

- **Sen. Floyd Prozanski** will speak to the Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society at 7 pm Thursday, Jan. 15, at Hard Knocks Brewing, 1024 E. Main St. in Cottage Grove.

- **Rep. Tina Koteck**, speaker of the House in the Oregon Legislature, will speak at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, Jan. 16, at the Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette St. Her topic will be "An Opportunity Agenda for Oregonians," including support for education, higher pay, equal pay and affordable housing. \$5 for non-members. See cityclubofeugene.org.

- **OSU soil scientist James Cassidy** will speak at 7:30 pm Friday, Jan. 16, at 100 Willamette Hall on the UO campus. The free talk is sponsored by the Eugene Natural History Society. "It's all about soil!" Cassidy says. "Most people have only a vague idea of what soil is and how it works." Soil is "the reason you are alive." Free.

- Eugene's **Martin Luther King Jr.** events will begin at 9 am Monday, Jan. 19, with a gathering at PK Park (parking is at Serbu Youth Center, 2727 MLK Blvd.), and a march at 10 am to The Shedd at 868 High St. to hear a program of speakers.

- Springfield's 17th annual **Martin Luther King Jr. March & Celebration** will begin at 1:30 pm Monday, Jan. 19, at the Springfield Justice Center, 230 4th St., followed by a gathering, speeches, arts, music and other events at Springfield High School, 875 7th St.

- LCC's annual **Martin Luther King Jr.** events include actor and activist Holly Robinson-Peete as the keynote speaker at a community celebration beginning at 6:30 pm Monday, Jan. 19, at LCC's main campus Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19. Tickets are free and available at the door, but seating is limited. For more information email Greg Evans at evansg@lanecc.edu or call 463-5340.

- OSU's annual **Martin Luther King Jr.** two-week celebration continues through Jan. 23 with the theme "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Change." See schedule at wkly.ws/1vx. See more listings of MLK Day events in our Calendar this week.

- **McKenzie Flyfishers** will meet to hear about juvenile salmon, fishing Gold Lake and forest management practices along the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette Monday, Jan. 19, at Lewis & Clark Catering, 2210 MLK Blvd., behind the Mercedes dealership. Social hour is at 6 pm, dinner (optional at \$17) is at 6:45 and the program is at 8. Call 913-0710 or visit mckenzieflyfishers.org. Non-members welcome.

- The **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** will hold its 15th annual Celebration & Potluck from 6 to 9 pm Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Jasper Grange, 36785 Jasper-Lowell Road. The theme is "The Resilient River: Revitalizing Our River in an Environment of Constant Change," looking at the challenges of human impact and climate change through species revival, successful forest fire management and water quality protection. Open to the public. Call 937-9800 for more information.

- Outdoors author **William Sullivan** will talk and show photos of "Oregon's Top 10 Snow Adventures" in an Oregon Wild gathering from 6 to 8 pm Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Claim 52 Brewing, 1030 Tyinn St. Tacos will be available from the Twisted Tako food truck. See oregonwild.org or call 344-0675 for more information. Free.

- **Cascadia Forest Defenders** is now meeting at 5:30 pm every Monday upstairs in Grower's Market, 454 Willamette. The group also hosts Anarchist Cafe & Political Prisoner Letter-Writing at 3 pm Wednesdays in The Boreal, 450 W. 3rd Ave. Email forestdefensenow@gmail.com to get on the mailing list.

2015 LEGISLATIVE COVERAGE

'This is the time to guarantee that everyone has the right to clean drinking water and the right to be safe on their own property.'

— LISA ARKIN, BEYOND TOXICS



BEYOND TOXICS SPEARHEADS BILL TO LIMIT AERIAL SPRAYS

The impacts of aerial herbicide spraying in Lane County and across Oregon have come into sharper focus in recent years. In 2011, testing the urine of 41 Triangle Lake residents revealed traces of atrazine and 2,4-D, chemicals often included in the soups of toxic chemicals sprayed from helicopters over the state's timberlands. In order to prevent incidents like this in the future, local environmental organization Beyond Toxics is spearheading a legislative bill to limit and inform on aerial sprays.

The bill will "call for changes that will bring Oregon into the 21st century," says Lisa Arkin, executive director of Beyond Toxics, "in terms of Oregon stepping up to science that has been used in other states and establishing buffers that should be as much as five times wider than we currently have."

According to Arkin, the bill will create buffer zones to limit aerial spraying around homes and schools, increase buffer zones around streams and drinking water sources, require timber owners and pesticide applicators to post notifications of upcoming sprays to a website run by the Oregon Department of Forestry and require state agencies to give information about spray chemicals to patients who may be affected by sprays and to their doctors.

She says that the status quo of the timber industry in Oregon — to increase profits at the expense of human health — makes this not just an environmental issue, but also a civil rights issue. "Oregon is restricting the civil rights of our residents — those who are living in rural communities that are exposed to this aerial spray constantly," Arkin says. "This is the time to guarantee that everyone has the right to clean drinking water and the right to be safe on their own property."

Arkin says that the need for this bill to become law is made clear by other state-mandated buffer zones in our region. In 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency said that Oregon's laws are the weakest in the Pacific Northwest.

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, a Eugene-area Democrat, says he agrees that the regional precedent is a compelling argument for increased buffer zones in Oregon. He tells *EW* that although this is only the beginning of the Legislature's review process, he is supportive of the bill and believes that its provision concerning notification is particularly "appropriate."

Both Prozanski and Sen. Chris Edwards of Eugene will have a hand in deciding on the bill, as both serve on the 2015 Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). Edwards is chair. Previous ENR chair Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) and Rep. Ann Lininger (D-Lake Oswego) have been working on the bill since the fall.

— Ben Stone

lighten up

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

My takeaway from the Ducks' loss to Ohio State: Don't mess with your school's colors.