



Noted **herbalist Rosemary Gladstar** will be offering a free lecture at 7 pm Friday, Aug. 9, at Mount Pisgah Arboretum, following a free educational plant walk at 5 pm. Mountain Rose Herbs is hosting the event and will provide organic tea. Profits from the sale of event merchandise, DVDs, books and other products will be donated to United Plant Savers, a nonprofit that protects native medicinal plants in the U.S. and Canada. This is the first in a series of events as part of the Free Herbalism Project. See freeherbalismproject.com or mountainroseherbs.com.

The **Eugene Celebration** is coming up Aug. 23-25 and we hear Saturday Market will be open for business as usual from 10 am to 5 pm that Saturday, and you won't need a wrist band to get in. The SLUG Queen competition and coronation will be at 6 pm this Friday, Aug. 9, at the Saturday Market Stage. Candidates are Gloria Slimem, Professor Mildred Slugwalk Dresselhaus, Nina T Slime, Professor Bulbus Slimebodor and Jeannine. Good idea to bring your own chair to the competition.

The **Eugene/Springfield Pride Festival** supporting human rights and civil rights organizations will be from noon to 7 pm Saturday, Aug. 10, at Alton Baker Park. Basic Rights Oregon, Human Rights Campaign, DonateLifeNorthwest, Planned Parenthood, Womenspace and HIV Alliance are among the groups participating. See eugenepride.org or call 342-5088.

We hear the **Eugene Jewish Film Festival** has gotten off to a great start, selling out the Bijou's downtown theater twice. "We had to turn so many people away, we decided to add a second showing and discussion," says Shmuel Shalom Cohen, the executive director of Jewish Events Willamette-valley (JEW). *Hava Nagila: The Movie* (2012) will be the second feature of this once-a-month film festival, to be shown at 2 pm Sunday, Aug. 11, at the Bijou downtown, with a discussion to follow. Ticket prices are \$5 with donations above \$5 going to JEW. See JewishEventsWillamette-valley.org and Bijou-cinemas.com/bijoumetro.

Savona's bitchin' bohemian boutique is now open at 285 E. 13th Ave., next door to Full City Coffee. Owner Savona Cook tells us she is the daughter of Andrea Proudfoot, "who owned the first hippie clothing and fabric shop in Eugene, called Andrea's Clothes and Cloth," and was one of the original members of the Oregon Country Fair and Saturday Market. Savona sells new and used clothing, jewelry and accessories "in that beautiful, casual, Eugene bohemian style." Find her on Facebook or call (206) 708-0240.

Gemini II Enterprises is a new Springfield business offering several products and services at 637 W. Centennial Blvd., a location previously occupied by a travel agency, tanning salon and animal rescue organization. Owner Andie Williams says she's offering e-cigarettes and other tobacco alternatives, a Zodiac Wedding Chapel for walk-in weddings, other wedding services and a professional sound system. She also does karaoke for parties and special events. Phone number is 246-8679.

The nonprofit **Mobility International USA** in Eugene is about to publish its new book, the *Brilliant & Resilient Photography Book*, featuring profiles of 50 disabled women activists from 41 countries. A book launch event is planned for 6 pm Thursday, Aug. 15, at the Ford Alumni Center, 1720 E. 13th Ave. on campus. Email sdunn@miusa.org or call 343-1284 for more information.

Chocolate Decadence, a locally owned maker of fine chocolates, has opened a retail store at 5th and Olive in the Down to Earth complex. Owner Larry Bradley says the store offers a full line of chocolates, gifts, art from New Zone Gallery and ice cream from Red Wagon Creamery. See chocolatedecadence.com.

The Eugene support branch of **India Partners** is seeking to provide emergency aid to poor families in Andhra Pradesh, India, after sustained flooding forced thousands of villagers to flee their homes. For more information, visit IndiaPartners.org or call (877) 87-INDIA.

A date of Sept. 8 has been set for the fifth annual **BRING Home and Garden Tour**, a self-guided tour of 12 homes and gardens that exemplify the art of sustainable living. See bringrecycling.org or email tour@bringrecycling.org.

NEWS

JOSE ORTAL RUNNING FOR EAST LANE COMMISH

The name may not be familiar, but the ideas might be refreshing in relatively conservative east Lane County. Jose Ortal is one of the challengers eyeing incumbent Faye Stewart's East Lane County commissioner position in 2014. Also on the record planning to file are former EWEB commissioner Joann Ernst and longtime environmental land use activist Kevin Matthews.

Asked why he decided to run, especially given his relatively low public visibility compared to the other candidates, Ortal says, "I believe I can provide a viable progressive alternative to the sitting commissioner," and that he is looking for the status quo to "be expanded beyond the usual." He said the main themes of his campaign are "governance" and "public oversight."

