

ACTIVIST ALERT

- Lane County Commissioner Sid Leiken and Sheriff Tom Turner will be at the **Springfield City Club** to discuss the levy to fund the jail and the Serbu Youth Campus at noon Thursday, April 18, at the Willamalane Center, 250 S. 32nd St. \$10 for non-members. See springfieldcityclub.org or call 736-4544.

- A free lecture on **"Putting Hypersexuality to Work: Black Women and Illicit Eroticism in Pornography"** by Mireille Miller-Young of UC-Santa Barbara will be at 10 am Thursday, April 18, at the Knight Library Browsing Room on campus.

- **Food Not Bombs** co-founder Keith McHenry will speak at a free event beginning at 7 pm Thursday, April 18, at Chiles Hall Room 128 on the UO campus at 13th and Kincaid. Eugene Food Not Bombs will prepare a vegan meal for those attending. Copies of McHenry's new book *Hungry for Peace* will be available at the presentation. See foodnotbombs.net for more information.

- The Oregon Law Review will examine the **nation's drug laws** in a daylong symposium titled "A Step Forward: Creating a Just Drug Policy for the U.S." beginning at 8:30 am Friday, April 19, at the UO School of Law, 1515 Agate St. in Eugene. Speakers include U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Beau Kilmer of the RAND Corporation, Kevin Sabet, former senior policy advisor in the Obama Administration, Malcolm Beith, former Newsweek editor, and several others. Registration at <https://law.uoregon.edu/olrs-reg-2013>

- A town hall meeting on **"Our Climate Our Future"** is planned for 6:30 to 9 pm Friday, April 19, at the Lane County Fairgrounds auditorium. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy will deliver a Proclamation dedicating Earth Week 2013 to "Climate Change Awareness and Action." The meeting will feature a live streamed presentation by author and environmentalist Bill McKibben, a leading activist opposing the construction of the Keystone pipeline. Small discussion groups will follow sharing ideas about climate change and encouraging actions that can be taken locally, nationally and personally. The event is in conjunction with Earth Day celebration Saturday at EWEB in Eugene. The town hall is free, but donations are welcome to Partners for Sustainable Schools, says organizer Mel Bankoff, who can be reached at 485-0495.

- The **Oregon health care system** will be the topic of City Club of Eugene at 11:50 am Friday, April 19, and this week the location is the new LCC downtown building's meeting room. Speakers are Bruce Goldberg, MD, director of the Oregon Health Authority, and Terry Coplin, CEO of Trillium Community Health Plan. \$5 or free for members. See cityclubofeugene.org

- A full showing of the documentary **Half the Sky** to benefit Womenspace will begin at 6 pm Friday, April 19, at South Eugene High School's auditorium. Sponsored by the SEHS Feminist Union. Part 1 of the film begins at 6 pm and Part 2 begins at 8:30 pm with guest speakers. Suggested donation is \$5 or \$10 per family.

- The documentary **The Invisible War** will be shown at 6:30 pm Monday, April 22, at the UO Law School Room 175 as part of Sexual Assault Prevention Week at UO. Shelley Corteville of Veterans for Peace and Carol Van Houten, coordinator of Truth In Recruiting, will speak at the event.

NEWS

CITY FEE PROPOSAL STILL SHORT ON DETAILS

With less than five weeks until Eugene voters decide whether to approve a city service fee, a committee is beginning to work on the fee's low-income threshold, and its collection method is still up in the air.

The proposed fee would charge each household up to \$10 per month and each business up to \$30 per month per location to fill most of an estimated \$5.9 million budget gap in the 2014 fiscal year beginning July 1. Proponents say the fee is needed to preserve popular human services, but opponents say other funds can be found or other expenditures cut. Measure 20-211 mandates a low-income limit to the fee, but it doesn't list parameters or how eligibility would be established.

City Councilor Claire Syrett, who supports the fee, says the council added the lower limit because they didn't want to burden low-income residents. She says the lower limit and actual cost of the fee would be affected by the method of collection, which is yet to be determined.

"Once we know where we're going to set the exemption threshold, that will determine what the overall fee is for everyone else," Syrett says. "I don't know if it'll be a full exemption or partial; I think that will also depend on how all those numbers work out."

Syrett says the council has discussed collecting the fee through EWEB to save administrative costs, and the lower limit would likely have a threshold similar to that of food stamp eligibility.

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- EWEB SPOKESPERSON JOE HARWOOD

Like EWEB's Customer Care Program, the fee exemption would likely require people to apply; EWEB's program requires an application at one of three nonprofits. "Just practically speaking, it would be really impossible for us to know if you're exempt if we don't have some kind of form filled out from you," she says.

EWEB spokesperson Joe Harwood says that EWEB's commissioners will likely wait until after the vote on the measure to decide whether EWEB will collect the fee. He says that after the city makes a formal request to collect, the issue would probably be added to the board's agenda. EWEB doesn't collect income data on its customers.

The city has asked EWEB before to collect fees other than the stormwater and sewage fees mandated in EWEB's charter. "Over the decades this comes up every five to 10 years or so," Harwood says. "In the past, EWEB's elected commissioners have declined to collect."

Harwood says the penalty for non-payment of the fee is one of the biggest issues raised for EWEB. "One of the things that we've struggled with here is that we don't believe that disconnecting someone's utility is appropriate," he says, "so there are some really thorny policy issues that would have to be resolved."

Councilor Betty Taylor, who opposes the fee, says she thinks the lower limit is a problem. "I

don't think that could be done fairly. It's too hard to find out who can't afford that," she says. "It would cost a lot of money to collect it."

While the details about the lower limit are unknown and might still be on Election Day, City Manager Jon Ruiz's office says he has appointed a committee to help develop guidelines for the low-income assistance program. — *Shannon Finnell*



DIVA-SIMONE
SLAUGHTER AT
JOHN HENRY'S

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO JOHN HENRY'S CLUB?

Recent layoffs and walkouts at the popular downtown bar John Henry's have people asking several questions: Is the new management getting rid of the old John Henry's? Will John Henry's change its name? Will G.L.A.M. Nights continue?

Danny Peterson, Tyler Boggs and Jay Coburn David are some of the former John Henry's managers, bartenders and emcees who were let go in early April, two days after several staff members returned from Mexico where David was getting married. Peterson says he got a call from one of John Henry's owners, Brian De Bos, on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 2.

"He said, 'OK. We'll let you go. There's no apparent reason, so go ahead and collect unemployment. It's not because of your work or anything like that; we just figured it's time,'" Peterson says. Peterson says that De Bos then asked him to tell Boggs and David that they were no longer employed and could also collect unemployment. "So I got fired and then I had to fire two of my best friends," he says.

He adds that De Bos wanted to have a comfortable transition for the new management. "The impression I got managing was that they want it to be a really, really New York, L.A. upscale nightclub," he says. "John Henry's could definitely use a facelift," but, he adds, after years of working in the industry, he doesn't think there's a big enough market for an upscale venue like that.

David says they are putting the pressure on the new ownership, Traxler Inc., to change the name — a request that's echoed on the "John Henry's Boycott" Facebook group page that now has over 1,100 members. *EW* has been told that JH may change its name to 77 Broadway, which is the name incorporated by Traxler on Sept. 18, 2012.

And the bimonthly G.L.A.M. nights? "It's been a heck of mess and I miss my friends deeply," host Diva-Simone Slaughter says. "G.L.A.M. will remain at 77 Broadway for now."

De Bos had no comments on the issue on the record. — *Alex Notman*