



GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

CHAVANNES JEAN-BAPTISTE

HOPE FOR HAITI

It's difficult to read about Haiti without feeling heartbroken. The Caribbean country caught the world's attention nearly three years ago when an earthquake killed thousands and left over a million Haitians homeless.

Haiti has suffered greatly from deforestation, with 98 percent of its original tree cover destroyed. Rife with mudslides, floods and soil erosion, the country is an environmental disaster in need of a hero. That's where Chavannes Jean-Baptiste comes in.

Jean-Baptiste, a Haitian agronomist and founder of the Peasant Movement of Papaye (MPP), will speak at LCC Nov. 8 about his active role in the Haitian sustainability movement. A winner of the 2005 Goldman Environmental Prize, Jean-Baptiste and his group have planted more than 20 million trees, advocated for alternative fuel sources and brought sources of solar power to Haiti.

He also aims to improve water quality in Haiti, where cholera continues to infest drinking water. "Nothing can move forward if people don't have clean water to drink," says Melanie Oommen, a pastor for the First Congregational United Church of Christ who helped organize the event.

Oommen says that Willamette University law professor Susan Smith arranged for Jean-Baptiste's visit after her extensive volunteer work with him in Haiti. Since Smith and her church volunteers traveled to Haiti so often, they wanted to give Jean-Baptiste an opportunity to visit Oregon and spread awareness about the issues in Haiti.

"It's an extraordinary opportunity to hear directly from Haiti," Oommen says, "and it's especially extraordinary to hear from an international leader on human rights and the environment."

Jean-Baptiste will speak at 1 pm Thursday, Nov. 8, in LCC's Center for Meeting and Learning, Room 226. He will also appear at 6 pm for a potluck and meet-and-greet at Oommen's church. Both events are free and open to the public. — Amy Schneider

SLANT

- **Votes are still being tallied** as we go to press this week, but we're encouraged by what we're seeing. Eugene City Councilor Betty Taylor gets another four years, and it's clear Juan Carlos Valle would have done much better if he had run in a different ward. Chris Pryor, for example, was unopposed in Ward 8, but he got only 3,600 votes out of 8,200 ballots cast in that ward. That's a huge undervote in that race, and also in the race for the County Commission seat that now belongs to Pat Farr (16,816 undervotes). Our Lane County Democrats in legislative races did well against their heavily funded Republican rivals, helping break the tie in the Oregon House. Reps. Paul Holvey, Phil Barnhart, Nancy Nathanson and Val Hoyle cruised to easy victory and John Lively captured the hard-fought open race against Joe Pishioneri in District 12. Republicans should take some lessons here: Going negative, being deceptive and aligning with the radical right are not effective campaign strategies in the 21st century. And it's worth noting that Fergus McLean managed to get 30 percent of the votes in Republican Bruce Hanna's District 7 without spending a nickel.

- **Our endorsements** differed from the *R-G's*. The daily has never endorsed Betty Taylor, one of Eugene's most popular city councilors ever. We favored Kate Brown for secretary of state and the daily picked loser Knute Buehler. We liked James Eagan for Court of Appeals and he won despite the *R-G's* endorsement of Tim Volpert. We picked a loser in Measure 80 that would legalize pot, but the daily did not support the successful Measure 85 sending the corporate kicker to schools. And hey, the *Guard* favored Rep. Bruce Hanna who won District 7 despite our endorsement of long-shot Fergus McLean.

- **Woohoo! Who wants a jail tax?** No, seriously. Lane County polled residents over the summer and the result from the pollster was that voters just might go for jail bed tax on the ballot. Commissioner Pete Sorenson wants to make sure that public safety in Lane County isn't just about keeping people in jail but also that services like WomenSpace, which deal with other aspects of public safety such as domestic violence and who have also experienced massive budget cuts, are part of the conversation. After the coal train debacle when the Board of Lane County Commissioners was set

to vote on supporting coal exports without letting the public know in advance, we're delighted the board is going to get its agendas out early and with more information. Go make your voice heard to the board on everything from jail taxes to coal during its public comments time slot at around 9 am Wednesday mornings (Tuesdays after Dec. 1) and stay tuned to our blog and news briefs for County Commission updates (and snark).

