



A new business, **Flower Power Self Defense for Girls**, opens Feb. 16 with three beginning level classes to be held at 412 W. 17th Ave. Founder and director is Tonya Valadez who has a master's degree in special education and eight years of teaching and training in self defense. Classes will be geared for ages 5 to 12. Valadez can be reached at [sdforgirls@gmail.com](mailto:sdforgirls@gmail.com) or call 606-3541.

**Oregon Dental Care** near the Valley River Center this week announced a unique and inexpensive form of dental insurance available to the residents of Lane County. The plan provides comprehensive dental coverage for \$4 per month for individuals and \$8 per month for families, including grandchildren, according to Dr. Leigh Colby, founder and president of the practice. See [oregondentalcareplan.com](http://oregondentalcareplan.com) or call 505-5058.

**Community Mediation Services**, a Eugene-based nonprofit now located at 93 Van Buren St., will be offering its annual 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays beginning Feb. 8. The training is designed to provide "conflict transformation" skills for the workplace, home or in community volunteer service. Early registration discount has expired and the cost is now \$700. See [communitymediationservices.com](http://communitymediationservices.com) or call 344-5366.

The **KLCC Microbrew Festival**, a major benefit for the public radio station, is 5 to 11 pm Friday, Feb. 8, and 1 to 11 pm Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$12 in advance (see [klcc.org](http://klcc.org)) or \$15 at the door. Fifty-seven breweries from Oregon, California, Washington, Colorado, Alaska, Illinois, Hawaii, Vermont and Delaware will be offering samples. Live bands will perform and used CDs and records will be for sale.

**Oakshire Brewing** in Eugene has installed two shiny new 80-barrel fermentation tanks made by MetalCraft Fabrication in Portland. In 2012 Oakshire produced 6,500 gallons and plans to keep expanding to about 17,000 barrels annually. Each barrel is 31 gallons. See [oakbrew.com](http://oakbrew.com)

- Speaking of beer, home brewers and micro-breweries are discovering they can **grow their own hops** and some varieties do quite well in the southern Willamette Valley. OSU hops breeder Shaun Townsend teaches workshops on growing hops and says January and February are the best months for digging up rhizomes for later replanting. See the story at [wkly.ws/1f8](http://wkly.ws/1f8) or email Townsend at [townsenm@onid.orst.edu](mailto:townsenm@onid.orst.edu)

A "Breakfast of Champions" benefit for the nonprofit **Pearl Buck Center** is being planned for 7:30 am Thursday, Feb. 14, at LCC's Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19. Matt Coleman, assistant superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, will be keynote speaker. Registration deadline was Feb. 6. Call 484-4666 or email [dena.amend@pearlbuckcenter.com](mailto:dena.amend@pearlbuckcenter.com) to see if seats are still available.

# NEWS

## PUBLIC RECORDS BEEF GOES TO COURT

Almost \$3 million to hand over public records seems like a lot of money to former Lane County commissioner Rob Handy and his attorney Marianne Dugan. Handy is suing the county, alleging that it didn't turn over documents related to a meeting and letter in which he was accused of ethics violations. Coos County Circuit Court Judge Richard Barron heard arguments and testimony Jan. 30 and Feb. 1 at the Lane County Circuit Court.

The state Department of Justice decided against filing criminal charges against Handy and the state Government Ethics Commission will now investigate. Handy has said he is confident in the commission's outcome.

Handy and District Attorney (and former county counsel) Alex Gardner testified Jan. 30 and Public Records and Strategic Operations Officer Judy Williams and County Administrator Liane Richardson took the stand Feb. 1. Though current County Counsel Stephen Dingle and Dugan were both involved in the email exchanges introduced to the court as exhibits, neither testified, instead serving as attorneys in the case and cross-examining those on the stand.

Dugan introduced into the record a number of emails to the county making public records requests that the attorney argued showed different responses by the county to similar requests. Some requests were dealt with immediately and for no charge, such as a request for Pete Sorenson's payments and receipts into an account related to the debt in Ellie Dumdi case, while other requests were apparently not dealt with for several days and the requesters were charged fees for the information. Both *EW* and the *R-G* figured heavily in the examples.

Some of the requests cited appeared indicative of infighting at the county, such as Commissioner Jay Bozievich's request for fellow commissioner Pete Sorenson's communications with others, including an *EW* reporter.

When Richardson took the stand she denied any "bad blood" towards Handy, and also said she did not instigate a harassment complaint against Handy and Sorenson that was found to be unsubstantiated. Records indicate Richardson emailed Human Resources Director Madilyn Zike and complained that Handy and Sorenson were retaliating

against her. The county hired an attorney for her in the issue and spent thousands on the attorney and on the investigation.

