

ACTIVIST ALERT

• Upcoming **Occupy** events: Midnight Madness Flash Mob, Occupy the Mall, Valley River Center, 11:45 pm Thursday, Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving,) to 9 pm Friday, Nov. 25 (Black Friday). Text @oc_actions to 23559 to sign up for flashmob text alert system/ instructions and actions alerts. Then Occupy Eugene: Occupy Cozmicl, with David Rovics, "flat-picking rabble-rouser, Brass Tacks, folk rock dance band," with Occupy Eugene speakers, from 8 to 11:30 pm Saturday, Nov. 26, at Cozmik Pizza, \$0-\$20 sliding scale.

• The **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** will be meeting from 6:30 to 9:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 30, at the Lowell Fire House on

North Pioneer Street. The topic is "The Effects of Blue Green Algae on Water, People and Communities," and speakers include Dr. Theo Dreher of OSU, Jennifer Ketterman and Casey Lyon of the Oregon Health Authority and Chuck Spies of the city of Lowell. For more information, email education@mfwwc.org or call 937-9800.

• **Cascadia Wildlands'** ninth annual Wonderland Auction is coming up Dec. 10 and this is the Eugene-based regional nonprofit's biggest fundraiser of the year. Tax-deductible donations of items or services are welcomed. See www.cascwild.org or email kate@cascwild.org or call 434-1463.

LIGHTEN UP

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

Congress' super-committee has been a super-flop. The proximate cause is that half its members believe that *shared sacrifice* means the rich and the poor should continue to pay the same for parking.

SLANT

• Local folks who follow the municipal court tell us the number of **citations for illegal camping** are down this chilly fall as folks who are homeless are finding shelter with the Occupy Eugene camp. One story we heard from the camp is that a fellow in his 50s was shedding tears of joy. He had been living outside for six years and the Occupy camp was the first place he had found that was safe and legal. Not been to the Occupy camp yet? It's worth wandering around, talking to people, even joining workshops. One Occupier we talked to this past weekend told us it would be great if more local churches and civic groups sent representatives to the camp. The Eugene Peace Choir sang at the camp Sunday morning and drew an appreciative audience. Community connection and support are important for long-term changes to evolve. What could evolve locally from Occupy Eugene? How about permanent housing for the thousands of men, women, families, teens, alcoholics and drug addicts among us who are homeless? How about mobilizing people to vote for candidates who have some sense of social and economic justice?

Occupy Eugene has a permit until Dec. 15 for its camp under the Washington-Jefferson Bridge. The issue will likely be on the agenda of the Eugene City Council Dec. 12. Not all the councilors support the camp.

• A campaign to **overturn gerrymandered county redistricting** is brewing, as we announced on our blog last week. A petition was filed without fanfare with Lane County Elections Nov. 18, additional paperwork was submitted this week, and a press conference will be scheduled when county counsel and the Elections Department have approved the petition and ballot language. The campaign will then kick off a five-week volunteer drive to gather about 5,800 valid signatures to put a measure on the countywide ballot for the May primary. Sources tell EW that the lead petitioners include local attorney David Force, Duncan Rhodes from the Whiteaker Community Council, and Darby Valley from Cottage Grove. Treasurer of the PAC is Ambrose Holtham-Keathley. Former commissioners Jerry Rust and Bill Fleenor are expected to be involved, gathering signatures in western Lane County.

• Oregon might learn from **Vermont's success** is establishing single-payer health

insurance. Local activists with Health Care for All-Oregon and the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network's Jobs with Justice coalition have been working for months to get the team that pushed through Vermont's single-payer plan to come to Eugene, and looks like it's going to happen. Mark your calendars for 7 to 9 pm Thursday, Dec. 15, at Harris Hall, 8th and Oak.

• **What can save Civic Stadium** from the wrecking ball or the dismantling crew? One possibility, perhaps in combination with some future redevelopment of the acreage around the stadium, is soccer. Some avid soccer fans have started up a Facebook page to help spread the word about getting a United Soccer League program started in Lane County, with its home at Civic Stadium. USL encompasses both men's and women's pro soccer, amateur and youth leagues. Check out the discussion at www.facebook.com/usltoeug and Google USL soccer for more information on USL, its leagues and its affiliates.

• We hear from Eugene videographer Tim Lewis that the documentary about the **Earth Liberation Front's** ecologically motivated acts of sabotage around the Northwest, *If a Tree Falls*, has made the short list for an Oscar nomination. Lewis tells us that out of more than 100 documentaries the short list is down to 15. In January five will be picked for the Academy Award nomination. Some of the archival footage used in the film was shot locally by Lewis.

• Good news for pups! **Sasha the pit bull**, a Red Cross award-winning deaf pup from Lane County Animal Services that was our cover dog this summer has found her forever home for the holidays. It took Sasha a year to find her perfect person and for her person to find a home that would take them. Also in perky puppy news, Cody the Fire Safety Dalmation reports that he has a new "probie." Dalmation puppy Casey will be taken under Cody's wing, err paw, to learn the ropes around the fire department and teach Lane County kids about fire safety. Want to get away from corporate greed and "Black Friday" this Thanksgiving weekend? LCAS, Save the Pets, West Coast Dog and Cat Rescue, and Luv-A-Bull, to name only a few would welcome doggie donations.

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