

BUILDING HOUSES IN FLOODPLAINS?

Images of flooded homes and fields filled the news during the mid-January floods this year. Lane County has been soliciting information from homeowners on how much damage the high waters cost them in order to apply for federal disaster relief funds. So LandWatch Lane County wants to know why the county would consider allowing even more houses in areas prone to flooding.

Robert Emmons, president of LandWatch Lane County, has previously urged the Land Management Division (LMD) to deny the “template dwelling” requests on about 80 acres near to Siuslaw Road and Territorial Highway near the Lorane General Store and Deli. The land used to be a beet field.

Emmons had been informed by Lorane residents that this land floods in high-water years, probably about twice every 10 years. However, LandWatch says that despite this information LMD approved at least 15 template dwelling requests for the farmland. A template dwelling is basically when the construction of a home is permitted on what it otherwise a rural tract, often forestland. Opponents say template dwellings promote urban sprawl onto farms and other rural lands.

Approving the placement of houses in floodplains “sets people up for grief,” Nena Lovinger of LandWatch says. “It is expensive and wasteful in many ways, including dashed hopes, lost houses and huge insurance costs,” she adds

Kent Howe, planning director for Lane County, responded to LandWatch’s concerns via email, saying “as you know, the development policies at the (federal), state and county levels do not prohibit development in the floodplain areas.” He writes that while structural development is not recommended in these flood hazard areas, these particular lands have portions that are considered developable, though they would need to follow code requirements that the first floor is “2 feet above grade to protect the structure.”

Lovinger and LandWatch are also concerned about the effect on water that building homes on and putting their septic tanks into lands prone to flooding might have on Lane County’s clean water.

“Serious negative impacts to countless life forms that depend on healthy waterways are a sad end result,” Lovinger says.

When presented with the information, Commissioner Rob Handy asked, “What can we do at Lane County LMD to better protect these communities?” He says, “It appears the risks are only increasing. Decisions being made at LMD are rife with exceptions and

exemptions that are putting septic tanks in floodplains.” He says the floods are affecting wells and other drinking water sources, and in some instances drinking water sources are getting mixed with septic waste.

Handy says he expects the LMD 2012 Workplan, which might address these issues, will be appearing on an upcoming commission agenda.

— Camilla Mortensen

‘Serious negative impacts to countless life forms that depend on healthy waterways are a sad end result.’

- Nena Lovinger of LandWatch



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As far as Johnson is concerned, beer is a beautiful thing and beer people are conscientious and engaged — she thinks that the world should know, including women. “I just want to share my tasty and fulfilling ascent into beer enlightenment,” she says.

The KLCC Microbrew Festival will feature 57 breweries from Oregon, California, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Utah, Hawaii and Vermont. It also features a used CD and record sale, and Karen Lovely and Ty Curtis Band playing live music. To learn more about Women Enjoying Beer, visit www.womenenjoyingbeer.com and for more on the Microbrew Festival go to klcc.org

— Caitlin McKimmy

ACTIVIST ALERT

- A public work session on **wave energy** will be from 5:30 to 9:30 pm Thursday, Feb. 2, in the Eugene City Council Chambers, 777 Pearl St. The meeting will discuss Oregon’s ocean resources and renewable energy development in the territorial sea, which is the area up to 3 nautical miles offshore. Public input is sought on where renewable energy development will occur on Oregon’s Coast. See www.oregonocean.info for more information.

- A free lecture on “**Black Muslim Feminism: Sunni Muslim Women and the Nation of Islam**” by author Jamillah Karim will be from 4 to 6:30 pm Thursday, Feb. 2, at the LCC Center for Meeting and Learning room 104. See <http://wkly.ws/16h> for more information.

- A circle of **progressive local organizations** will party from 5 to 7 pm Friday, Feb. 3, at Cowfish, 62 W. Broadway, during the First Friday Art Walk.

- The Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah is hosting a **winter hike at Buford Park** from 10 am to noon Saturday, Feb. 4. Meet at the Visitor’s Center. Pre-registration required at www.bufordpark.org (click on tours) or contact Lyn at 344-8350 or email outreach@bufordpark.org for more information.

- An International Day of Solidarity for **Leonard Peltier**, an imprisoned Native American activist, will be observed at 1 pm Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Morse Free Speech Plaza, followed by a 2 pm march to the U.S. Courthouse.

- **The Abolition Project** Fashion and Art Show will begin at 7:30 pm Saturday, Feb. 4, at New Hope Christian College Stuart Chapel on Bailey Hill Road in Eugene. Focus is on “preventing and raising awareness of human trafficking through art and media.” The cost is \$10 per person. Find the Abolition Project on Facebook.

SPORTS



Church of Sk8in scorer Jala Pain Yo (44) sneaks through the pack

PHOTO BY JEFF BOERIO

BLOODY DERBY BOUTS

In a bout marked by blood-splattering hits, a revolving-door penalty box, five ejections, and an appearance by Miss Oregon USA; our hometown men’s roller derby team lost a testosterone-filled event. The **Lane County Concussion** hosted the Deep Valley Belligerents of Mendocino County, Calif., Jan. 15 at the Willamalane Center in Springfield. The 198-154 score does not accurately represent how close this bout was.

The Concussion started out slow, unable to maintain jammer-stopping walls while getting pummeled by Belligerent blockers. Ten minutes into the bout, jammer Cougar Bait was able to break free to score 22 points giving the Concussion their first lead, 38-28. With the help of 72-year-old blocker Merby Dick, Lane County was able to maintain their advantage for the remainder of the half, taking a tenuous 85-81 lead to the locker room.

The Belligerents stormed back in the second half. Five minutes in, Deep Valley gained a 33-point lead behind three double digit-scoring jams. Still showing some fight, Lane County’s Han Cholo posted 24 points to put Lane County within 9 points with 15 minutes to go in the game. But, stars Cholo and Cougar Bait would soon foul out leaving Lane County short-handed. In the end, Deep Valley proved to be the more resilient team.

Deep Valley’s Mr. Dick led all scorers with 91 points. Cougar Bait and GQ led Lane County with 44 points apiece.

The **Emerald City Roller Girls** kicked off their fifth season Jan. 28 at the Lane Events Center before a crowd of 2,000-plus. The first bout of the doubleheader pitted Emerald City’s three-time season champion Andromedolls against Portland’s Heartless Heathers. This game was close for about 17 minutes. Then, the Heathers figured out how to neutralize the Dolls’ blocking. Behind scoring by Untamed Shrew, who led all scorers with 46 points, and blocking from former Emerald City skater French Tickler; the Heathers outscored the Dolls 78-6 over the next 20 minutes. Dolls rookie Scariel scored 12 of her team-high 16 points late in the bout, but it was too little too late as the Heathers skated away with a 168-60 victory.

The second bout between Emerald City’s Flat Track Furies and Church of Sk8in was much more exciting. The Furies held a slim lead for most of the first half thanks to the scoring of Terrin Skirtz, who finished with 35 points, and Frankie Facebreaker’s blocking. The Furies went into the half with a 54-44 lead. Ten minutes into the second half, Church was able to take the lead after Betty Aim Fire went on a nine-point scoring run. Church never trailed again. Church Jala Pain Yo turned the night into a nightmare for the Fury scorers finishing with 47 attacks on scorers. Church’s Joy Toy led all scorers with 36 points as Church of Sk8in held on for a 100-87 win.

Catch the Emerald City Roller Girls, along with the men’s Lane County Concussion, at the Big O Feb. 10-12 at the Willamalane Center. Visit thebigtournament.com for more info. — James Warmels