

# ACTIVIST ALERT

• Supreme Court journalist and author **Garrett Epps** is back in Eugene this week to speak about his new book, *American Justice 2014: Nine Clashing Visions on the Supreme Court*. Epps will speak at 4:30 pm Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Knight Law Center Wayne Morse Commons. Epps is a former UO law professor who now teaches at the University of Baltimore School of Law. He covers the Supreme Court for *The Atlantic* and contributes to *The American Prospect*. See [waynemorsecenter.uo.edu](http://waynemorsecenter.uo.edu).

• **All About Parvin**, an episodic series by Eugene videographer Tim Lewis documenting the mining of Parvin Butte and the community it affects, has its Eugene debut 6:30 pm Thursday, Nov. 6, at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St. The event is \$10, sliding scale, and food and refreshments will follow.

• **Eugene's sick leave ordinance** administrative rules are being developed. A series of public meetings are being held and the last will be from 6 to 8:30 pm Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Eugene Public Library. See [eugene-or.gov/sickleave](http://eugene-or.gov/sickleave) for more information.

• "Experiencing **Inequity in Law Enforcement**" is the topic at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, Nov. 7, at the Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette St. Speakers include Linda Hamilton, president of Blacks in Government, Jim Stauffer of the ACLU and Juan Carlos Valle, president of the United Latin American Citizens of Lane County. \$5 for non-members. See [cityclubofeugene.org](http://cityclubofeugene.org). The following week, Nov. 14, local police chiefs and the county sheriff will talk about "Achieving Equity in Law Enforcement."

• The 11th annual **Close the SOA!** benefit concert will be at 7 pm Friday, Nov. 7, at Wellsprings Friends School, 3590 W. 18th Ave., featuring folksinger Tom Rawson and the Eugene Peace Choir. Suggested donation is \$5 to \$15, but no one will be turned away. Sponsored by Latin America Solidarity Committee of Eugene. For more information about School of the Americas (SOA) and an upcoming vigil at Fort Benning Nov. 21-23, see [soaw.org](http://soaw.org).

• **Auschwitz survivor Eva Kor**, along with her twin sister, was subjected to Nazi medical experiments by Dr. Josef Mengele at the age of 10. She will speak on "Forgiveness, the Triumph of the Human Spirit" at a gathering that begins at 6:30 pm Saturday, Nov. 8, at Columbia 150 on the UO campus. Kor founded the CANDLES Holocaust museum in Indiana where she now lives. The lecture is sponsored by PeaceJam Northwest and the Division of Student Life at UO. \$5 for non-students.

• **Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah** is planning its 25th annual Fall Celebration & Anniversary Angel Fundraiser from 5 to 7 pm Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 13th and Chambers. Reservations at [bufordpark.org](http://bufordpark.org) or call 344-8350. Organizers say the event includes "food, drink, music, stories, friends and fun."

• The **ACLU Civil Conversation** series presents a discussion on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as a threat to civil liberties. Numerous municipalities have formally opposed the new sections. Colin Farnsworth of People Against National Defense Authorization Act (PANDA Oregon) will explain how local officials can prohibit NDAA's application in Oregon. The free talk is from 5:30 to 6:45 pm Monday, Nov. 10, at the Eugene Public Library. Food and drinks allowed. Contact [lanechapter@aclu-or.org](mailto:lanechapter@aclu-or.org).

• Author **Chris Dixon** will speak on "Talking Across Today's Transformative Movements" at 1 pm Monday, Nov. 10, at the LCC Longhouse on the main campus. Dixon is author of *Another Politics*. Contact Stan Taylor of the Lane Peace Center at [taylor@lanec.edu](mailto:taylor@lanec.edu).

• The Climate Action Plan Task Force is hosting the second **Corvallis Climate Action Plan** public forum from 7 to 8:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 12, in the main meeting room of the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 N.W. Monroe Ave. Topics for discussion will include land use and transportation, urban natural resources and buildings and energy. See [corvallisclap.org](http://corvallisclap.org) for more information.

• The **No Industrial Pisgah** group has launched an online petition to the city of Springfield to save the rural Seavey Loop area and its small farms from industrial zoning. More than 660 people have signed the petition as of Monday, Nov. 3, and organizers are hoping for a total of 2,000. Find the petition at [wkly.ws/1u8](http://wkly.ws/1u8). The group is also planning a public fast from dawn to dusk at Springfield City Hall Nov. 14-15, led by a Japanese Buddhist order.

# NEWS

## EX-COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR CLEARED, BUT LEIKEN AND BOZIEVICH OBJECT

Former county administrator Liane Inkster (previously Richardson) was fired by Lane County more than a year ago, but questions from her uneasy departure still linger, most recently due to a letter from the Oregon State Bar (OSB) clearing her in a disciplinary investigation.

