



**StoveTec**, a local for-profit stove enterprise, is pledging financial support for StoveTeam International, a nonprofit organization that brings safe, fuel-efficient and low-emission stoves to communities in Mexico and Central America. Under the new sponsorship, StoveTec — which markets wood cook stoves developed at Aprovecho Research Center in Cottage Grove — will donate a portion of its domestic for-profit sales to support StoveTeam International. Factories started by StoveTeam International have collectively produced and sold more than 44,600 stoves, improving the lives of more than 334,000 people in Mexico and Central America, according to StoveTeam founder Nancy Hughes.

**Several streets in the Harlow neighborhood** will be converted to entertaining and enlightening uses as Eugene celebrates its second Sunday Streets event of the year Sept. 21. From noon to 4 pm, more than a mile of residential streets will be taken over by live music, local food, games and family-friendly fun. Streets that will be used for the event include portions of Harlow Road (Palomino to Honeysuckle Lane), Palomino Drive, Country Lane and Rustic Place. A giveaway of 350 bike helmets in all sizes will be at 1:30 pm at the North Park Community Church Lawn activity center. About 2,000 people showed up for the early Sunday Streets event downtown. See [eugenesundaystreets.org](http://eugenesundaystreets.org).

Great to see **Keystone Café** on West 5th Avenue open again after it closed in July. The storied Keystone has been a local landmark since 1979.

Free **kosher wine tasting** in honor of the Jewish New Year will begin at 3 pm Sunday, Sept. 21, at Market of Choice on 29th Avenue. The tasting is being put on by the local nonprofit Jewish Events Willamette-valley (JEW). "Our goal is to share with the community how far kosher wine has come from the days of just sweet Concord grape wine," says Shmuel Shalom Cohen, executive director of JEW.

**Disaster preparedness training** for Lane County residents is being offered from 6 to 8 pm Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the Emergency Services Training Facility at 1704 W. 2nd Ave. in Eugene. RSVP to 682-5860 or email [cert@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:cert@ci.eugene.or.us).

## NEWS

# DUMPING OF FIREWORKS WASTE ON RIVER BANK A LESSON FOR THE CITY

In mid-July, Eugene resident David Nickles was at the canoe landing below the River House on the Willamette River, a stretch of water he visits with his son two or three times a week, when he alleges he saw the city essentially "dumping trash into the river."

On the normally rocky bank of the Willamette, Nickles witnessed a "pretty bizarre" sight. He says dump trucks were depositing small dunes of sand littered with trash just a few feet away from the water. A friend talked to one of the drivers, who said that the truck was commissioned by the city of Eugene and that the sand was from a fireworks display. Nickles registered a complaint with Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 21, and after a clean-up and short period of discussion, the city is now determined not to make the mistake again.

Richard Zucker, maintenance supervisor with the Park Operations section of the city's Parks and Open Space Division, says that the incident, while not fully thought through, was backed by good intentions. The sand had been used by the Active 20-30 Club as fire suppressant for their fireworks display at Alton Baker Park on the Fourth of July.

"In our effort to recycle, we've agreed to take that sand and reuse it," Zucker says. "This year we thought we could use some of that sand on the canoe landing, because over the years, especially during high water periods, a lot of material

is washed away." He says this was the first time the city had done this.

Nickles says that the sand contained small bits of foil, chunks of fuse, plastics and other shrapnel from the fireworks. He points out that fireworks often contain perchlorate, a chemical that, according to the EPA, "can disrupt the thyroid's ability to produce hormones needed for normal growth and development."

The city's plan, Zucker says, was to later spread out the mounds of sand and then pick out any waste. But when

Nickles reported the dumping to the DEQ, a representative from the DEQ contacted Zucker's division and said, though the waste in the sand was not hazardous, it would need to be tested and proved to be "perfectly clean" before it could be dumped next to or in a natural waterway. Rather than go through the process of testing the sand, Zucker's

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— RICHARD ZUCKER, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, PARK OPERATIONS

division decided to gather all the sand back up and dispose of it at a solid waste facility.

Though Nickles was frustrated by having to deal with both the DEQ and the city to handle the situation, he says that he approved of the cleanup: "There was hardly a trace of it left."

Zucker says that this scenario will not be repeated. "We thought we were doing something that was environmentally responsible, but not according to state regulations," Zucker says. "So now we've changed our practices." — Ben Stone

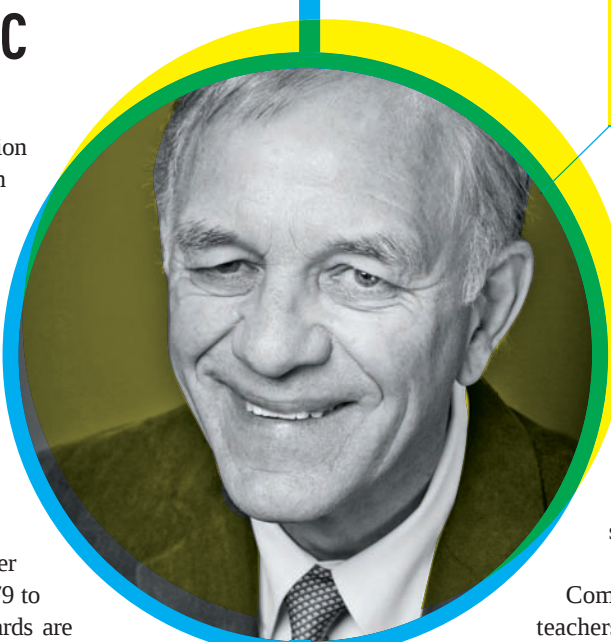
## PORTLAND COMMON CORE CRITIC TO SOUND OFF IN EUGENE

Portland School Board member Steve Buel has a reputation for stirring things up with his vocal criticisms of the Common Core State Standards. On Sept. 24, he'll bring his thoughts on high-stakes standardized testing to Eugene, the first talk in this year's series of Community Alliance for Public Education's community dialogues.

In 2010, the Oregon State Board of Education adopted Common Core State Standards in the subject areas of reading and math, and ever since then, school districts around Oregon have worked to prepare their students for the transition.

That transition is coming fast: The Smarter Balanced Assessment, a standardized test based on the new standards, will hit Oregon school districts for the first time this school year.

"The Smarter Balanced test is a mess," says Buel, a teacher of 40 years who served on the Portland School Board from 1979 to 1983 and was re-elected in 2013. "The Common Core Standards are supposedly more rigorous and challenging, but another way to say that is that a lot of them are developmentally incorrect. They're pushing kids to do activities they're not ready for."



**'Standards never teach kids — teachers teach kids.'**

— STEVE BUEL, PORTLAND SCHOOL BOARD

With other board members, Buel drafted a resolution asking Gov. Kitzhaber to suspend the Smarter Balanced test for two years. Buel says that the standards force teachers to focus on getting all students to pass the test, rather than addressing the individual needs of the child and recognizing that every child is different. When teachers teach to the test and focus on standards only, he says, kids miss out on a well-rounded educational experience.

In Portland, Buel says that the school district spends millions of dollars on testing fees and consultants yet can't afford social service coordinators for homeless high school students or additional support to the district's library staff.

Buel says his talk in Eugene will focus on the history of the Common Core and why he thinks the standards are not allowing teachers to make individualized decisions in the classroom.

"Standards never teach kids — teachers teach kids," he says.

Buel's talk is 6:30 to 8 pm Wednesday, Sept. 24, at North Eugene High School, 200 Silver Ln. — Amy Schneider



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