

Household Travel Survey and found that in some categories rural areas even topped urban rates of total trips on bicycles.

Phillips acknowledges some instances where she's met people using the bikeways for transportation. One cyclist told her the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway was way to commute to work; the route goes through Salem and Ankeny Wildlife Refuge. Another cyclist told Phillips about using the route for a two-day business trip.

But the majority of use on the bikeways will more likely be cyclists hoping to find a picturesque mountaintop behind a clump of pine trees or a tiny pond teeming with wildlife.

In partnership with Travel Oregon, OPRD is hoping to promote these routes throughout the country and world. The idea being that the tourism will help economic development in small Oregon towns the bikeways go through.

"If all goes as planned they should be seeing more cycle tourists coming into Cottage Grove to enjoy the Covered Bridges Scenic Bikeway," Phillips says.

— Ted Shorack

## BUYING A FOREST TO SAVE IT

A southern Oregon community's effort to protect forestland has become a race against the chainsaw. The Williams Community Forest Project (WCFP) is working to purchase a locally vital 320-acre tract of forestland where clearcutting has started, in order to preserve it as a "community forest."

As loggers raze a hillside forest shadowing the Siskiyou Mountain hamlet of Williams, community members have secured \$116,000 in cash and pledges towards \$500,000 they need to secure an estimated \$1.5 million low-interest loan to purchase the land, know as the W320. According to the WCFP, logging plans call for 250 acres of clearcuts in buffered 120-acre blocks.

WCFP wants to buy the tract as soon as possible or facilitate a benefactor's purchase of the land under a conservation easement. Enterprise Cascadia of Portland has committed to lend 65 percent of the assessed value of the property, but that leaves much of fundraising to be done.

"We still have an opportunity to save quite a bit of land from clearcutting," says WCFP President Cheryl Bruner, estimating that 30 acres were recently cut.

In order to prevent a series of large clearcuts close to town, and the erosion and wanton herbicide spraying

common to commercial forestry, the WCFP plans to buy the land and preserve it as a "community forest" to "support and enrich our local and global forest ecology and community" through a mix of sustainable logging, education recreational opportunities.

The privately owned tract, selectively logged in the 1950s and '60s but still ecologically diverse according to locals, harbors the headwaters of three streams that provide salmon spawning habitat, community drinking water and irrigation for organic farms and forest product produces. The woods themselves serve as a wildlife corridor and provide habitat for endangered and threatened species including the red tree vole, Pacific fisher, mariposa lily and northern spotted owl.

So far, the WCFP has raised pledges through phone banking and auctions. Children of the community used a page on the fundraising website IndieGoGo to raise \$10,000 towards purchasing the forest. The WCFP shares information on the W320 and plans for its protection, including future auctions and other fundraisers, at [williamscommunityforestproject.org](http://williamscommunityforestproject.org)

— Ephraim Payne

### CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• In Biz Beat last week, we inadvertently misspelled the name of the founder of Pacific Winds Music at 791 W. 8th Ave. Willie Knaus can be contacted at [willie@pacificwindsmusic.com](mailto:willie@pacificwindsmusic.com) or call 343-5660.

• In our "Chasing the Coal Train" story in News Briefs last week, Lisa Arkin of Beyond Toxics was attributed to saying Eugene has the highest rate of asthma in the state and nation. But to clarify, Arkin tells us, "West Eugene is an area that has one of the highest rates of asthma in the state and is well above the national average for childhood asthma."