Richardson's answers to most of Dugan's questions fell along the lines of "I don't remember," "I have a lot of other things to do," (other than decide on fee waivers for public records requests) and "Not that I recall." Richardson said she has never granted a fee waiver for a public records request, but could not remember the wording of the Oregon laws that determine when a public record is in the public interest and should have its fees waived, saying she looks it up each time.

On Jan. 30 another Coos County judge ruled that the International Port of Coos Bay "abused its discretion" by trying to discourage the Sierra Club from getting public records involving a proposed coal export terminal by charging \$20,000 in fees and ordered the records be released to the

group for free. The judge wrote that the request was in the public interest. Eugene attorney Dave Bahr was one of the Sierra Club's lawyers in the case.

Judge Barron has given Dugan and Dingle a week to submit written summaries, but it is unclear how soon after that a ruling will be made. — *Camilla Mortensen*

## BUS DRIVER BACKS EVENT FOR HOMELESS

Saturday, Feb. 9, at Cozmic will be a "PowerBlast" of nine bands donating their time for the "Feel the Warmth" fundraiser hosted by the Egan Warming Center, a center started in 2008 to provide homeless people in Lane County shelter on the area's coldest nights from November through March when temperatures dip below 30 degrees.

Included in the lineup are the Joanne Broh Band, Peter Giri with Lloyd Tolbert, Rob Tobias and Friends, Natty Bone and Carl Faddis and Beach Days. Local merchants and private donors have contributed to a raffle, including over \$500 in gift certificates.

"Feel the Warmth" was the brainchild of LTD bus operator Sherry Watson, says LTD Director of Customer Services Andy Vobora. "We were really excited our employees wanted to get involved," Vobara says. LTD drivers wanted to help because they transport many of the area's homeless to and from the center. "They got to know the people," he says, adding that both current and retired LTD

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## ACTIVIST ALERT

- **"Neighbors Without Addresses"** is a photo project of Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC) completed with the assistance of Springfield Shelter Rights Alliance (SSRA). The exhibit is modeled on CALC's three existing traveling photo exhibits and community and families. The photos will be displayed during the 2nd Friday Art Walk from 5 to 7 pm Friday, Feb. 8, at Springfield City Hall, 225 5th St. Email [joanna.safercalc@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.safercalc@gmail.com) for more information.

- **Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon** presents "It's Not Me, It's You: Stories from the Dark Side of Dating" featuring local personalities from two-time Emmy Award-winning storyteller Mark Lewis to *R-G* reporter Serena Markstrom at 8 pm Friday, Feb. 8, at Cozmic. Proceeds will "help Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon continue its work to defend reproductive freedom and to hold politicians accountable." \$15 at the door or \$13 in advance from [CozmicPizza.com](http://CozmicPizza.com) and the Cozmic box office.

- The **UO's first TEDx conference** will be from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Global Scholars Hall Great Room on campus. TED is a nonprofit bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment and Design. TEDx events are TED-like events, held under TED rules. The theme for this event is "Curiosity & Resistance: Diversity is Critical to Thinking" and will feature panelists Brendan Bohanan, La Donna Forsgren, Tyree Harris, Air Force Maj. Caroline Jensen, Ian Haney-López, Andrew Nelson and Carmen Urbina. A reception will follow at the Ford Alumni Center. See <http://tedxuoregon.com>

- The Couples and Family Therapy Program at the UO College of Education will host a **"Relationship Check-In"** from 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, Feb. 9, at the HEDCO Clinic on the UO campus. Any and all couples are welcome to attend this event, at which master's-level therapists conduct free one-time sessions to celebrate and recognize strengths in relationships. Sessions will last approximately 50 minutes. Interested couples are encouraged to call the clinic at 346-0923 to make an appointment; walk-ins on the day of the event are also welcome.

- Sen. Chris Edwards and State Reps. Nancy Nathanson and Val Hoyle will host a **town hall meeting** from 6:30 to 8 pm Wednesday, Feb. 13, at Willamette High School, 1801 Echo Hollow Road in Eugene. The three will share thoughts on their legislative priorities and discuss the challenges and opportunities anticipated in the 2013 legislative session.

- Registration is open for the **Social Justice, Real Justice Conference** Feb. 14-16 at the UO, featuring Cornell West, Dolores Huerta, Winona LaDuke, Rocky Rivera and others, and a concert by the political rap duo Dead Prez Feb. 14 at the WOW Hall. See [wkly.ws/1ez](http://wkly.ws/1ez) for free registration. Lunch will be provided Friday and Saturday.

- A free presentation on "Hidden in Plain Bite: **The Impact of Factory Farming**" will be at 7:30 pm Monday, Feb. 18, at the McNail-Riley House, 601 W. 13th Ave. with free parking across the street at the Fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Eugene Veg Education Network. Speakers include Katie Catrell of the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition. For more information, email [eugvegedunet@comcast.net](mailto:eugvegedunet@comcast.net)