

- Volunteers are needed to help in the **annual count of homeless people** in Lane County and a training is planned for 5:30 to 7 pm Thursday, Jan. 22, at Health and Human Services, Charnelton Room, 151 W. 7th Ave. The count date is Wednesday, Jan. 28. Organized by CALC, call 485-1755 or email calcoffice@gmail.com.

- Rep. **Phil Barnhart** will host a town hall at 11 am Saturday, Jan. 24, at Esslinger Hall, Room 112, on the UO campus. RSVP to rep. philbarnhart@state.or.us or call 968-1411.

- A gathering and benefit for climate activist **David Oaks**, who has been in a wheelchair since his spinal injury, will be from 1 to 4 pm Saturday, Jan. 24, at Cozmic, 199 W. 8th Ave. The event is also a birthday party for **David Zupan** (turning 70) and other Aquarians. Music will be by The Vipers with Deb Cleveland, Elizabeth Cable, David Rogers, Takilma Slim, Michael Brown and Chico Schwall. Sliding-scale donation. See supportdavidoaks.org for more information.

- **We the People-Eugene** is planning a meeting to support Oregon becoming the fourth state to call for a constitutional convention to roll back *Citizens United*. The meeting will be at 3:30 pm Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 13th and Chambers. Speakers include Pastor Dan Bryant, Charlie Swanson and John Flannery. Email willamteddams@q.com or call 937-3034.

- Eugene **Mayor Kitty Piercy** will hold her monthly Mayor's One-on-One outreach meeting from 5 to 6 pm Tuesday, Jan. 27, at Albertsons, 4740 Royal Ave. For more information, call Regan Watjus at 682-8340.

- A program on **"How Green is Your Home Town?"** will be from 7 to 9 pm Thursday, Jan. 29, at the UO School of Law Room 184. Sponsored by the Many Rivers Group Sierra Club and Land, Air, Water. Speakers include Babe Sullivan of the city of Eugene and Sibyl Geiselman and Eli Volum of EWEB. Free.



Those couple days of icy, freezing temperatures last February might stick out in your mind, but while a brief spell of cold days may affect your personal impression of the weather, don't forget that the climate is heating up across the globe, thanks to rising levels of greenhouse gases.

Overall, 2014 was Oregon's second hottest year since record keeping started in 1895, according to researchers with the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute at Oregon State University. The average statewide temperature in Oregon in 2014 was 3 degrees above the average for the 20th century.

Globally, 2014 was the hottest on Earth in 134 years of recordkeeping, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says.

How can we slow the heat? The city of Eugene recently got shout-outs in *Grist* and *Mother Jones* for its energy inventory, reductions in emissions from transportation and for the City Council's goals "to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and to reduce community-wide fossil fuel use 50 percent by 2030."

GSA HOSTS INAUGURAL SEX SYMPOSIUM AT LCC

As a transgender man who identifies as queer, Emmett Ellingson-Ford says adolescence was difficult enough navigating his gender identity, and the fact that high schools focus on heteronormative sex education didn't help. Now, Ellingson-Ford, as president of the student-run Gender & Sexuality Alliance at Lane Community College, is hosting LCC's first-ever Sex Symposium Jan. 23.

"The wider purpose is to open up the discussion and provide information about LGBTQ sex and intimacy since it tends to get brushed over in traditional education," Ellingson-Ford tells *EW*. "It will be a really blunt and specific conversation."

Ellingson-Ford says much of the symposium discussion will focus on answering questions that students submit anonymously beforehand to the drop box at the GSA office (Building 1, Room 206 at LCC) or online at wkly.ws/1wh.

There will also be three panelists: LCC human sexuality instructor Samantha Gibeau, Oblio Stroyman, former marriage and family therapist who now works at As You Like It — the new eco-conscious gender-inclusive sex shop on West 11th,

and Andrew Clark, the GSA advisor at the Looking Glass Riverview School.

"Oregon has some really fantastic sex-ed laws for high school and middle school students," Clark says, but there's "not a lot of info for queer youth." He adds, "I hear consistently huge amounts of disinformation represented."

Clark says, in addition to answering questions, he will discuss consent, condoms and lubrications, how to engage in condom negotiation, sex toys, sexually transmitted infections and sero-positioning — or strategically choosing sex positions to reduce risk depending on a sexual partner's or couple's HIV status. For example, Clark says for a gay man, "If you are the

HIV-positive partner, you have less risk of transmitting HIV if you're the bottom or receptive partner."

The Gender & Sexuality Alliance hosts the Sex Symposium 5 to 7 pm Friday, Jan. 23, at Lane Community College's Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19, Rooms 102-103. The event is free. For more information contact gsalanec@gmail.com or visit wkly.ws/1wi. — *Alex V. Cipolle*

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— EMMETT ELLINGSON-FORD

2015 LEGISLATIVE COVERAGE

LINES DRAWN IN SALEM OVER EDUCATION ISSUES

The state legislative session begins Feb. 2. Several bills have already been introduced, and House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) confirmed at City Club of Eugene last Friday that education will take top priority. The topic could prove divisive, even in Oregon's Legislature with its Democratic majority.

Sen. Jeff Kruse, a right-wing Republican from Roseburg, says he likes the budget framework proposed by the Democratic budget co-chairs a lot more than the one proposed by Gov. John Kitzhaber. Both plans increase spending on education and prioritize expanding opportunity for young Oregonians.

Kotek emphasized the need to focus more on career and technical education, skills training and expanding access to higher ed for all Oregonians. She has introduced a bill that would change the way eligibility for a childcare subsidy works. At a minimum, parents would qualify for a year's eligibility, even if their employment status changed.

The budget proposed by Sen. Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin) and Rep. Peter Buckley (D-Ashland), who co-chair the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Committee, allocates 51 percent of the general fund and lottery fund to education. Their framework proposes spending \$200 million more on education than the governor's budget does. But, unlike the governor's

proposal, which Kruse calls a "wishlist," the co-chairs haven't yet put hard numbers on anything.

Part of the governor's plan is to keep funding early learning hubs, which focus on early childhood education and pool community resources for children and their families.

Kruse says he objects to the state stepping in on people's lives from "womb to tomb," and says he is worried that adding new programs will "distract" people from the other programs in education that are already in place. "The focus for these young kids should be growing strong family units, not having the government take over," he says. The co-chairs' budget mentions increases in funding to the early learning hubs, but doesn't indicate by how much.

Statewide full-day kindergarten is another area in the governor's budget that Kruse and other Republicans have voiced opposition to. The school districts that don't provide full-day kindergarten "are going to be losers in the funding formula," Kruse says. The co-chairs' budget does provide funding for implementing full-day kindergarten, but some rural schools don't have enough space in their buildings to host all kindergarteners all day. The co-chairs' budget suggests that the Legislature consider a temporary capital assistance program to help implement it. — *Lucy Ohlsen*

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