The bar's investigation is the third investigation — or possibly the fourth, according to the letter — into Inkster's actions. Commissioners Sid Leiken and Jay Bozievich responded to *EW*'s inquiry about the letter with a statement asking that the investigation be reopened. OSB's probe stemmed from an article in the *R-G* after Inkster nominated herself for a position on the bar's Disciplinary Board.

Inkster wasn't fired at all; she left after a "contractual dispute," the bar's letter to Inkster says. The April 22 letter, recently obtained by *EW*, also says that the County Commission's then-chair (Leiken) and vice chair (Bozievich) "knew and approved" of the changes in Inkster's compensation that led to the termination of her job with Lane County.

Inkster had lobbied to raise her salary from \$152,345 to \$175,656 at a time when the commission was asking taxpayers to approve a county jail levy. When that request came to light, and the proposed raises for her and County Counsel Stephen Dingle were tabled, Inkster then made changes to her take-home pay.

According to OSB's letter, written by Assistant Disciplinary Counsel Mary Cooper, the board "wanted, for political reasons, to delay discussions" of a raise. Inkster told Cooper she followed a suggestion from a commissioner to sell back some of her sick leave time (what the county calls "time management") and convert the money to cash. Inkster sold far more than the county allows.

After another employee questioned the changes and hired an attorney, "the board began to back away from its involvement in the situation," the letter says.

When the allegations of impropriety with Inkster's pay surfaced in the summer of 2013, the county hired Greg Olson of USO Consulting and Investigation to look into Inkster, and he concluded that she was "untruthful." But according to the bar's letter, "the board later conducted a full independent audit" of Inkster, and it "concluded that [Inkster] did not act fraudulently and that the board chair and vice chair knew and approved of the changes in [her] compensation."

Leiken and Bozievich call the mention of the audit "curious" in their statement. "No audit was done of Ms. Inkster's misdeeds," they write. The commissioners also note that neither Olson's investigation nor an investigation by an outside district attorney "concluded any involvement or justification" for

Inkster's selling more of her time management "by any member of the Board of Commissioners."

The bar's letter primarily notes an interview with Inkster, but Kateri Walsh, director of OSB media relations, tells *EW* the attorney who conducted the investigation reviewed both Olson's and the DA's reports.

The bar concluded that it was plausible Inkster did not remember an email telling her she had sold too much sick time when the investigator asked her about it, and cited the district attorney's decision not to file charges. Leiken and Bozievich say the DA did not file charges because Inkster had agreed to pay the money back and had already been terminated by the county.

Walsh says that the "Disciplinary Counsel's office will take a look at the file and if it appears that there was evidence that did not get a thorough review, we will likely either re-evaluate the matter, or take it to the State Professional Responsibility Review for consideration."

Neither the county nor the other media covering the furor over Inkster's nomination to the disciplinary board last March apparently asked for a copy of the April 22 letter dismissing the complaint. Walsh says, "We never received a complaint regarding Inkster from the commission or anyone in Lane County." She adds, "We opened the investigation ourselves based on media reports," and OSB typically copies complainants on progress in a disciplinary investigation. — *Camilla Mortensen*

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— KATERI WALSH, OSB MEDIA RELATIONS

## IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER

**T**he extended summer dry spell has turned into a warm rainy period. No frost yet, nor even any really cold nights, although the average first frost date is long past. It means the leaves on the bigleaf maples haven't been triggered to produce the golden color seen in most years. Instead, the dry leaves just turn brown and fall off while the rest are still green. The tar spot fungus doesn't have its usual green halo on a golden background because its spores are maturing early, sustained by the whole green leaf.

Our nasturtiums are going crazy this fall, sprawling vigorously over the garden beds where the cucumbers used to grow. The cucumbers, like the zucchini, succumbed to mildew soon after the rains began. It is not often that the nasturtiums aren't taken down by aphids at the end of the summer.

The late warm season allows us to enjoy little, edible bouquets that last a few days inside.

The flock of turkeys I wrote about back in August is now miles away from its nesting grounds in our neighborhood. This flock is readily identifiable by the solitary albino in it. At least one of the flock is wandering about on its own. The sounds of different waterfowl tell us the winter migrants are starting to take up residence in Delta Ponds.

Winter annuals are flourishing. The chickweed is a delicious, welcome sight. Bittercress, earliest of our garden weeds, says we had better start pulling rosettes before the new year begins.

*David Wagner is a botanist who has lived in Eugene for more than 30 years. He teaches moss classes and leads nature walks. He may be reached at [fernzenmosses@me.com](mailto:fernzenmosses@me.com).*



EUROPEAN BITTERCRESS, *CARDAMINE HIRSUTA*