

- *EW* lost a trusted friend and critic when **Arnold Ismach** died on Jan. 16 at age 84. Ismach was dean of the UO School of Journalism and Communication from 1985 to 1994 and has criticized us for “too much entertainment — not enough news.” But his most recent observation, maybe two weeks before his death, was “I read the *Weekly* Thursday nights and it makes me feel good.” Ismach was a lifelong journalist, one whose curiosity and passion for the world around him lasted long past his retirement from the UO. He volunteered for years for Planned Parenthood, many other civic groups and local candidates, plus attended most meetings of the City Club of Eugene where his sharp questions reflected his years of journalistic experience. Arnold Ismach truly wanted to make this world a better place.

- **A decision on MUPT**E, the city of Eugene’s Multiple-United Property Tax Exemption program, is on the Eugene City Council agenda after we go to press this week, and we expect a revised MUPT E will be passed. Too bad, unless by some miracle the tax giveaways are tweaked to encourage truly affordable housing in some parts of town that really need it, such as Hwy. 99. Instead, Eugene will likely continue its tradition of rewarding millionaires with tax breaks for building housing on prime property that would likely have been built anyway. And these new, subsidized apartment buildings will compete with the existing, non-subsidized rental market. The new and improved MUPT E will have well-meaning rules and a review panel for oversight, but we predict developers will find ways to build whatever pencils out, with up to 10 years of tax breaks boosting their profits. Student housing projects might be banned from the new MUPT E, but we expect students will end up living in some of the units anyway, with a wink and a nod.

Councilor George Brown has been critical of MUPT E as it’s proposed, but came up with some ideas this week to make it more fair and transparent. Brown drafted some motions that would require half the rental units in MUPT E projects to be “workforce and/or affordable” housing and provide clear ways for the city to audit and recoup windfall profits from those projects. In lieu of a major overhaul, MUPT E should be written off as a failed experiment in urban planning.

- Fierce lines are already drawn in the **Oregon Legislature**, not yet in formal session, over a carbon tax. Tina Kotek, speaker of the House and a Portland Democrat, told a City Club of Eugene audience Jan. 16 that a carbon tax will be “difficult to do in this session.” That’s probably not what Democratic environmental legislators want to hear. Then comes the newsletter from Sen. Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg) talking about the governor’s “socialist, environmental agenda.” He sees the low carbon standards extension and the carbon tax as two of the worst environmental issues, both expected to come early in the session. Kruse says, “Oregon contains 1 percent of the population of the U.S. and the U.S. population is 3 percent of the world population. Clearly anything we would do would be symbolic at best.” Clearly, those of us concerned about global climate change better sharpen our pencils and prepare to go to Salem.

**QUOTABLE**

Suffering is dysfunctional, except as a bodily warning against danger. Psychologically and socially it’s merely destructive. — Ursula K. LeGuin, *The Dispossessed*, 1974.

**LANE COUNTY AREA  
SPRAY SCHEDULE**

- Zemas LLC, 231-5363, plans to hire Andrew Albert Bluhm, 974-2021, to spray Glyphosate 5.4 with Foam Buster on 35 acres between **Conger Creek and Wolf Creek Road**. See ODF notification 2015-781-01508, and call Dan Menk at 935-2283 with questions.

- Roseburg Resources, 679-3311, plans to aerial and ground spray 950 acres in 12 locations south of **Veneta, Noti and Walton** with atrazine, clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, sulfometuron methyl, triclopyr amine, triclopyr ester and/or Forest Crop Oil. See ODF notification 2015-781-01438, and call Dan Menk or Brian Peterson at 935-2283 with questions.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale, [forestlanddwellers.org](http://forestlanddwellers.org); 342-8332.

## HELP A DOG OUT

*Foster homes let shelter animals shine*

**B**iggie the pitbull was scheduled to be euthanized at Los Angeles County’s Carson Animal Shelter on Dec. 13. He was so shy that no one was interested in adopting him, and the shelter was out of room. But, instead of being put to sleep that day, he was picked up, fed a hamburger and driven to Oregon thanks to a network of animal rescues, animal lovers and people who provide foster homes for pets in need.

