

news Briefs

CONTINUED FROM P.7

Rep. Bruce Hanna jumped from 10 to 60 percent this time; Rep. Tim Freeman went from 14 to 36 percent; and Sen. Jeff Kruse improved from 15 to 46 percent.

The ratings were based on 17 contested environmental votes in the 2011 legislative session, including bills on “Cool Schools,” the Bottle Bill update, aquatic invasive species, business energy tax credits, BPA in baby bottles, Farm to School program, etc.

“Oregonians care about our state’s natural heritage and the importance of creating a more sustainable, prosperous energy future,” says Charlie Burr, OLCV PAC Board chair in a prepared statement. “With OLCV’s Environmental Scorecard for the Oregon Legislature, Oregonians can see how their legislators voted on clean air, water and other critical environmental protections during the 2011 legislative session. An important part of passing environmental priorities is making sure citizens know the score.”

Coming early next year will be the OLCV’s ratings of the Eugene City Council and Lane County Commission. The ratings will be based on an analysis of minutes of meetings in 2010 and 2011, according to Ashley Miller, OLCV’s mid-Willamette organizer. — *Ted Taylor*

OLD NAVY CUTS UP CLOTHES?

When Penny Parks walked outside to have a cigarette near the loading docks at Oakway Center, what she didn’t expect to see was a Dumpster full of brand-new clothing that had been destroyed. She says on Oct. 13, “Two of the Dumpsters were filled with Old Navy wool pea-coats, wool pants and leather shoes. All of this new merchandise was slashed to ribbons,” Parks says.

Parks took pictures with her cell phone before the Sanipac Dumpsters were emptied. She calls sending so much warm clothing to the landfill when so many are poor, homeless and cold “a tragedy.”

Parks adds that she is aware of the dilemma that businesses face in donating to the homeless, sometimes people try to return the donation to the store for cash, she says, but “there are easy remedies, such as using an indelible marker to mark the label. This would probably take less time than the slashing took.”

EW spoke to an Old Navy employee who says in this case the coats had mold and would have been hazardous.

Because Old Navy stores are not permitted to speak to the media, *EW* contacted corporate headquarters.

Old Navy spokesperson Catherine Rhoades told *EW* that “our policy is to destroy defective merchandise. This includes items that have been washed, worn or damaged in some way.” She adds, “When possible, we will donate unsold inventory that is not defective or used in any way.”

— *Camilla Mortensen*

PIT BULL RENTAL PREJUDICE

She was the 2010 Oregon Red Cross “Animal Hero of The Year” for her work with at-risk youth at the Serbu Juvenile Justice Center. She’s been in *EW*; she’s been on the television news. Sasha the deaf pit bull might have found someone to adopt her, but she’s having trouble finding a home.

After reading about Sasha in *EW*’s Pets issue (7/28) William Novorolsky, who works with the developmentally disabled people who are deaf, says he “felt a very real connection” to the dog. So he sought out Sasha and her foster mom, Micaela Frank. He met Sasha and Frank and decided that he



WE’LL SUPPLY THE KEENS,
YOU CREATE THE FUN!



BERN BABY BERN
WATERPROOF AND
COMES IN 3 COLORS



BIDWELL BOOT
AMAZING COMFORT



FOOTWISE

Downtown Eugene
181 E Broadway • 541.342.6107
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 11-5
Facebook.com/footwiseeugene

Downtown Corvallis
301 SW Madison • 541.757.0875
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 11-5
Facebook.com/footwisecorvallis

IT’S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



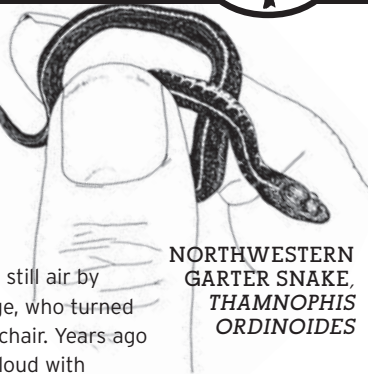
The equinox brought the last day of summer and probably one of the last hot days of the year. Rain is anticipated to arrive this month as the official NOAA long term forecast is for a normal climate regime. Mushroom hunters await rain’s arrival anxiously. The October mushroom show at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum depends on it.

That hot day found a cloud of gnats hovering in still air by the Delta Ponds. It reminded me of my friend, Marge, who turned 93 this year and is now largely confined to a wheelchair. Years ago she showed us how to herd gnats. Approaching a cloud with outstretched arms, she gathered it in and brought it to me. I received it very slowly and took it to the next person. With slow, deliberate movements, we were able to pass the cloud from one person to the next. Dancing with gnats is like dancing with smoke.

Returning from a walk with burrs in my socks and our dog’s fur demonstrates that seed dispersal is under way. Seeds await the onset of the rainy season, too. Conifers shower huge rains of seeds from their cones. Only a tiny percent are viable. Their strategy is to deceive seed eaters into thinking all are empty, thus deterring them from spending time picking through the empties looking for the good ones.

Baby garter snakes are about, born recently. They are so vulnerable that we will not see many next spring. Automobiles and phobias are their worst enemies.

David Wagner is botanist who lives and works in Eugene. He teaches moss classes and leads nature walks. He may be reached at fernzenmosses@me.com



**NORTHWESTERN
GARTER SNAKE,
THAMNOPHIS
ORDINOIDES**

Feeling
overexposed?

CT SCANS WITH UP TO 70% LESS RADIATION

When you need a CT scan, ask your doctor for the safer CT scan, only at Oregon Imaging Centers. **Call 541-334-7555**



**OREGON
IMAGING
CENTERS**

Locations in Eugene/Springfield
www.oregonimaging.com



safer
Every picture tells a story.