



The sixth annual **Spring Fly Fishing Festival** will be from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday, April 20, at the Campbell Community Center, 155 High St. in Eugene. Free. Local flyfishing groups McKenzie Flyfishers, Cascade Family Flyfishers and Damsel Flies are joining with the city of Eugene and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to put on the family friendly event. A catch-and-release trout pool will be available. Chris Daughters of the Caddis Fly Shop will speak at 9:30 am and Michael T. Williams will speak and show photos of high country lake fishing at noon. At 2 pm there will be a fishermen's roundtable with a focus on opening day fishing. See mckenzieflyfishers.org or email oakcrk@aol.com or call 343-3109.

Marketplace@Spout!, at 4th and A streets in Springfield, is planning a "Stalkholder Meeting" from 4 to 8 pm Saturday, April 20, with lots of food, beverages, live music, dancing, auction and prize giveaways. Suggested donation is \$5. Sprout! and its farmers market is regularly open from 3 to 7 pm on Fridays.

Earth Bookkeeping & Payroll has moved to an historic house at 244 W. 12th Ave. in Eugene. Owner Michael Sussman tells us he has operated his business out of his apartment since 2006, and is expanding his services. He has hired certified bookkeeper Shasta Halley to help and plans to hire another staff person soon. He specializes in financial services for local nonprofits and small businesses. He's holding an open house from 4 to 6 pm Monday, April 22. Email earth.central@live.com

The **Oregon League of Conservation Voters** has moved into new offices downtown at 220 E. 11th Ave. on the second floor, but won't be having an office warming party until sometime later, says Ashley Miller, regional director for the nonprofit. To help out at the new office or get on the mailing list, call 968-8269 or email ashley@olcv.org OLCV will also have a booth at the Earth Day celebration at EWEB Saturday, April 20.

Daisy C.H.A.I.N. (Creating Healthy Alliances in New-Mothering) is reaching out to 440 businesses in the downtown Zip Code of 97401, offering free window stickers proclaiming "Breastfeeding Welcome Here." The organization's Neighborhood New-Mothering Center is located at 1262 Lawrence, #3. To participate or to support the Action for Public Breastfeeding Awareness campaign, call 505-1139 or email daisychainmothering@gmail.com

Is print dying? Not weeklies and free papers. *The Oregonian* is expanding into the free weekly newspaper business with a new publication called the *Beaverton Leader*, according to the Poynter Institute (poynter.org). Oregon's biggest daily has lost nearly half its circulation since 1999 and Poynter notes the new publication is "probably an advertising strategy" to boost circulation numbers, which can help ad sales.

Habitat for Humanity is teaming up with Ninkasi Brewing Company to help finance and provide labor for at least four building projects, starting this week with an accessibility ramp for an elderly Springfield woman. The new program is called A Brush With Kindness and will assist low-income homeowners with improvements and repairs to the exterior of their homes. To volunteer or otherwise contribute, see sehabitat.org or call 741-1701.

Jeff Althouse of Oakshire Brewing will talk on "Why I'm Mostly Not Crazy for Starting a Brewery" at the monthly SmartUps Pub Talk from 5 to 7 pm Thursday, April 25, at Mac's Restaurant on Willamette. The monthly entrepreneurial spotlight will be on Simon Blatz of Blue Dog Mead. See SmartUps on Facebook for updates. On a related note, the Willamette Angel Conference is coming up May 9 at the CH2M Hill Alumni Center in Corvallis. Entrepreneurs are competing for \$200,000 in investment capital and finalists include Carrot and QE Chemicals of Eugene and Amorphyx and CSD Nano of Corvallis.

Eugene Beer Week coming up May 4-11 is a celebration of craft beer culture in the Willamette Valley, and this year the festivities begin with Sasquatch Brew Fest. Participating venues and breweries will include Ninkasi, Oakshire, Hop Valley, Falling Sky, Agrarian Ales, Plank Town, Claim 52, 16 Tons, The Bier Stein, Rogue, Cornucopia, Hot Mama's Wings, the Eugene Hilton, Cascade Brewers Society and others. Stay tuned for details and check out eugenebeerweek.org or get involved by contacting Mike Coplin at 953-2530, eugenebeerweek@gmail.com

NEWS

PETITION PROTESTS PLANNING PRACTICES

Neighborhood advocate Paul Conte has filed a notice of intent to petition the Land Conservation and Development Commission for an enforcement order related to the city of Eugene's planning processes.

The notice alleges that the city has consistently failed to follow the required statutory processes for land use decisions and the approval of permits. The city has 60 days to respond to the notice, and Conte says the city can essentially explain how it will comply or how it is already complying. He says that if the city responds that it's already in compliance with state statutes, he'll move forward with the petition.

"Staff is constantly acting as the advocate for applicants for land use actions such as zone changes, planned unit development and so forth," Conte says. "First off, that's not appropriate because staff is supposed to be independent in this type of work."

Oregon is known for its commitment to citizen involvement in public planning, but Conte says that city staff helps land use applicants find loopholes and then advocates for them improperly without giving the same level of assistance to residents who want to challenge the land use.

Conte says that one step toward equalizing that system and persuading him not to petition would be to ensure that the staff members giving advice on how to prepare for or challenge land use decisions are not the same as the people scrutinizing the applications. He says something is structurally wrong when the preparer of an application or a close colleague is scrutinizing the application.

