

## WASHINGTON POST WRITER TO SPEAK ON LEFT-LEANING TRENDS OF BIG CITIES

Seattle is on a progressive kick. In 2013, then-Seattle mayor Mike McGinn sought to block Whole Foods from building in West Seattle, not because he opposed new development but because Whole Foods is notoriously anti-union. And under current mayor Ed Murray, the Seattle City Council voted to raise the city's minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Journalist Harold Meyerson says this kind of progressive action is not limited to Seattle and is partly the result of alliances between unions and other community organizations, impacting U.S. cities such as Pittsburgh, Minneapolis and Phoenix. Meyerson will explore this idea further in his upcoming talk, "The Revolt of Cities: How immigrants and young people are transforming urban politics," Jan. 20 at the UO.

"It's only in cities that you find the progressive majority that's open to these kinds of innovations," says Meyerson, editor of *The American Prospect* and a columnist for *The Washington Post*. With the 2014 elections resulting in only seven states controlled entirely by Democrats, Meyerson says that "this really means cities are even more in the arena of progressive innovation."

A Jan. 11 op-ed in *The New York Times* argues that states are increasingly partisan and less likely than before to produce new policies, and Meyerson points out that cities are the new testing grounds.

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"One of the reasons this is happening in cities is the demographic transformation of America," Meyerson says. In his 2014 article, "The Revolt of Cities," he writes that New York was 53 percent white in 1980 and 37 percent white in 2010, and immigrant advocacy organizations and labor unions play a role in banding together various organizations when they share a common cause, he says.

He gives the example of a 2008 partnership between the Sierra Club and Los Angeles labor unions, which created a program to help truck drivers at the Port of Los Angeles drive more fuel-efficient trucks by easing the financial burden on the truck drivers and holding the trucking agencies responsible for upgrades. Meyerson says this kind of teamwork has resulted in all kinds of progressive benefits to cities, from encouraging

working class voters to elect progressive politicians to pressuring Target to change its hiring policy.

And the ever-controversial millennials are bringing about change by moving to cities in large numbers, as well. "In the city I'm in, Washington, D.C.," Meyerson says, "millennials are completely transforming the cultural tone and the demographics of the city. They are part of this demographic recomposition, which has pushed cities to the left."

So could Eugene, with its sick-leave ordinance, be moving toward this mode of change, or is this phenomenon only happening in the big cities? Don't rule it out, Meyerson says. "It's happened in Sante Fe, New Mexico, which isn't exactly a mega-metropolis. Size is not the key determinant. It more depends on who is there than how many there are."

Meyerson's free talk is 7 pm Tuesday, Jan. 20, Room 110 at the Knight Law Center on the UO Campus. —Amy Schneider

## GROUPS SEEK TO STOP COYOTE-KILLING CONTEST

The second annual Harney Coyote Classic is scheduled to kick off Jan. 16, and animal rights groups and conservation organizations are fighting to stop the coyote-killing contest that takes place in Eastern Oregon near Burns. "It's horrific, blatantly slaughtering wildlife for no reason," says Brooks Fahy of Predator Defense. "You don't eat coyotes."

The contest runs Jan. 16-18, and one- to three-person teams are given prizes for the most coyotes killed in that span of time and for "heavy dog," "light dog" and average weight. Fahy says no location is given on the flyer for the contest because in the past, contests taking place on public lands have been protested and even stopped for lack of permit.

Scott Beckstead of the Humane Society of the United States says the contest is "terrible and these killing contests evoke an era where people were encouraged to go out and slaughter wild predators." He calls the contests "out of touch with mainstream Oregon values" and says he is looking forward to the days they're finally banned. The California Fish and Game Commission recently banned killing predators for prizes.

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Spokesperson Michelle Dennehy tells *EW*, "ODFW does not have the authority to cancel the event. Coyotes are classified as predatory animals in statutes

set by the Oregon State Legislature." She cites a statute that says the State Fish and Wildlife Commission "shall not prescribe limitations on the times, places or amounts for the taking of predatory animals."

