

ACTIVIST ALERT

• Eugene's ad hoc **Finance Investigative Team** (FIT) looking into city budget issues will meet at 5:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 17, at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. Staff contact is Vicki Silvers, 682-5082. The meeting is open to the public to observe.

• Noted speaker **Maurice Cox** of the Tulane City Center Initiative will be the speaker at a special evening meeting of City Club of Eugene. The normally noon luncheon will instead be at 5:30 pm Friday, Oct. 18, at the LCC Downtown Center. Cox's topic is "Making Great Cities!" and he will focus on civic engagement, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship and design excellence. Cox is the former mayor of Charlottesville, Va., and served as design director for the National Endowment for the Arts. Space is limited. RSVP at October18@dxoregon.org.

• **Slingshot Hip Hop**, a documentary film of young Palestinian hip hop artists united for the first time from the '48 community in Israel and the '67 communities in the West Bank and Gaza by their shared performance art and by the core principles of the Palestinian resistance, will be shown 6:30 pm Tuesday, Oct. 22, in Willamette Hall 110 at the UO. Free.

• A series of **Eugene city budget** interactive community workshops began Oct. 15 and will continue from 6 to 8 pm Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Sheldon High School, and the same time Oct. 24 at North Eugene High School, Oct. 29 at Willamette High School and Oct. 30 at Churchill High School. Contact the budget staff at 682-5670. Budget Committee and City Council members will be available to talk about the budget situation and seek public input. Contact the budget staff at 682-5670 for childcare, sign language interpretation or other issues.

• Key organizers of state and local efforts to require **GMO food labeling** will be guests at the next Blackberry Pie Speaker Series at 6:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 24, at the Cottage Grove Hotel, 811 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. Speakers will include Ivan Maluski of Friends of Family Farmers, attorney Ann Kneeland of Support Local Food Rights and Lynn Bowers, chief petitioner of the Local Food System Ordinance of Lane County initiative. Free and open to the public. Email alice@loghouseplants.org or call 521-2877.

lighten up

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

The bad news is that the Congress members who shut down the government are still being paid. The good news is that the nation no longer needs an immigration plan. The Republicans have the country so screwed up that even immigrants here legally have begun to self-deport.

KITTY AND SKUNK ISSUES AT EWEB

The West Eugene Wetlands area is one of the many places around town where the wild abuts the urban, and managing domestic animals overlaps with native species. EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center (aka the ROC) was designed amid about 14 acres of restored wetlands, and wild creatures have moved back in, including raptors and skunks. But according to Becky Long, EWEB is not doing a good job with the feral cat population that has also moved into the ROC.

Long worked for EWEB for 22 years before leaving last January. Before she left, she was a lead in implementing a modified TNR (trap, neuter, release) program to deal with the cats. Long says that when she learned in 2012 that a contractor was hired to kill nutria (an invasive species) that were coming into the back lot where EWEB vehicles park, and that there was a plan to deal with the cats as well, she knew she had to step in.

'To begin a program like this and then to have it discontinued without any discussion is a real tragedy.'

—BECKY LONG

She says she convinced EWEB to allow her and other volunteers to trap, spay/neuter and then rehome the cats. Because the cats were not being released, it took longer to find them homes. According to Long, nine cats were successfully caught and rehomed but with four remaining — a mother and her three kittens — before EWEB cut the program off.

Long worries about the kitties, which had become accustomed to being fed. "To begin a program like this and then to have it discontinued without any discussion

is a real tragedy," she says. "EWEB has a chance to be a successful role model in the community, but their lack of communication and understanding of the facts is getting in the way."

Steve Newcomb, environmental manager at EWEB, says the program was discontinued because the high protein cat food was luring

skunks too close to the buildings, and while native skunks are fine in the wetlands, EWEB prefers they not start hanging out near the buildings. Newcomb says that the utility is hoping the skunks will disperse because he



HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

ALLEY VALKYRIE

"I could see Manhattan from my roof," says Alley Valkyrie, who grew up in suburban New Jersey. One of six girls in her class at school with the same trendy first name, she ran away from home at 17, changed her name, took up painting and sold art on the streets in New York. "I learned more about people than about artwork. It moved me to activism." She protested globalization and the Iraq War, and she met a few Cascadia Forest Defenders from Oregon. On a visit to Eugene in 2004, she spent two weeks in the woods and then discovered Eugene's Saturday Market. "I fell in love," says Valkyrie, who returned to New York. "I was never happy there

again." In October 2007, she packed her van and moved West. Arriving on a Friday, she signed up for the Market the next day and began selling her Practical Rabbit line of clothing the following week. "I thought I would retire from activism," she says, "but I saw how people downtown were judged according to their perceived income status." She sat in on City Council meetings and studied Eugene urban planning. Since the Occupy movement in 2011, she has worked full-time without pay as an informal liaison between homeless campers and police. "I became a cultural translator," she says. "Homeless people know I will act in their interest, and police know I will be honest and point out policy mistakes."



1st Anniversary
Celebrating how *Food Grows Community*

October 18th, 2013
3pm til Late

4th & A St. Downtown Springfield

Check out sproutfoodhub.org for a full schedule and details.



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PEDAL POWER CONCERT featuring GOSHWOOD & THE SHED SHAKERS

Concert begins at 8pm, \$2 to \$10 sliding scale admission



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