"Let's stop with the bickering already. Let's get everybody more or less on the same page. Let's conduct the people's business rather than posture," Ortal says.

He has expressed distaste for genetically modified organisms (GMOs), posting a vocal support of the new bill to ban GMO crops in Eugene on the Facebook page for the Citizens League of Lane County. He has

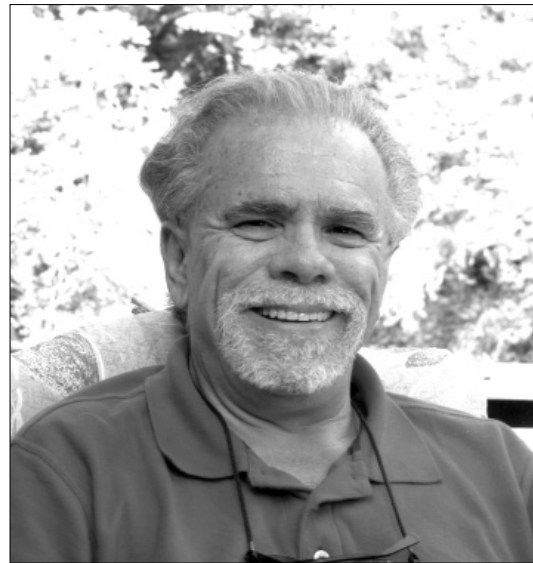
also been displeased with financially based environmental decisions, saying he's tired of county politics "being driven by the McDougal Brothers of the world." The McDougals are local loggers, speculators and developers often at odds with environmentalists.

"Any commissioner has to be a commissioner for all the people, not the 1 percent or the 99 percent," said Ortal.

While Ortal sees no problem in big business solutions to our stagnant economy, he does say, "We must make sure these folks are good corporate neighbors."

He has more than once vocalized his dissent against budget cuts to community college funding and worked even after his position at LCC ended to bring attention to what he felt were problems with the school's infrastructure. He ran unsuccessfully for the LCC Board in 2009.

Although he has not had as involved a career in local politics as either Ernst or Matthews, he does have some footing. Ortal moved to Eugene in 1996 from California when he was hired as the director of affirmative action and diversity at LCC. His position was eliminated in 2005 due to budget cuts. He now owns McKenzie River Insights, a management consulting firm. In addition to a master's degree in history from UCLA, Ortal has a history of diversity-based interests. — *Jordan Tichenor*



'I believe I can provide a viable progressive alternative to the sitting commissioner.'

- JOSE ORTAL

NEW SKATE PARK BREAKS GROUND

Warm up and get ready to roll! The renovation of the park under Washington-Jefferson Bridge has begun, and what will be the biggest covered and lighted skate park in the country will reach completion in March 2014.

The project has finally materialized after years of fundraising and meetings between the city and skaters. The real construction starts this week after a "demolition phase." The 23,000-sq.-ft. skate park will be the only one covered, lit and public with a 24/7 facility access, says Emily Proudfoot, a landscape architect in Parks and Open Space Planning for the city of Eugene.

Even though the renovation is under way, the south part of the park between 6th and 7th avenues is still accessible and frequented by homeless people. One homeless woman, who goes by Lilly, has been staying there for a couple weeks now. She says that she will stay until they tell her to go. She plans on going to a shelter for the winter.

"I think in addition of this being a fabulous skate park, it's gonna be a fabulous park," says Janet Brown, a board member of Skaters for Eugene Skateparks. In addition to the skate

park, the renovation project includes an urban plaza with food carts and outside vendor spaces, accessible pathways, bike racks, benches, drinking fountains, energy-efficient lighting and new restrooms.

"It's really an investment in an area that sees a lot of reinvestment," Proudfoot says. "It can be transformative for this area."

The construction was postponed several times, and the skate park portion and park renovation combined cost is much higher than expected: \$2.5 million, with the city covering \$2.2 million.

The high cost drew criticism in light of Eugene's budget woes, but the parks system development budget can only be spent on renovation or construction of new parks, Proudfoot says. The skate park, the seventh in the area, represents \$600,000 of the final cost. More than \$150,000 was raised by private donations through nonprofits in addition to a \$173,000 grant from the state.

The skate park was designed by Dreamland Skateparks, a world-renowned skate design and build firm. Brown explains that this skate park will become a reference for skaters in the country and hopes to attract people from outside the state. Proudfoot doesn't exclude the possibility of Eugene hosting its first big skate competition in the upcoming years. — *Laetitia Béraud*

lighten up

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

County Administrator Liane Richardson demonstrated admirable qualities on the job. She had shown herself to be tireless, dedicated and ingenious. If she had only been working for us ...