

lighten up

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

When the shepherd wants to know what his sheep think of his ideas on gay marriage, birth control and other social issues, you know there is a new kind of pope in town.

POLLUTION UPDATE (BEST OF EDITION)

The most common type of Clean Water Act discharge permit in Oregon is the one for facilities that discharge industrial stormwater. In Lane County, about 120 facilities discharge to local waters pursuant this permit, and these facilities are required to monitor their discharges four times a year and submit monitoring results to regulatory authorities (either DEQ or the city of Eugene) by July 31 each year. Monitoring results for 2012-13 are in, and while the pollution discharges for the majority of local facilities were below benchmark levels, the following facilities had the worst reported discharges: **Gheen Irrigation Works' Lake Eugene** facility on Airport Road discharged copper at more than 18 times the applicable benchmark and oil and grease at over two times the applicable benchmark; **Ecosort** discharged lead at almost three times the applicable benchmark at its Glenwood facility; **Gibson Steel Fabricating** discharged zinc at over 51 times the applicable benchmark at its facility near 2nd and Washington; **Extreme Technologies' Bowtech Archery** facility on Highway 99 discharged suspended solids at 10.5 times the applicable benchmark; **Attune Foods** reported discharges with acidity similar to that of lemon juice.

Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project

NEWS

and Leslie Beverly. The family is reportedly asking \$2.5 million for the 18 wooded acres.

"This is not just a southeast Eugene issue," says Emily Fox, one of the opponents of development. "Leaving a green belt of natural area around Eugene will help slow global warming," she says. "This is also the only park area accessible by foot, bike and bus."

Opponents say development of this area will heavily impact the Amazon Creek, which flows into Fern Ridge Reservoir, the Long Tom River and ultimately the Willamette. All these waterways are already compromised. The Amazon Headwaters were originally zoned forest/agriculture and were changed to residential single family about 30 years ago. "At that time the public was not as educated about the value of headwaters, wetlands, natural resources and open space issues," Fox says.

Dan Snyder is the attorney for Southeast Neighbors and says that there are too many inherent problems with developing the property, from the presence of the headwaters to the steep slopes prone to erosion. Snyder says another key point is that "it is the Amazon Headwaters, an outstanding natural resource that the city should be protecting, not turning over to the developers to turn into upper-scale homes."

The Be Noble Foundation also has been raising money to aid in the purchase of 26 acres of the Amazon Headwaters. See an earlier story on the property at wkly.ws/1m7 and find out more about the foundation at be-noble.org. — Ted Taylor

SPRINGFIELD COACH GETS TO SEE RUSSELL'S FIRST BIG TEST

Mercedes Russell may have gone from Springfield to Tennessee, but she will have some of her hometown's support system with her as she starts her collegiate career at one of the biggest powerhouses in women's basketball. Bill Wagner, her former head coach at Springfield High, will be

in attendance when the Lady Volunteers take on the North Carolina Tar Heels in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Nov. 11 in a battle of top-10 teams. And he couldn't be more excited to see her in action on the big stage.

"She's meant so much to me as far as being able to watch her grow and develop as a young woman and player," Wagner says. "I felt like I wanted to make sure I saw one of her first college games. It would mean a lot for her, but also it means a lot for us just to go and be able to support her. She traveled cross-country for college and I think it would be nice for her to see some familiar faces."

Basketball fans not familiar with Russell will be soon. A versatile forward who excels both inside and out on offense, she was considered the nation's top recruit in the class of 2013 by espnW. This came as no surprise to Wagner, who coached her from her sophomore season on.

"When she was in high school she was so dominant, so ahead of the curve," he says. "It will be nice to see her play on kind of an even playing field. I'm just excited to see her. We miss her around here. You could never miss her here on campus, being 6'6", but just getting go out there and spend some time with her I'm looking forward to that."

Wagner was not specifically invited to the game against North Carolina by Tennessee; instead, he is taking advantage of the three-day Veterans Day weekend to make the trip with an assistant coach.

"She's gone through being one of the top recruits in the nation, and having high expectations on her," Wagner says. "She's got such a calm demeanor about her that she takes things in stride and goes about her business and doesn't let a lot of the peripheral stuff bother her. She has this inner drive to succeed and be as good as she possibly can."

And Wagner will be there to watch Russell and her new team as she tries to continue her success in her first big test against one of the game's most formidable opponents. — Nick Poust

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