### LANE AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

• **Weyerhaeuser** (744-4684) plans ground and aerial spraying on at least 753 acres in areas including Mohawk River tributaries, Ritchie Creek on the McKenzie at Leaburg, Crow Creek, Farman Creek, Kelly Creek, Horton, Lorane, Michaels Creek and Owens Creek. Spraying will be of 2,4-D, Accord Concentrate, Arsenal Applicators Concentrate, Atrazine 4L, Atrazine 90 WSP, Chopper, Clean Slate, Clopyralid, Foresters, Garlon 3A, Garlon 4, Garlon XRT, Glyphosate, Hardball, Hexazinone, LV6, Oust Extra, Oust XP, Rodeo, Sulfomet Extra, Sulfomet XP, Sulfometuron Methyl, Tahoe 3A, Tahoe 4E, Transline, Velossa, Velpar DF, Velpar L and/or Westar with additives including Activator 90, Induce, Liberate, Mor-Act and MSO. See ODF notices for chemicals and areas being sprayed. 2012-771-00211, 2012-771-00234, 2012-781-00129, 2012-781-00149, 2012-781-00150.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, *Forestland Dwellers*: 342-8332, [www.forestland-dwellers.org](http://www.forestland-dwellers.org)

## ACTIVIST ALERT

• MoveOn is planning a **Save Our Homes Rally** at noon Thursday, March 15, at Broadway and Oak in Eugene, calling for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to reduce mortgages to fair market value. This part of a national rally to reduce foreclosures.

• CALC and **Taxes for Peace** present *Death & Taxes*, a 30-minute video about war tax resistance and redirecting federal taxes to pay for state and local programs, at 7 pm Thursday, March 15, at CALC, 458 Blair Blvd. A potluck will begin the meeting at 6 pm. Call 342-2914 or email [nwtrcc.org](mailto:nwtrcc.org) for more information.

• **Occupy Eugene**, in collaboration with the Civil Liberties Defense Center, is presenting an extensive organizer training series for social justice activists. The series will teach activists everything they need to know to be a strategic and confident organizer. The sessions began this week and all-day session is planned for Sunday, March 18, at Occupy offices at 1274 W. 7th Ave. Donations are accepted but no one is turned away for lack of funds. Contact Mary at [marib.eugene@gmail.com](mailto:marib.eugene@gmail.com) or visit [occupyeugenemedia.org](http://occupyeugenemedia.org)

• A **"Tsunami Townhall"** will be from 6 to 8 pm Sunday, March 18, at the UO Student Union Walnut Room on campus. State officials will provide information on earthquake and tsunami preparedness and survival.

• **Climatologist James E. Hansen** will speak at the Dempsey Lecture at 7:30 pm Tuesday, March 20, the Rogers Music Center's Hudson Hall at Willamette University in Salem. The presentation will be on the topic, "The Case for Young People and Nature: A Path to a Healthy, Prosperous Future." To reserve free tickets, email [afoust@willamette.edu](mailto:afoust@willamette.edu) or call (503) 370-6654.

• The **Many Rivers Group Sierra Club** hosts a presentation on local watershed issues at 7 pm Thursday, March 22, at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. Speakers will be Jared Weybright of the McKenzie Watershed Council and Max Nielson-Pincus of the Long Tom Watershed Council. Contact Sally Nunn at 302-4476 or email [salaxnunn@gmail.com](mailto:salaxnunn@gmail.com)

• **Dining for Women** is planning an informational event at 6 pm Thursday, March 22, at Tsunami Books, 25th and Willamette in Eugene. DFW chapters meet to learn about programs that empower women and girls living in extreme poverty in undeveloped regions of the world. Call Nicki Maxwell at 517-0427 or Tish Hathaway at 912-1069 or visit [www.diningforwomen.org](http://www.diningforwomen.org)

• The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) is seeking public comment through April 10 on **Waldo Lake** rules that currently prohibit gas motorboats and floatplanes on the lake. These rules are open to correct alleged procedural irregularities to their previous adoption. Those who want to use motorized crafts on the lake have taken legal action to overturn the ban. Written comments can be emailed to [osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us](mailto:osmb.rulemaking@state.or.us) or by mail to June LeTarte, Rules Coordinator, 435 Commercial St. NE, Suite 400, Salem 97309. The public meeting will be held at 6 pm Tuesday, April 10, at the Willamalane Center's Ken Long Room, 250 South 32nd St. in Springfield.