Beckstead says he contacted Les Schwab tires, which is listed on the contest's flyer as a sponsor, and was told, "A customer asked us to make Harney County Coyote Classic registration forms available. Les Schwab is not sponsoring the event, is not distributing forms and does not plan to participate in the event in the future." The tire center says, "Each store aims to sponsor organizations and events that reflect the community's interests; this includes our Burns store."

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—BROOKS FAHY, PREDATOR DEFENSE

Both Beckstead and Fahy are concerned these contests, if left unchecked, could result in deaths of Oregon's slowly recovering wolf population. They cite the instance of a wolf that was shot last month in the Grand Canyon by a Utah hunter who said he thought it was a coyote. While wolves are protected in Oregon, there is no limit on killing coyotes.

Fahy says that "The broader issue here is, should we be killing coyotes and other predators at all?" He says there is a "huge body of science that says 'No, we shouldn't be killing these animals,'" and that killing them actually upsets not only the pack structure, but also the equilibrium of the ecosystem and causes damage to prey and even other predators.

The bloody contests are a "glaring example" of how out of control the killing of coyotes is, Fahy says. —Camilla Mortensen



**The Ducks** might have lost some feathers in Dallas this week, but we hear local pizza and other take-out businesses had one of their busiest sales times ever in the hours leading up to the national championship game. One pizza maker we talked to said he was swamped starting at 10 am Monday filling orders for home game-watching parties. As it turns out, comfort food was badly needed, particularly in the second half of the game.

A panel of experts will speak on "**Cannabis as a Biotechnology**" from 3:30 to 5 pm Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce at 1401 Willamette St. Speakers include Troy Morris of MxResearch and colleagues who will explore medical and recreational cannabis as a "real resource, a clinical tool, which should benefit Oregon most if applied effectively. The approach creates a hub of biotechnology in Eugene, and converts the old-world I-5 drug corridor into a pipeline for research connecting performance agriculture with biotech quantification and clinical investigations that generate best practice, direction and policy," reads a statement from organizers. Contact Paul Berger, paul@saavsus.com.

A new restaurant in town is **Placido's Pasta Shop** offering all organic, homemade pasta products. Joe Placido is the owner and the restaurant is at 150 Shelton McMurphey Blvd., in the Stellaria Building at the foot of Skinner Butte, where the delightful Carmelita Spats was. Find the eatery and its menu on Facebook or call 687-6445.

**Bloxi** is a new Eugene web business startup that appears to be quickly growing an international audience. "Bloxi is a quiz site where anyone can create, take or share quizzes," says Bailey Koharchick, director of marketing. Find it on bloxi.com or call the company at 505-8044.

The new nonprofit **Rapid Access Center (RAC)** and Medical Clinic is having its grand opening from 4 to 6 pm Thursday, Jan. 15, at 195 W. 12th Ave. The facility offers same-day assessment and treatment for those suffering from behavioral health issues. Willamette Family, Inc. operates the facility and others in Lane County. Jon Smith is the senior program manager for the RAC. For more information, call Willamette Family at 344-0031.

### LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

- Transition Management, Inc., 521-5897, plans to ground spray and hack and squirt clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, sulfometuron methyl and/or MSO Concentrate on 46 acres near **Preacher Creek**. See ODF notification 2015-781-00427, call Brian Peterson at 935-2283 with questions.

- M.D. Yearous Logging, Inc., 729-8481, plans to ground spray Accord Concentrate, Oust XP, Transline and Velpar L on 7.6 acres near Doane Rd and 8.1 acres near **Cottage Grove-Lorane Road** and 2.7 acres south of Cottage Grove. See ODF notifications 2015-781-00728 and 2015-781-00722 and 2015-781-00715, call Brian Peterson at 935-2283 with questions.

- Rosboro LLC, 736-2100, plans to hack and squirt imazapyr on over 300 acres near **Lake Creek tributaries**. See ODF notifications 2015-781-00102, 00103, 00104, 00105 and 00106, call Robin Biesecker at 935-2283 with questions.

- Rosboro LLC, 736-2100, plans to hack and squirt imazapyr on 79 acres near **Quartz Creek** and 92 acres near **Lingasher Summit** on the McKenzie. See ODF notifications 2015-771-00109, 00138, and 00139, call Nikolai B. Hall at 726-3588 with questions.