

OREGON NOT PREPARED FOR MAJOR OIL SPILLS

Four years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Halliburton is paying \$1.1 billion to residents, local governments and businesses affected by the disaster.

Here in the Northwest, lessons from the spill still have not sunk in — Oregon’s waters and habitats are up against a massive influx of oil shipments and a potential catastrophe we are not prepared for. On Sept. 3, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Friends of the Columbia Gorge filed a notice of intent to sue the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over a need to update and improve oil spill response in the Northwest.

CBD attorney Jared Margolis points to a section of the outdated Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP)

that reads, “Should a catastrophic oil spill occur, it is likely that there will not be adequate response resources in the Northwest Area to manage and clean up the spill,” and he says since that plan was written, the worst case scenario has now gotten worse.

Margolis writes in the notice of intent to sue that “About 19,000 tank cars of crude oil passed through Oregon last year, a 250 percent increase from the year before.”

The Columbia River is the most affected by oil trains, thanks to a massive increase in oil shipments coming from the Bakken oil fields of Montana and North Dakota heading for export through Oregon and Washington ports, but Lane County also has oil trains coming through. Margolis says there are repercussions even if only one 35,000-gallon oil car ruptures.

According to local attorney Charlie Tebbutt, who sued BP on behalf of CBD to get information on the pollutants released by Deepwater Horizon, “It seems obvious,

CONTINUED P. 8 >>>

NEW TRACK-TOWN FLICK FILMS IN EUGENE

When you live in Eugene, the phrase “track town” is so ubiquitous it borders on cliché.

But as the latest movie being filmed in Eugene by former UO runner and filmmaker Alexi Pappas, *Tracktown* hopes to illuminate the allure of the local running obsession.

On Friday, Aug. 29, Pappas and her team rounded up 150 or so locals and 20 professional runners to be extras for a scene with legendary local runners Andrew Wheatling and Nick Symmonds filmed at UO’s Hayward Field.

Tracktown embraces the idea of “place” as its own character. “It helps to be very specific and tell a story in a world that you know and that maybe hasn’t been seen or told about before,” Pappas says. “Just like running, filmmaking is a discipline.”

In this coming-of-age story, the protagonist (played by Pappas) is a runner who becomes enthralled with a young man who is not involved in the running community. “[The film] is about deciding where you want to fit in,” says Jeremy Teicher, Pappas’ boyfriend who co-wrote and directed *Tracktown*, as well as the couple’s first film, *Tall as the*

Baobab Tree (2012). “Eugene is a really cool backdrop for that type of story,” he says.

After graduating from Dartmouth, Pappas had similar themes to resolve in her own life. With a background in improv comedy, she planned to pursue poetry in graduate school, putting running on the backburner. But she still had one year of eligibility as a student athlete, and instead moved to Eugene to run in 2012.

At the UO, she helped win national championships for indoor track and cross country. Pappas also received an interdisciplinary master’s degree in film, creative writing and entrepreneurial business.

“The most important thing is for me to be taken seriously as a creative person and as an athlete, both and independently,” Pappas says.

Under the leadership of producer Laura Wagner, the film has already received help from the San Francisco Film Society and the Sundance Creative Producing Lab. Pappas says the project, shooting for a release after the 2016 Olympics, also has support from the cinema community in Portland and across the state.

Pappas and the rest of her team are excited to give something back to a town that makes them proud.

“I’ve never felt more myself than in Eugene,” Pappas says. — *Bryan Kalbrosky*



About \$24 million in federal funding for the **West Eugene EmX** project passed the Metropolitan Policy Committee unanimously last week, according to Rob Zako, executive director of Better Eugene-Springfield Transit (BEST). “We are looking forward to work proceeding efficiently with minimal impacts, and to seeing the new EmX line open in just over two years,” he says. BEST has been holding “listening sessions” with the community over recent months and plans to release a report next month. An online survey is at best-oregon.org.

In related news, the **Oregon Transportation Commission** has approved 36 multimodal projects around the state and Lane Transit District will get \$3.5 million for its projects. Two new bike/pedestrian bridges will be constructed over Amazon Creek as part of the EmX expansion. One will be at Buck Street and the other near Sam Reynolds Street. A third bike/pedestrian bridge is planned to connect Commerce Street to the Fern Ridge Path. The projects are designed to make it easier for residents to safely access businesses and transportation along West 11th Ave. See ltd.org for more information.

The nonprofit **Serenity Lane** broke ground Sept. 10 on a new \$27 million campus on Industrial Way in Coburg. The 15-acre alcohol and drug addiction treatment facility will be built by Chambers Construction and will double the capacity for treatment. Construction is expected to be completed by spring of 2016. The current campus at 16th and Patterson will be sold to help finance the new campus. Donations are also being sought for additional buildings and a fitness center. See serenitylane.org.

Select **Aspen Dental** offices in Oregon will volunteer their time and talents for a free “day of service” Saturday, Sept. 13, for those in need in the community. Patients must make advance appointments by calling (844) 234-9033 and appointment times are limited. Dentists will focus on treating the most urgent dental needs such as fillings, extractions, x-rays or basic denture repairs. The Eugene clinic is at 1055 Valley River Way.

The People's Wellness Center is expanding to become a “full health services” facility, according to owner Bill Whitlock. “We understand both natural and alternative medicines have value, why keep them apart,” he says in an email this week. The center serves as a dispensary for the Oregon Medical Marijuana community and is now adding a chiropractor, masseuse, nutritionist and herbalist, along with Coma Treats, providing expertise and classes on “medible” candy and other products. Classes on cannabis and its benefits are being held 1 pm Saturdays. Call 505-8100 for reservations.

The Lane **Small Business Development Center** is hosting an “open door event” from 1 to 8 pm Tuesday, Sept. 16, on the third floor of the LCC downtown campus. The offices will be open for individuals and business owners to drop in and visitors can meet for brief one-on-one sessions with Gary Smith of the Small Business Management program and Frank Plaisted of the New Product Development program. Center staff will be on hand to offer information about services. Light refreshments will be available.

A **Harvest Festival** is planned all day Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Fern Ridge Service Center at 2nd and Broadway in Veneta, beginning with a fundraising pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 am. Festivities will include vendor booths, live music, a kid zone, chili cook-off, a pie baking contest and more. Contact Lois at 935-4555.

The **Nobel Peace Laureate Project** has nearly completed its Peace Park near the main entrance to Alton Baker Park. The Peace Park is the first effort to honor as a group the 24 U.S. winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. “Some are not even honored in their own hometowns,” says John C. Attig, past president and founder of the nonprofit, in an email. “Community group visits and school field trips especially will be welcomed. While many Americans can name five American generals, far fewer can name five American Peace Laureates.” Email jnhattig@efn.org or visit nobelpeacelaureates.org.

lighten up
BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

The airlines now pack their planes so tightly that the only reasons I fly anymore are to watch fights over reclining seats or to get my clothes pressed.



ALEXIS PAPPAS (CENTER) SHOOTING A SCENE FOR *TRACKTOWN* AT HAYWARD FIELD AUG. 29 WITH (LEFT TO RIGHT) BRETT ELY, CHRISTINA RODGERS, BRIDGET FRANEK AND RENEE BAILLIE