The notice also cites the city's process in the approval of four Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemptions (MUPTs) in the past three years (which is the statute of limitations for appeals). The notice states that "the pattern and practice of the city of Eugene has undeniably been to approve MUPT resolutions without citing any evidence or analysis to demonstrate the projects will be, at the time of completion, in conformance with the Metro Plan or the applicable refinement plans."

Conte says that while he's known for his previous opposition to the MUPT for the Capstone student housing project, this suit is about a longer history of how the city has handled MUPT applications. "Capstone simply alerted me to that problem," he says.

A spokesperson for Mayor Kitty Piercy says that because this is a legal matter, she can't comment. — *Shannon Finnell*

PANEL DISCUSSION TO EXAMINE 3X5 SCHEDULE

The 4J School Board expanded public comment time at the April 10 meeting as part of its pledge to hold more feedback sessions with community members. Over about 90 minutes, comments touched on the district's move to a common high school schedule, changes in the way health clinics operate and proposed cuts to library services.

Three members of the district's Equity Committee spoke in favor of the common schedule. "Our goal as a community is a 100 percent graduation rate," said Carmen Urbina, 4J's parent, family and community coordinator. 4J's four-year graduation rate is 66 percent.

Former city councilor Gary Rayor, the parent of a child at Charlemagne/Fox Hollow, said he supports the common schedule for middle and high schools because "there has to be some conformity to provide efficient, cost-effective services."

Parent Douglas Moorehead said his family's experience at Sheldon High School over 18 years was of a school "constantly in transition." He urged 4J to delay adopting the common schedule, given strong teacher opposition and talk of adding music electives to an early-morning period.

Parent David Zupan said a panel discussion with teachers and parents concerned about the 3x5 schedule will be held at 7 pm Thursday, April 18, at the Unitarian Church at 13th and Chambers. "The purpose of the event in a neutral setting is

to help the community and especially 4J parents learn more about why a majority of 4J teachers ... are calling for a delay in implementing the proposed 3x5 schedule," he said.

Noah Mifsud, a ninth grader at South Eugene High School, said he and his friends were concerned about longer classes and about the gaps in instruction that would come from the 3x5, which could provide language and math only two-thirds of the year.

Other comments came from librarians requesting that 4J not cut library services, and from parents, graduates and health workers asking the board to reconsider cuts to school clinics, including cuts to mental health providers.

Board Chair Jennifer Geller explained that clinic cuts aren't just because of funding, but also because of changes in state regulations. Superintendent Sheldon Berman emphasized that the district isn't cutting health centers, it's restructuring them. Every high school will retain a school nurse, and every middle school will share a nurse with two elementary schools. He also said 4J hopes to come up with a resolution that addresses students' mental health needs.

Tad Shannon, president of the Eugene Education Association, told the board, "Our members are stressed like I've never seen them stressed, and it's only going to get harder next year." He reiterated his desire to see the common schedule postponed.

Board members urged parents and others to attend the district's April 22 budget committee meeting and to contact legislators to urge funding for education. — *Anne Bridgman*

FIGHTING MONSANTO, GMOS FOR EARTH DAY

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been causing controversy nationally and locally, and those who are fighting the specter of genetically modified canola in the Willamette Valley as well as the dominance of chemical companies such as Monsanto will be bringing their call to action to EWEB's Earth Day celebration April 21.

Sabrina Siegel of GMO Free Oregon says that the group is working on an effort to collect signatures for a 2014 ballot initiative to have GM products labeled in Oregon, as well as a state-level ban. The group has also worked on county-level bans of GM crops in Oregon. Vegetable and seed farmers fear that crops such as canola, which is said to spread like a weed, will contaminate their seeds and damage Oregon's valuable seed industry.

House Bill 2427, currently in the Legislature, would put a ban on canola in the Willamette Valley that would trump a recent state Department of Agriculture decision to allow up to 2,500 acres of canola production. But proposed amendments to HB 2427 would have a state-funded study at OSU examining the issue of canola's potential to contaminate other crops and the economic impact of lifting the ban to help legislators make a long-term decision on the issue of the crop, also known as rapeseed. The amendments include a repeal of the ban in 2017.

Siegel says in addition to statewide crop concerns, nationally "the Obama administration has shown countless times to be pro-biotech and pushing biotech agriculture and industry."

For those who want to know more about canola in the Willamette Valley and about GMOs, there will be a booth for the "Community Bill of Rights," GMO Free Oregon and more at the EWEB Riverfront Plaza Earth Day celebration from 11 am to 5 pm Saturday, April 20.

On April 21 in the EWEB North Building conference room will be a showing of the documentary *Genetic Roulette* at 12:30 pm, a film called *China's Coal Crisis* at 2:30 pm and at 3 pm a screening of Thomas Linzey's keynote speech at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference describing how communities can legally assert the rights of nature and the right to local self-government.

On Saturday, May 25, Lane County residents will participate in the worldwide March against Monsanto. Siegel calls it "joyful celebration of sustainable agriculture," starting at the Wayne Morse Free Speech plaza. Go to Facebook for more information, wkly.ws/1g9 — *Camilla Mortensen*