

SLANT

- The fundraising effort to **save historic Civic Stadium** as a community center for kids' sports, soccer and other activities is close to a Dec. 1 deadline and we urge everyone to contribute financially or volunteer to help raise money. USL Pro and W-League soccer at Civic would be a big economic boost for Eugene and Lane County. Soccer is popular across the economic divide, filling stadiums in the Northwest, and Eugene could be next. (Unlike college football, you don't have to shell out 100 bucks to see a soccer game.) We are also pleased to see Bev Smith and KidSports planning a big field house on the 10-acre property. The field house would be an indoor facility providing much-needed space for basketball and field sports year-round. Two organizations are working to purchase the site and fund the restoration, the Eugene Civic Alliance and Friends of Civic Stadium (see eugenecivicalliance.org and friendsofcivicstadium.org). This is an important investment in the future of Eugene, carrying on the public-private partnership that created Civic Stadium in 1938 during the Great Depression.

- **Will the drama settle down** now that a new board member was elected to the governing board of Emerald Peoples Utility District? Maybe, maybe not. EPUD, which serves 2,400 customers, has experienced years of painful turmoil on its board. The even-tempered Lee Kelley was elected in November to replace Patti Chappel on the board, which should help, but then some recorded EPUD phone conversations went public. The relatively new General Manager Scott Coe was recorded in personal conversations voicing criticism of some board members. Now he's being forced out. But Coe has been leading the utility in a positive direction, and we hear nearly all EPUD employees support him. It would be in the best interest of the utility and its customers if the board asked him to stay. Keeping Coe would save the utility severance pay and all the costs associated with recruiting and hiring a new manager. Plus, finding a top-notch new manager in a national search would be difficult

considering the board's toxic history. Coe is a competent and effective manager. If he's willing to stick it out, keep him around.

- Even the coldest nights don't keep people around here at home when the **issue is the environment**. A forum on the future of the Elliott State Forest featuring Cascadia Wildlands, Cascadia Forest Defenders, Coast Range Forest Watch as well as landowners and hunters filled Cozmic Nov. 17, despite freezing temps. Videographer Tim Lewis tells us the premiere of his series *All About Parvin* earlier this month had 200 people turn out, including Greg Demers, one of the scenic butte's miners. If you missed the debut, you can see the serialized film with a new episode every two weeks at allaboutparvin.com.

- Regarding our cover story last week on **wage theft**, we heard from a reader who says she is reminded of "security deposit theft that occurs regularly" by rental property owners in Oregon. "Owners seem to think security deposits are their piggy banks to enhance cash flow," she says. State laws regulate how security deposits are supposed to be handled, but we've heard horror stories about what actually happens in some landlord-tenant disputes. Landlords can be screwed by tenants as well, but landlords have the power of the checkbook.

- We're updating our **War Dead** statistics on our website this week. Our perpetual war in the Mideast continues to drain our resources with questionable results. Two more U.S. troops died in Afghanistan in the last 30 days and 17 more were wounded in action. Eugene's share of the financial burden of that war is now up to \$300 million. The war against ISIS broke \$1 billion this month and Eugene's share so far is \$478,800. Iraq is no longer deadly for American troops (just U.S. civilian contractors), but 2,113 more Iraqi civilians died in the civil war in the last 30 days and the financial cost to the U.S. continues at about \$3 million a month, not counting the ISIS campaign.



Tsunami Books on south Willamette was given notice earlier this fall that the building was going on the market and the longtime independent book store and performance venue would likely need to find a new home (see Biz Beat, 9/25). But we heard from store owner Scott Landfield that the building is now in the process of being sold to someone who supports the store staying put for at least a couple of years. The 3,900-square-foot commercial building is owned by Joy and Peter Detmer of Washington state and the name of the pending new owner has not been disclosed. Landfield says his rent will be going up, but he's relieved the business can stay. Now the challenge will be to grow the business with more events and fundraising. He says Eugene musician David Jacob-Strain plans to record his next live album on the Tsunami stage Jan 16-17. Landfield is also planning some kind of crowd-funding campaign.

Looking over the **1939 deed to the Tsunami property** we noticed some shocking language, apparently common in those days, but illegal and unenforceable today: "No lot in this Subdivision to ever be sold, rented or let to any person or persons other than of the Caucasian race."

Saturday Market had its season finale Nov. 15 and will reopen with **Holiday Market** beginning Saturday, Nov. 22, and continue on weekends until Christmas Eve. Holiday Market will also be open the Friday after Thanksgiving and the five days leading up to Christmas. The market is getting a new stage backdrop this year, created and overseen by muralist Jim Evangelista, director of Reality Kitchen. The old backdrop has been the same since 1999. See holidaymarket.org.

The **Egan Warming Center** has a change in leadership. Doug Bales has decided to move on after six years coordinating the program that provides shelter for the houseless during exceptionally cold weather. Bill Winkley will be taking his place. He can be reached at billwink69@gmail.com or call 285-7583.

Project MyVoice Media, a Eugene-based digital media enterprise, has a new project, the Cannabis Journals, a "documentary and participatory platform about surviving and thriving through prohibition," Director Alina Padilla-Miller says. The project seeks to use video and a website to "help give real people with extraordinary experiences during prohibition and reform, an opportunity to archive and share their stories for future generations." Padilla-Miller has launched a Kickstarter campaign to reach a goal of \$44,000 to fund the project. She can be reached at cannabisjournals@gmail.com or see projectmyvoicemedia.com.

The annual fall celebration for **Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah** Nov. 9, sponsored this year by Passionflower Design, drew 150 guests and raised more than \$20,000 toward the nonprofit's capital campaign goal of \$200,000. The organization works to protect and enhance habitat and trails and educate the public about the Mount Pisgah area. See bufordpark.org to volunteer or contribute.

Bloomberg Businessweek's 2014 business school rankings named **Willamette University's MBA program** a "top business school." The Willamette MBA is the only program listed in Oregon and one of only two in the Northwest. Other schools on the top list include the University of Washington, Stanford, Harvard, UCLA and UC Berkeley. Not making the list was the UO Lundquist College of Business MBA program.

In Biz Beat Nov. 6 we wrote about **Giving Tuesday** in regards to an event for West Coast Dog and Cat Rescue. But Giving Tuesday is also a national day of online giving to nonprofits that follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Several local nonprofits, including McKenzie River Trust, will be running a campaign on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving to build membership and support. See givingtuesday.org.



WTF!

Sharon Blick of Living Earth Farm sent us this photo of a rhododendron in her yard which started flowering a couple weeks ago in unseasonably warm weather. Rhodies usually flower in spring. "Now the flowers are dying," she says. "The same for marionberries, which I also saw blooming lately. Now my normal fall crops [collards, kale, chard, cabbage, cauliflower, rutabagas, Brussels sprouts] might already be dead from this prolonged and severe freeze." Climate chaos in our backyards.