

ACTIVIST ALERT

- The award-winning documentary *Roadmap to Apartheid* by filmmakers Ana Nogueira, a white South African, and Eron Davidson, a Jewish American-Israeli, narrated by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, will be shown at 7 pm Thursday, July 18, at Cozmic, 199 W. 8th Ave. Sponsored by Al-Nakba Awareness Project.

- “Expanding VA Health Services In Eugene” is the topic at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, July 19, at the Hilton 12th floor Ballroom. Guest speaker is Carol Bogedain, health director at the VA Healthcare System in Roseburg.

- In opposition to clearing homeless people out of the wetlands without giving them anywhere else to sleep, **Eugene SLEEPS** will hold a five-day protest beginning first thing in the morning Saturday, July 20. The sleep-in will be held where Pacific Avenue, a side street off of Danebo Avenue, dead ends.

- **Neighbors around Acorn Park** are building a new sidewalk entrance to this park at Buck and 15th Avenue to make it safer. Through the city's Neighborhood Matching Grant Program, people from the Churchill Area Neighborhood have come together to make walking safer. Neighbors provide the basic labor and the city provides a grant for materials. A work party is planned for 8 am to 2 pm Saturday, July 20, at the park. Contact Tom Schneider at 729-1263 or email toms12@gmail.com for more information.

- The Eugene Neighborhood Leaders Council is organizing several **Green Bike Tours** to see some of what people are doing to live more local and green at home and in their neighborhoods. Tours will take place in Santa Clara July 20, River Road July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Jefferson Westside Aug. 17, Friendly and Crest neighborhoods in September. See an updated bike tour schedule at eugenesustainability.org. This Saturday's tour begins at 10 am at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 4110 River Road.

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

- Freres Lumber, Inc., (503) 859-2121, plans to hack and squirt 160 acres near **Swartz Creek** in the Coast Range with Imazapyr. See ODF 935-2283 notification 2013-781-00610 for more information.

- ODOT is spraying roadsides along **state highways**: call (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, Forestland Dwellers: 342-8332, www.forestlanddwellers.org

NEWS

pesticides,” Kneeland says.

A group in Benton County filed a similar ordinance, but the county clerk rejected it, saying it covers too many issues, a violation of the single-subject rule. Kneeland says that if Lane County's clerk rejects it, SLFR will appeal.

Kneeland says that GM sugar beets are currently Lane County's only GM crop. “There's every reason to suspect that other GM crops would be introduced over time if we don't take some action to curb their use,” she adds.

To learn more about protecting local agriculture from a GM invasion, see Paul Cienfuegos speak from 3:15 to 4 pm Saturday about the community rights movement at the Bite of Eugene's Mountain Rose Herbs Food as Medicine Pavilion in Alton Baker Park. — *Shannon Finnell*

TEACHERS UNION WEIGHS IN ON EDUCATION BUDGET

It's not great, but it could have been worse. That's the latest from the Eugene Education Association (EEA) regarding the education budget of \$6.75 billion in school funding for the state of Oregon in the now-ended legislative session. For the 4J School District, which already suffers under the strain of financial woe, it means assessing what changes are in store for the upcoming school year.

“We're happy that the education budget ended significantly higher than the original budget, but unfortunately, 4J was not one of the districts that was able to escape the budget cuts,” says Tad Shannon, president of the EEA.

After the Eugene School Board passed its 2013-2014 school budget, with \$374 million allotted total and \$145 million for the general fund, Shannon says that the school district must take a total of nine furlough days this year, four more than last year. This also means a modest amount of layoffs, in addition to not filling positions left by those who retire.

Some positive changes are also coming for 4J. In the June 13 agreement between the EEA and 4J, Shannon says that the negotiations between the district and the teacher's union yielded greater preparation time for grade school teachers by bringing in part-time specialists to teach music and PE in 30-minute slots two times a week. With the removal of music and PE programs, Shannon says that “teachers were being killed by the workload, and losing specialists has been a huge problem. They didn't have any real time to plan during the day, so part of our settlement guarantees them more time during the week by expanding those positions.”

Another positive from the Legislature is HB 2644, passed on July 1 and meant to force more accurate report-

ing of class size. In the past, Shannon says, calculations of staff size included all certified staff, whether or not they actually taught classes, skewing the reported student-to-teacher ratio. The bill will require more specific information that includes the number of teachers assigned to students. “Before there's any meaningful change, people need to understand how far we have fallen,” Shannon says. “We can't do that if we aren't getting accurate information.” — *Amy Schneider*

SUNDAY STREETS BEGIN THIS WEEKEND

Eugene Sunday Streets, the annual street shutdown that celebrates walking, biking and community, is back for two more rounds. On Sunday, July 21, downtown stretches of 8th and 10th avenues and Broadway between Pearl and Lawrence will be closed to automobiles while the residents use the public space to build community and try out walking and biking in a safe environment. A second event will be held in the Bethel area in September.

One result of the downtown location is that they're partnering with businesses to expand the activities available for grown-ups. “We always try to make it family friendly, but this year because it's downtown, we are able to offer a lot more adult-centered options,” Lindsay Selser, the city's transportation options coordinator, says.

Selser says this year's event will include a couple of free classes at pilates-yoga-ballet studio b

arre3 and 10-minute lessons at the Best Martial Arts Institute. The event will also host its first beer garden in Kesey Square. A full schedule, route details and where to park for free are at wkly.ws/1ii.

Dark30 Sports is partnering with the city to host a criterium bike race and an elite mile running race in the downtown core. A small route on Oak, 8th, Lawrence, 10th, Lincoln and Broadway will close from 7 to 11:30 am, and a larger route from the Park Blocks to Monroe Park will close from 11:30 am to 4 pm. Cars that need to cut through will be able to use controlled access points at Pearl, Washington, Jefferson and Monroe.

Selser says holding the event downtown is cutting edge. “It requires a lot of traffic control and a lot of outreach with our local businesses to make sure that it's successful,” she says. “An event downtown is a lot of work, but it's going to be worth it 10 times over.”

Selser says the Sunday Streets team is proud to have raised more than \$15,000 in sponsorships from a growing pool of supporters. “The best part is that it's all free — except for the beer.” — *Shannon Finnell*

HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL



SARAH GRIMM (revisited)

November 1997: “Volunteering is an excellent way to explore a career,” says Sarah Grimm, education coordinator for BRING Recycling. Five years ago, as a “career waitress” at Delfina's in Portland, Grimm took a master recyclers class through OSU Extension Services. Her work schedule allowed time to volunteer for nonprofit recycling programs. “Do what you love — the money will follow,” says Grimm, who was soon working fulltime for Metro Recycling's telephone hotline. She was enticed to Eugene in 1996 by BRING's offer of combining lower pay with increased responsibility. Now she hauls a trashcan full of ideas into area classrooms to teach the three R's: reduce, reuse and recycle. BRING's goal to reach 10,000 students in 1997 was surpassed before Earth Day in April. Grimm welcomes opportunities to speak on recycling, composting and earth-friendly shopping.

2013 update: After years of speaking to groups outdoors and in classrooms full of kids, Grimm's voice gave out at the Oregon Country Fair in 2003. “I had surgery on my vocal cords,” she says. She found quieter work managing Lane County's Master Recycling Program, and she now coordinates Lane County's Waste Reduction Program. “I manage recycling contracts, education, outreach and advertising,” she says. “But I still have a basement full of scraps for craft projects.”