



The nonprofit **Emerald Empire Hempfest** is back for its 11th year for three days beginning Friday, July 19, at Maurie Jacobs Park in Eugene, across the footbridge from Valley River Center. The alcohol- and drug-free festival features live music, food booths, educational exhibits, a hemp fashion show and new product demonstrations. This year's theme is "The Walls of Cannabis Prohibition are Coming Down." Volunteers are still needed. Call Dan Koozer at 517-0957 or see EmeraldEmpireHempfest.com.

A new Eugene field office for the **NAACP of Lane County** has been set up at 120 W. Broadway and the hours of operation will be from 11:30 am to 3 pm Tuesday through Saturday. Eric Richardson, president of the county chapter, says the organization has a six-month lease and will be looking for a more permanent home at the end of November. When asked if the office needs any donations of office equipment, funds or more volunteers, Richardson said, "Any offer of assistance will be considered." Phone number is 484-1119 and email is president@naacpLaneCounty.org.

Former Eugene resident **Paul Scott of Plug In America** is returning to Eugene to give a lecture on the need to transition from oil to renewable electricity as the energy source for personal transportation. The lecture will be at 5:30 pm Friday, July 19, at the main meeting room at EWEB. Scott lived in Eugene from 1975-1998 and then moved to Santa Monica to work in the film industry. He is now involved as an activist and advocate for solar energy and electric cars. He markets electric vehicles and also lectures on their benefits. "Lane County residents spend \$700 million every year filling their tanks with gasoline and diesel, of which 90 percent leaves Lane County," he says. "Electric vehicles will be a powerful boon to the local economy." See pluginamerica.org.

BOWTECH Archery is opening its factory pro shop for bow hunters to meet experts and check out the latest equipment from 10 am to 1 pm Saturday, July 20, at 90554 Pacific Hwy. Jim and Eva Shockey of the TV shows *Jim Shockey Hunting Adventures* and *The Professionals* plan to be at the event.

Sundance Natural Foods at 748 E. 24th Ave. has gained national recognition as one of the Top 12 Right to Know Grocers in North America. The award recognizes the efforts by Sundance to identify and eliminate genetically modified foods from its shelves and bins. General Manager James Mattravers says the store was honored for "promoting progressive and responsible food politics, for being at the forefront of our industry in resisting GMOs and chemical agribusiness and for educating our community and customers on these issues."

Star Gate Books at 1374 Willamette St. is organizing an evening event with **Hopi elder Leroy Lewis** from 7:30 to 10 pm Wednesday, July 24, at the Saraha Buddhist Center, 40th and Donald in south Eugene. Lewis is an elder in the Flute Clan and will be talking about ancient Mayan codices that were hidden in a cave for more than 600 years. "The codices also confirm that the Hopi, Mayan, Q'ueiro and Tibetans are indeed related," says Alan Stein of Star Gate. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Star Gate, \$25 at the door. See stargateeugene.com or call 342-8348.

River City Coffee Company at 69th and Main in Springfield is under new ownership as of July 5 and remodeling is under way. New owner is Byron Parra and daily operations are managed by Mark Lumpkin. River City offers locally wood-roasted coffee by Caffé Pacori, along with teriyaki chicken lunches and dinners. Find River City on Facebook.

The next **Emerald FEAST** (Financing Eugene Area Sustainable Talent) will be from 6 to 8:30 pm Thursday, July 25, at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. Diners purchase a meal for \$15 to \$25 and vote to donate the evening's proceeds to one of several small businesses and start-ups that pitch their projects. The FEAST has given away \$2,900 so far in six events.

NEWS

HANDY DIDN'T VIOLATE ETHICS, REPORT SAYS

An Oregon Government Ethics Commission investigator recommended in a 32-page report that the commission dismiss an ethics complaint against former Lane County commissioner Rob Handy. After debate, the six members of the ethics commission present at the July 12 meeting did not reach the four votes needed to either move forward with or dismiss the complaint. As the Handy case statutorily expired July 17, this ends a chapter in what some see as a vendetta against Handy and other progressive politicians. Handy said in a statement that he hopes "this kind of targeting doesn't stop other progressives from seeking office because there is too much at stake in Lane County."