## SLANT

• **Envision Eugene's** two-year process will wrap up over the next couple of months and City Manager Jon Ruiz will present his recommendations to the City Council after we go to press this week, drawing criticism from community members who are concerned that the manager's secret analysis will short-circuit the public process. Adding to the concern is the manager's canceling of a Tuesday morning meeting with the 70-member Community Resource Group (CRG) to preview his recommendations before they go to the council.

We appreciate all the work that has gone into Envision Eugene, but the process was flawed at the start so we predict an unsatisfactory outcome. It was clear from the beginning that the city staff and council expected our urban growth boundary (UGB) would need to expand to meet projected growth. The only question was where and how. We wrote in our cover story June 17, 2010, that this process is rife with false assumptions and questionable projections, the CRG panel is overloaded with pro-sprawl members, and planning for expansion defies the wishes of the community. A \$400,000 Growth Management Study with extensive public polling in 1995 called for holding the UGB against sprawl. Eugene's population density since 1950 has already declined 29 percent due to urban expansion. Vibrant, livable Portland has a much higher population density than Eugene. So what's driving expansion locally? A lot of pressure from land speculators and developers, and an ill-informed, California-style attitude that growth is not only inevitable, but necessary for our economic health.

Do we find a compromise once again between pro-growth and no-growth interests? We editorialized in this column two years ago that true leadership at the city level would recognize that we have already compromised our valuable adjoining

farm and forest lands and it's time to focus on better utilizing the abundant land resources we already have available. Stopping sprawl is what the people want; it's what true sustainability in land use planning demands.

• The **Oregon women's basketball** team seems to be stuck in neutral, so it may be time to think about a new coach. Wouldn't it be great if we could find a coach who has proven she can recruit top players to Eugene, can attract big crowds, can win Pac-12 titles, can lead the team to eight straight NCAA tournament appearances? Jody Runge is still up in Portland. Would she come back?

• Former UO football **coach Mike Bellotti** collects almost half a million bucks a year in UO retirement benefits, according to PERS data released recently to *The Oregonian* and the *Salem Statesman Journal*. But sources at the UO tell us the millions in benefits paid each year to retired coaches, athletic directors and others on staff are ignored when the UO administration claims the \$78 million athletics budget is fully covered by ticket sales, broadcast fees, donations and other athletics-based sources of income. It's time for the UO to come clean, document all the hidden costs, and admit that tuition is higher and academic salaries are lower because of excessive spending on athletics.

• We see the **R-G** has joined *The Oregonian* in pulling the **Doonesbury comic strip** this week. This leaves us puzzled. So Texas can legislate that a doctor must put a "transvaginal wand" (or as the comic calls it, the "shaming wand") into a woman before she can have an abortion, but illustrating conversations about that attack on a woman's body is too

controversial? We get it that the topic of a woman's right to choose might be too controversial for the comics page because kids might see it (as though they would even be interested). So run the strip on the editorial page. The censored strip can be seen at [gocomics.com/doonesbury](http://gocomics.com/doonesbury)

• The disturbing thing about **Rush Limbaugh** is not what he says, but rather that millions of Americans listen to him every day and nod their heads in agreement – those millions of mostly older, white, male Americans who are racist and misogynistic at their core. They vote, which is why no Republican presidential candidate has yet to disavow Limbaugh and his idiotic rhetoric. How do we deal with the intractable bigots among us? We can box them in with facts and contrary opinions, but they are not likely to change; so let's invest in educating the next generations, and wish the old farts well in the afterlife.

• Recruiters will tell you that **military service** brings out the best in young people and builds discipline, leadership, responsibility, maturity, courage, physical fitness. Be All That You Can Be. What the recruiters won't tell you is that war creates countless veterans who are physically and psychologically damaged. It should be no surprise when some of them in their pain and paranoia turn to drugs and alcohol, kill themselves, or load their weapons and go berserk on imagined enemies. Our military presence in Afghanistan has proven to be counterproductive. What have we really achieved with 1,900 American lives and \$509 billion in debt?

*SLANT* includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, [editor@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com)