

Lane County had fined Lost Creek Rock Products about \$8,000 for mining without a site review. LCRP, a business of Greg Demers and Norman and Melvin McDougal argued it was not needed because there is a 200-foot buffer of land around the mine. Originally the hearings official ruled the site review was not needed. Asked by the county to reconsider, Hearings Official Gary Darnielle ruled that gravel can't be hauled off the butte and mining cannot happen within the 200-foot buffer without site review and reinstated \$3,510 in fines.

"The decision from the hearings officer feels like he was awarding half a decision in favor of mining the butte and half to the residents of this area," says neighbor Arlen Markus. He asks, "If Demers can mine inside the 200-foot boundary what is to stop them from taking the butte down and stockpiling the rock until a appeal is made?"

The case is by no means closed. LCRP has 10 days to ask Darnielle to reverse his decision yet again. And the county or LCRP can appeal the decision to state Land Use Board of Appeals and to Lane County Circuit Court and a decision made by either or those bodies can be appealed, too. The Parvin Butte neighbors have made it clear they plan to continue the fight.

Lane County commissioners are expected to discuss making a decision on whether to appeal this week in an executive session, which is not open to the public. If either the county or LCRP appeals, the neighbors, who have thus far not been a party in this particular case, can "intervene," according to the neighbors' attorney, Dan Stotter.

Stotter says the mine property owner has a pending site review application filed with the Land Management Division that is currently incomplete, and if completed, ruled on and appealed, that too could set off a round of legal actions.

Markus says the ruling makes no mention of the endangered salmon in the creek and says he hopes a site review will "weed out all the unanswered questions."

— Camilla Mortensen

## BIKEWAYS IN THE COUNTRY

Portland and Eugene are nationally ranked as cycle-friendly towns, but there is more to boast about than the many urban bike lanes. Oregon is the only state in the nation with designated scenic bikeways. The two most recent additions start in Cottage Grove and Bend, bringing the state total to eight.

"We're only looking for the best of the best bike rides in all of Oregon and these two made that cut," says Alexandra Phillips, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department bicycle recreation coordinator.

The bikeways selections are decided upon after local proponents submit the routes to an OPRD committee, which chooses based on scenic beauty and road conditions.

Phillips has been part of developing the scenic bikeways from the beginning and says the idea initially came from Cycle Oregon. Members of the state's annual summer ride noticed long bike paths through the countryside in Europe and suggested to the OPRD that Oregon follow suit.

Cottage Grove's Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway is an off-road paved path for the first 17 miles and ends up back through Main Street. It also directs cyclists through a swinging bridge and covered railroad bridge. The Twin Bridges Loop Scenic Bikeway, which begins in Bend, crosses the Deschutes twice and presents views of the Cascades for cyclists during most of the route.

The recent additions and the rest of Oregon's scenic bikeways could potentially contribute to an increase in bicycle transportation in areas like Cottage Grove. The non-profit organization, Rails to Trails, recently released a research report that found that rural, less dense areas use bicycles for transportation at similar rates as higher-populated cities. The non-profit organization looked at data from the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2009 National

## biz beat

**The Divine Cupcake**, a Eugene local organic bakery and café, is celebrating its second anniversary by offering a free cupcake to all store visitors on Saturday, March 17. The store will be open from 10 am to 10 pm and is located at 1680 W. 11th Ave.

A free community workshop on **residential solar power** is planned for 5:30 to 7 pm Monday, March 19, at the Eugene Public Library Bascom-Tykeson Room. Sponsored by Solarize Eugene and The Resource Innovation Group. The idea is to use bulk purchasing to lower the cost of solar hot water and electricity generation products and installation. See solarizeeugene.info for details.

**Bike Friday** in Eugene and Corvallis Cyclery in Corvallis are now carrying an electric-powered bike trailer called the Ridekick, manufactured in Colorado. The 500-watt electric motor boosts the rider for 12 to 15 miles on a charge. "Our mission is to get people back on their bikes for short trips and leave the car in the garage," says Chelsey Walker of Ridekick. See www.ridekick.com or call Bike Friday at 687-0487 or Corvallis Cyclery at 752-5952.

A new brewery, **Falling Sky Brewing**, had its first "down pour" March 13 and plans to keep its tanks full and taps flowing. Their brews include Bare Hands Bitter, Persuasion Pale Ale, First Flight IPA and Pouring Porter. The shop is at 30 E. 13th Ave. and the Brewing House is at 1334 Oak Alley. See fallingskybrewing.com or call 505-7096.

Send suggestions for Biz Beat items to editor@eugeneweekly.com with "Biz Beat" in the subject line.

## LIGHTEN UP

Why is it that someone who blasts the top off of a bluff to recover the rock – in the process sending noise and dust onto his neighbor's property – is called a developer and is applauded, while someone who touches a planter on another's property with her foot is called a trespasser and is arrested?

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

# Wall to Wall

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# Envision Eugene


## Draft Recommendation

Community presentations and discussions about the proposed Urban Growth Boundary and strategies to help Eugene grow smarter over the next 20 years.

Pick a date & place that works for you:  
From 6:00 to 8:00 pm:

- March 20 — Petersen Barn
- March 22 — North Eugene High School
- April 3 — Churchill High School
- April 5 — The Studio at the Hult Center
- April 10 — Sheldon Community Center
- April 12 — South Eugene High School

[www.EnvisionEugene.org](http://www.EnvisionEugene.org)  
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