- **Kudos to voters** who approved (or did not ban) gay marriage in Washington, Maryland, Minnesota and Maine, and to those who voted for regulated pot in Washington and Colorado. We're jealous. Maybe when we have concrete proof that gay marriage isn't contagious and no apocalypse happens, Oregon can work on catching up.

- **California's Bears** have given the Ducks trouble in recent years. But, with Oregon picked as 28-point favorites Saturday at Berkeley, the 4 pm game is likely to offer little suspense. So, while Oregon runs past the Bears, consider these pressing questions: Could one team offer up two Heisman Trophy finalists? Will Kenjon Barner and De'Anthony Thomas carry the ball enough against Cal to stay in the Heisman race? They have hardly played in the second half of some Oregon blowout wins. That's good sportsmanship and keeps them healthy, but may make it harder for a Duck to win the Heisman. Watch for Barner to run for 200 yards and Thomas for another 100, while the Ducks roll by 30.

- How not to flirt with an *EW* staffer: Stagger up to us at Cowfish and loudly complain that the bar got **Best Singles Scene** in our Best of Eugene issue, but you're not meeting any hot chicks. It really helps your cause if you leer drunkenly as you bemoan the lack of babes that are susceptible to your slurred advances. Hey dude, it's a readers' poll; you chose Cowfish — we just count the numbers. Our annual Best of issue was flying out of the red boxes this past week, our rainbow-and-unicorn bedecked awards are up all over town and we are curious: What categories are we missing, what should we cut and what can we do to make Best of Eugene even better? It's all about you, so comment at wkly.ws/1dq, drop us a note at letters@eugeneweekly.com or hit us up on Facebook.

ACTIVIST ALERT

- The Eugene **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory** Committee meets at 5:30 pm Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Eugene Public Library.

- The **Metropolitan Policy Committee** is holding a public hearing related to "West Eugene EmX preliminary engineering funds" from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Eugene Public Library.

- A **post-election briefing** and discussion about what's next is planned for 7 to 9 pm Thursday, Nov. 8, at Washington Park Community Center, 2025 Washington St. in Eugene. Speakers will include Mayor Kitty Piercy, Dan HoSang and Sharon Gary-Smith. Sponsored by the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation. To RSVP or for more information, email sheryl@mrgfoundation.org or call (503) 289-1517.

- UO psychology **professor Paul Slovic, Ph.D.** will speak on "What Motivates People to Help Others in Need?" at 6 pm Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Eugene Public Library downtown. Free. Call 682-5450 for more information.

- A **homeless activist training** is planned for 9:45 am Sunday, Nov. 11, at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St. Organizers from Portland and Seattle who organized Nickelsville, Tent City 4, Dignity Village and R2D2 will help local homeless people and their advocates do the same in Eugene.

- Mayor Kitty Piercy will facilitate the next **Civil Conversations** sponsored by the Lane Chapter of ACLU Oregon. The topic of this post-election conversation is "Our Civil Liberties & Civil Rights — Election Winner or Loser?" It will be held from 5:30 to 7 pm Monday, Nov. 12, at The Davis Restaurant, 94 W. Broadway. For more information contact aclu-or.org/lanecounty or lanechapter@acul-or.org

- **Free immunizations** will be offered by the Student Nurses Association of LCC in association with the Oregon Adult Immunization Coalition from 1 to 5 pm Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Eugene Mission. Vaccines available are Hep B, tetanus, influenza and pneumonia. contact lanecsnprojects@gmail.com

- "The **PERS Picture in Oregon** and Springfield" will be the topic at Springfield City Club at 11:45 am Thursday, Nov. 15, at Willamalane Center, 250 South 32nd St., Springfield. Panelists will include John Thomas, Brett Yancey and Bob Duey.

- The LCC Peace Center and CALC are sponsoring a forum, "**Debunking the Myth of the Muslim Tide**," at 1 pm Thursday, Nov. 15m at LCC Building 19, Room 26. Retired UO professor Dan Goldrich will speak on U.S. post-WW II foreign policy actions that have had an impact on the Middle East. LCC sociology professor Nadia Raza will emcee the panel. For more information contact Michael Carrigan of CALC, 485-1755.