people there. He asked about the "Roseburg goon squad" and enjoyed an hour of "verbal battles until we all laughed and hugged as I gave them the peace sign." He added, "I hate the way our leaders would rather have us peons doing battle against each other, rather than doing anything constructive to make our country work together."

• Must be a confused robot that's sorting phone numbers for **political robocalls** around here. We've had two calls from Dick Morris, a sleazy national strategist once on the left and now on the extreme right, who says he's talking to "solid conservatives and Tea Party patriots in our area" who want to defeat Obama. Take our names off the list, please.

• We try to avoid **duplicating letters** in the R-G since our space is so tight, but occasionally the same letter will run in both papers. When that happens, it's worth looking to see if the letters are edited differently. The letter "Collective Yawn" by R.L. Thompson July 21 talked about conservatives being angry with progressives taking over the majority on the County Commission and included the phrase "with a later specious lawsuit against them that firmed up that notion." That phrase was deleted from his same letter in the R-G July 16. Thompson tells us he figures the omission is consistent with the R-G's "continuing vendetta" against liberal commissioners. "While I wouldn't go so far as to suggest Murdochian influence in the running of the R-G, sometimes I'm given cause to wonder," he says.

• **Scientist Mary O'Brien**, longtime EW columnist now living in Utah and working for the Grand Canyon Trust, tried in vain some years ago to form a coalition of environmental groups in Lane county. That's one tough assignment, as even the determined O'Brien soon found out. But Portland is putting out a model we should examine. *The Oregonian* headline last week: "A nonprofit coalition blazes a trail for nature." Called the Intertwine Alliance, it includes about three dozen nature-based nonprofits and some big relevant businesses such as Columbia Sportswear and Keen Footwear, plus governmental groups such as Portland Parks & Recreation. Mission: "Raise awareness and money for local parks, trails and open spaces nonprofits." With a starting staff of two, Intertwine has a budget of about \$250,000 for fiscal 2011-12, with \$100,000 coming from Metro. ODS Health has even donated \$10,000. Part of a national movement in big urban areas, Intertwine makes sense in our big-enough city. Let's just do it.

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