The case began in May 2012 when attorney Alan Thayer, representing Eugene businessman John Brown, complained that it was unethical for Handy to ask Brown and others to make donations toward his \$20,000 debt that stemmed from an earlier Seneca Timber-funded case against progressive county commissioners. Handy said he checked with the county's finance department before asking supporters to assist with the debt.

Handy said at the time that he would be cleared of all allegations and called them "a smear tactic." In addition to the end of the ethics commission investigation, the Oregon Department of Justice decided last fall against filing criminal charges against Handy.

One of Handy's attorneys, Brian Michaels, said the issue

revolved around whether Brown had a "legislative, economic or administrative interest" when Handy solicited a donation. The investigation determined that he did not.

Michaels, who attended the ethics commission meeting, said that hearings earlier in the day were "friendly, nonpolitical" but that when Handy's case came up, former speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives Larry Campbell made the hearing "way more political than anything I had seen all day." Campbell was a Republican representative out of Eugene in the Legislature in the 1990s. Michaels said, "Someone had more politics than discretion."

Michaels said Campbell insulted him and Handy's other attorney Marianne Dugan and questioned whether the investigator did her job. The director of the Ethics Commission and an assistant attorney general signed off on her report.

"What they are really saying to those people is 'We don't believe you, trust you, respect you.' Which they didn't say in those words, but by contesting them, they were saying, 'We know more than you do even though you took all these months to do this investigation,'" Michaels said of the three committee members — including the member who originally put forth a motion to dismiss — voting against dismissal.

The end result though, since the committee took no action, is that the case expired July 17, and as Handy predicted shortly before the May election that he lost to Pat Farr, he was not found guilty of any ethics violations.

Michaels said, "There was no hint or appearance of a corrupt result" in Handy's asking for aid with his debt. "Yes, this was a gift but it's only an improper gift if there was a corrupt appearance or intent." — *Camilla Mortensen*

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'This is protocol at every protest. You leave the place better than you found it.'

- ALLEY VALKYRIE, ACTIVIST AND HOMELESS ADVOCATE

POOP FICTION IN OUR PUBLIC PLAZA?

Two cases in Eugene Municipal Court this week revolved around protest, poop and constitutional free speech rights. Judge Karen Stenard heard testimony in a motion-to-dismiss hearing July 15 about two protests in the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza that involved the arrests of 21 people in one protest and activist Alley Valkyrie in another. Both were related to the group SLEEPS, which set up tents in the plaza to call attention to the plight of the homeless. The cases were heard on the same day as they subpoenaed the same witnesses.

Attorney Lauren Regan in her motion to dismiss the trespassing charges writes that closing the plaza and forcing the protesters to leave violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment as well as Article I of the Oregon Constitution.

Lane County Administrator Liane Richardson ordered the free speech plaza to be closed and controversially called for "disinfection" of the plaza. At the hear-

ing, Valkyrie says, Richardson testified that she smelled human feces in planter boxes in the plaza within 24 hours of the closure order and had several conversations about it with the sheriff's sergeant in charge of the clean up. But Valkyrie says the sheriff's sergeant testified that he didn't actually find any feces and that he smelled the feces after the barricades went up, which Valkyrie says would be two days later.

Valkyrie, who calls the feces testimony "poop fiction," says that either way, there were no feces to be smelled. Protesters used nearby city bathrooms and had peacekeepers and a clean-up crew. "This is protocol at every protest," she says. "You leave the place better than you found it."

She also says she takes issue with the way that county prosecutor Daniel Barcovic "tried to invoke George Zimmerman" in his questions about if the peacekeepers were trained or carried weapons.

The poop issue is key because a public health hazard could be seen as a reasonable legal basis for closing the plaza. Valkyrie and the SLEEPS protesters maintain that free speech has no curfew. The case resumes July 18 but a ruling is not expected until later. — *Camilla Mortensen*