

where it would be a useful money maker for Blue River,” he says. Until now, that is.

Shafer used to live in Eugene and would travel to Bend on business twice weekly, until he found himself liking the land along the McKenzie enough to make it home. “When we decided to move, we looked all over and it just came right back to Blue River.” He adds, “Some people might say that Blue River back in the day had its reputation because the tavern was here and it was a Wild West town back in the gold mining days and the logging days. Well, those days are gone. Now it’s

just a quiet community, but it’s really nice up here.”

He’s going to need a little help from some friends, however. In order to replace the wood of the park’s benches, fix the barbeque pits and restore the vandalized playground, Shafer has started a donation page on the online portal gofundme.com (search “Bring Blue River Community Park Back”) and hopes to raise about \$2,000 to make the necessary changes. If all goes well, by summer 2013 your next stop in Blue River may not be just to fix your flat. — *Shelley Deadmond*

SLANT

• **Lambe on his way out?** The internal politics at EPUD have grown nasty and divisive in recent times with accusations and complaints of mismanagement and ethical violations flying in all directions. It’s been painful to watch. At the center of the controversies has been General Manager Frank Lambe, and we just learned of a memo Lambe sent to the board this summer saying his last day on the job will be Dec. 31. Sounds like he had been talking about resigning and the board voted to have him put it in writing. A peculiar and testy discussion can be found in the EPUD Board minutes of July 10 [see <http://wkly.ws/f>]. Let’s hope a new manager can help restore sanity and civility to a utility known for being exceptionally progressive and a great place to work. Board elections are coming up in November so EPUD customers will also have a chance to weigh in on the utility’s future direction.

• **Coal trains** have been controversial here in Eugene, and the City Council plans to bring them up Oct. 8; we know about it because the council’s been open about it, and it’s in the news. But the conservative agenda-setters at Lane County left constituents in the dark and without public debate. The county was scheduled to vote Oct. 3 on supporting the Coos Bay Bulk Terminal and its coal trains. *EW* found out through an obscure agenda item under “County Administration” and started asking questions. The coal train documents weren’t posted on the county site until Tuesday morning, a day before the vote. The county has blamed a sick staffer, budget cuts and that they vote on controversial issues all the time. That’s not transparency. We applaud board chair Sid Leiken for his call to move the vote back to Oct. 17.

• We were pleased to see the **West Eugene EmX Extension** got final approval from the Eugene City Council last week without Mayor Piercy needing to break a tie. The next hurdle is the Lane County Commission and we hope commissioners recognize that the entire metro area benefits economically from integrated mass transit, both in short-term construction work and in long-term transportation efficiency. And, as we said last week in this column, putting one leg of an already established transit system out to a public vote makes no sense, particularly since bus rapid transit has been a goal of regional transportation planning for more than a decade.

• Last week’s cover story on the **new Bijou theater** planned for downtown generated some phone calls from folks concerned that not enough of the historic features of the old Bristow brick building will be preserved. The original 1866 building has been renovated and restructured several times; we hear that and only a small part of the crumbling interior brickwork and stonework will be saved, and none of the stonework foundation will be preserved to remind us of downtown’s history. This corner building has evolved over time. See local historian Douglas Card’s 2010 story “Under the Façade” and old photos in our archives at <http://wkly.ws/1d0>

• The **Hult Center’s 30th birthday** was celebrated at City Club of Eugene Sept. 28 and the best news we heard: The city intends to add 40 percent more stalls in the women’s bathrooms “in the next few years.” Think of the time-in-line that will save at the 800 activities the Hult puts on per year! The flipside, of course, is that those long, slow-moving lines have provided “bonding experiences” for Eugene women. Tell us your stories!

• The **Oregon Daily Emerald** has become a whole new animal in print this year. It’s an attractive twice-a-week college paper and will likely win design awards, but the thin paper is so far lacking the editorial substance that will draw regular readers. Looking at these early issues, we suspect the plan is to phase out paper completely and just be online. But will busy UO students bother to read the *Emerald* online? The power of the press is still in print. It jumps out at you from the shelf or on the table. Website content does not have nearly the impact of good, fly-swatting, fish-wrapping newsprint. And why the obsession with the Ducks? The UO is a world-class academic institution and an intellectual center for the Northwest, but you wouldn’t know it to read the campus paper, either in print or online.

• **Speaking of Duck obsession**, this just in from our pintail editor: Duck footballers have waltzed through the schedule so far, playing a quarter or two of good football every week to beat outclassed opponents. But the UW Huskies come to town this weekend, so things should change. Watch for the Huskies to take on the Ducks the same way they beat Stanford last week: They will bring lots of defenders to the line of scrimmage, commit to stopping the Duck running game and force the Ducks to throw. Quarterback Marcus Mariota has not thrown the ball great lately, so he’ll have to raise his game to beat the Huskies. If Mariota is throwing well, watch for tight end Colt Lyster to catch a lot of passes at 7:30 pm this Saturday at Autzen.

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

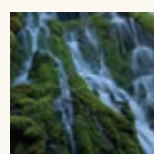
The
LIVING RIVER
FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 12/13/14

A BENEFIT for: MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST

FRI. OCT. 12 WILDISH THEATER **\$45/PERSON**
6:00 PM / OPENING - MEET THE FILMMAKERS

Join us for an intimate evening mingling with Living River filmmakers and special guests, and a sneak peak at the new documentary film *Willamette Futures* (currently in production). A panel of festival filmmakers to follow. Enjoy delicious savory hors d'oeuvres by Heidi Tunnell Catering Co. and Sweet Life desserts, with a cash bar featuring Oakshire beers and regional wines.



WILLAMETTE FUTURES

Director: *Jeremy Monroe*

Experience the struggles and victories of the people working to protect the river in our own backyard.

OPENING NIGHT TICKETS SOLD ONLINE UNTIL OCT. 5

SAT. / OCT. 13 BIJOU **\$10/FILM**
ALL DAY / FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

1:30 PM: SOMETIMES A GREAT NOTION

Director: *Paul Newman*

2:00 PM: MCKENZIE MEMORIES HISTORICAL FOOTAGE

Speakers: *Roy Pruitt, Dave Helfrich, and special guests*

4:00 PM: GREEN FIRE: ALDO LEOPOLD AND A LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME

Director: *Steven Dunksy*

Speaker: *Meet the staff of your local land conservation group, the McKenzie River Trust.*

5:00 PM: LETTERS FROM THE BIG MAN

Director: *Christopher Munch*

Speaker: *Christopher Munch*

6:00 PM: A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Director: *Robert Redford*

8:00 PM: SOURCE TO SEA: THE COLUMBIA RIVER SWIM

Director and Producer: *Andy Norris*

Speaker: *Robin Cody, author and interviewee*

8:30 PM: SELECTIONS FROM UNCAGE THE SOUL VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Director: *John Waller*

Speaker: *John Waller, filmmaker*

SUN. OCT. 14
2:00-5:00 PM / FREE FAMILY DAY

EWEB PLAZA

An afternoon of family-oriented short films (*Beavers, Canopy Connections, Moss Grove*) along the Willamette River, tree climbing with Pacific Tree Climbing Institute, crafts with the Slug Queen, free popcorn and more. DONATIONS WELCOME.

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Questions? **541-345-2799**



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