Fostering an animal, from baby kittens and dogs all the way to horses, involves giving a pet a home, for anywhere from a couple of weeks to several months. Anyone who has the time and space can do it. In some cases, experience isn’t needed. Many Lane County animal rescues as well as Greenhill Humane Society and First Avenue Shelter (FAS) are in need of foster homes for the animals that come in.

“You can do this successfully without breaking your heart,” says Sasha Elliott of Greenhill. She says one of the reasons holding back potential fosters is fear they will grow attached and not be able to give the animal up. “Of course we all get attached; of course we fall in love, but your heart just gets bigger,” she says. “It’s so much more rewarding to foster than not to be involved at all.”

Emma Scott of the newly formed Northwest Dog Project echoes that sentiment. Like Greenhill, NWDP is looking for good foster homes for the animals that come in. While some animals do well in a shelter, others, like Biggie, become stressed by the commotion and the parade of people coming though. Sometimes this stress means they hide, causing potential adopters to pass them by. Or in other cases, like Matt Cooper’s long-term foster dog Ruby, who spent more than a year at First Avenue, dogs get hyper and bark too much. Cooper says after only a week or two at home, Ruby more or less became a normal dog.

Cooper calls Ruby a “rags-to-riches story,” as the pitbull mix was eventually adopted by Ed King of King Estate Winery. “She’s gone from a concrete kennel to this idyllic existence,” he says. And it wouldn’t have happened without a foster home.

Cooper, who owned his last dog for 17 years, says at some point he will be ready for his next lifelong dog, but for now, fostering allows him to be more flexible. He promotes his fosters on social media and meets potential adopters.

While Cooper takes on dogs from FAS that are behaviorally challenged — he’s had his current foster, Paige, for nine months — other fosters are much shorter term. Elliott says Greenhill needs foster homes to bottle-feed kittens, which can take from two to six weeks to get the felines big enough to enter the shelter.

Darla Clark of Strawberry Mountain Rescue and Rehab utilizes foster homes for the horses she gets in. “A rescue is a shelter,” she says. “And while all nutritional and veterinary needs are met in rescue, any animal is happier in a home environment with a foster parent who can give one-on-one attention.” Also, she says, placing horses in foster gives her more room at her rescue for emergency cases.

NWDP is building a facility, Scott says, and looking for foster homes for the dogs it rescues locally and from high-kill shelters in California. NWDP is looking for fosters for small dogs and for large breed puppies. One thing she says is hard to find is fosters that are experienced with large breeds like pitbulls, who are able to take on “project dogs” but don’t have their own dogs. NWDP provides weekly training for the foster dogs and encour-



**BIGGIE IS BEING FOSTERED BY AN EW STAFFER**

ages the foster homes to be part of that.

Elliott says Greenhill and FAS run their foster programs similarly. Greenhill tends to get more dogs surrendered by owners, while FAS dogs are more likely to be strays. She says potential foster homes fill out an online application and Greenhill follows up with a call: “We talk to them about the program, see what they are looking for and determine if it’s a good fit for both of us.”

She says that similarly to NWDP, Greenhill could use some experienced homes for larger breed dogs, but the shelter’s foster homes “get a lot of support and a lot of training so they don’t have to have previous training. We can give them tools to set them up for success.” This includes a 24-hour helpline, she says.

Foster homes “let them be the dogs they are meant to be, not what society has forced them to be through neglect or abandonment,” Elliott says.

*EW* Associate Editor Camilla Mortensen is fostering Biggie, and has fostered for Save the Pets and Lovable Dog Rescue, and she previously fostered a horse named Sunny for Strawberry Mountain. After a couple weeks in his foster home — and the *EW* offices — Biggie has come out of his shell, begun wagging his tail and happily greeting new people and dogs. Biggie makes his debut at the Oregon Truffle Festival’s Joriad North American Truffle Dog Championships this week. ■

*For more on fostering contact: Greenhill at [green-hill.org](http://green-hill.org), Northwest Dog Project at [northwestdogproject.org](http://northwestdogproject.org), Save the Pets at [savethepets.net](http://savethepets.net), Strawberry Mountain at [strawberrymountainmustangs.com](http://strawberrymountainmustangs.com) or go to [Petfinder.org](http://Petfinder.org) and locate more local rescues with adoptable pets who may be in need of foster homes.*