

- A public meeting on the **2015 Eugene Trails Plan** will be at 6 pm Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Eugene Public Works Parks and Open Space facility, 1820 Roosevelt Blvd. Email philip.s.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us or call 682-4906 for more information.

- **Janet Range**, who supervises education programs at three immigrant detention centers in Portland, will join a discussion about “The Children Who Came Across the Border” at 7 pm Thursday, Feb. 26, at First United Methodist Church, 13th and Olive.

- Citizens in Lane County are joining the international **Education is Not a Crime** campaign and Maziar Bahari’s new documentary *To Light a Candle* will be shown at 7 pm Thursday, Feb. 26, in the Lillis Business Complex Room 182 on campus. A panel discussion will follow with Iraj Kamalabadi, whose sister is currently imprisoned in Iran because of her religious beliefs; Shiva Sabet, who graduated from the Baha’i Institute for Higher Education, the only avenue open to Baha’is in Iran to get a higher education; Ibrahim Gassama, who teaches international law and human rights at UO School of Law; and the Rev. Dan Bryant, a longtime local human rights activist. See eugenebahai.org for more information.

- **Hands Up** is an all-ages “hip-hop police brutality awareness concert” presented by the Black Student Union on the UO campus. The event begins at 7:30 pm Thursday, Feb. 26, at the EMU Ballroom. A suggested \$3 donation will be collected by the Civil Liberties Defense Center. The event will include performances by emcees, DJs, producers, B-Boys and live painting. Find the event on Facebook.

- **“A Human Rights View of Fracking”** is the topic at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, Feb. 27, at the Downtown Athletic Club. Speaker is professor Thomas Kerns of North Seattle College. Kerns is the author of *Environmentally Induced Illnesses: Ethics, Risk Assessment and Human Rights*. \$5 for non-members.

- The **Eugene-Springfield NAACP** and associated organizations are holding their annual Freedom Fund Dinner at 6 pm Friday, Feb. 27, at Valley River Inn. Master of ceremonies will be City Councilor Greg Evans and the theme is “Public and Community Service: Why it is important to engage our young people to serve.” The event sold out last year. To register, visit wkly.ws/1yd or call 484-1119 or email freedom@naacplanecounty.org.

- The **Nobel Peace Park** at Alton Baker Park will host a cleaning and planting event at 10 am Saturday, Feb. 28. Volunteers can show up to help and tools, drinks and snacks will be provided by Eugene Parks & Open Space Department. Email info@nobelpeace laureats.org to get involved.

- An **emergency preparedness workshop** focusing on food and water storage will be from 10 am to 1 pm Saturday, Feb. 28, at the OSU Extension Service office, 996 Jefferson St. Cost is \$20 which includes snacks and handouts. Pre-register at the Extension office or call 344-5859.

- Author **David Barsamian**, founder of Alternative Radio, will speak at 1 pm Thursday, March 5, at Building 17, room 309, on the main LCC campus. His topic is “Media and Democracy.”

- A community forum on **“A Fair Shot for Oregon”** will begin at 6:30 pm Thursday, March 5, at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St. Discussion will focus on legislation regarding the minimum wage, paid sick leave, retirement security, profiling and discrimination. Sponsored by Lane County Strong Voice.

- Coming up is the **Public Interest Environmental Law Conference** March 5-8 on the UO campus. The internationally known conference draws some 3,000 activists, attorneys, students, scientists and concerned citizens from more than 50 countries. See pielc.org for information.

NEWS

NEW CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR LCC AND 4J BOARDS

It’s school board election season, and board positions are opening up at Lane Community College and Eugene School District 4J. Two candidates, one for LCC and one for 4J, are ready to fill soon-to-be-empty spots, running on platforms of affordability, equity, transparency and more.

Phil Carrasco, an active member of the Latino community and coordinator of the Young Fathers’ Program for Catholic Community Services of Lane County, says he plans to run for the LCC Board of Education representing Zone 5 (south and downtown Eugene). The LCC Board of Education is responsible for setting policies at LCC and for adopting the college’s annual budget.

Carrasco says his platforms are affordability, acceptance and accountability.

“I think within the Latino, African-American, Pacific Islander and LGBTQ communities, there needs to be broader representation,” says Carrasco, who cofounded Grupo Latino de Accion Directa, a group that seeks to increase Latino participation in local politics.

“My motivation [for running] partly comes from the great experience I had at LCC with the faculty, and it pushes me to ensure that the faculty there has a fair stake, but I also want to make sure that the students are well represented for diversity issues.”

Carrasco says he’s also interested in making college affordable. “We need to be very exigent of our Legislature that we need this money and that it should be set aside for our future labor force,” he says. “Our region could really take off soon, and key to that is that we invest in our community colleges.”

On the K-12 education front, Eileen Nittler is looking to fill Craig Smith’s spot on the 4J School Board. Smith will not run for reelection.

“I feel I have what is missing on the board,” says Nittler, a social worker for Holt International Children’s Services. “I’ve volunteered extensively throughout the years with 4J, and what I’ve found is that the district has become less transparent, and that has caused a real lack of credibility in what they’re doing.”

She says that, as a social worker, her skills of listening and explaining could help the board bring issues to the front and “shift the culture of the board to open communication.”

Nittler says 4J Superintendent Sheldon Berman’s purchase of CPM math curriculum is an example of how the district needs to improve its ability to communicate with its stakeholders.

“I’m excited to have a new superintendent coming on and starting a new path,” Nittler says, adding that she’d like to reexamine 4J’s shared values and boost its focus on equity.

Both candidates run unopposed as of press time. The deadline for filing as a candidate for both boards is March 19, and the election is May 19. — *Amy Schneider*

OLD GROWTH ALES RAISING FUNDS TO PRODUCE HERB-BASED BREWS

The latest brewery to bubble up in the Willamette Valley is getting ready to take off, and you can help make it happen. Old Growth Ales recently launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$20,000 for equipment, truck upgrades, licensing fees, marketing and other expenses. The end goal: to make locally sourced botanic and medicinal ales commercially available.

“We’ve been doing private events for the last few years, friends’ weddings and things like that,” says Steven Braun, founder of Old Growth Ales. Braun, a Ph.D. candidate in environmental science at Portland State University, says that his program wraps up in June, and he’s decided that he would “rather make ales and work with people than crunch data.”

Located in Springfield, Braun says he’d like to see Old Growth Ales put down roots with a taphouse somewhere near Agrarian Ales, but for now, he’s hoping to raise the money to commercially produce his herbal brews.

With herbalist Amanda Helser, Braun makes concoctions that explore alternatives to hops and barley. “Before beer and hops were king, yarrow was the plant most frequently used for bittering,” Braun says. Plants like hibiscus, lemongrass, chicory, rose hips and nettle drive the flavors of his ales, giving them herbal or medicinal qualities, he says. Products include Stormy Day dandelion stout, Cascadian wine and charrow ale, a mix of cherries and yarrow flowers.

Braun says all ingredients used in Old Growth Ales are either bioregionally sourced or ethically traded. “In the end,” he says, “the creation is meant to preserve the energetics of the plant and bestow that to the drinker.”

Braun’s Kickerstarter campaign ends March 20; see wkly.ws/1yf. — *Amy Schneider*



STEVEN BRAUN AND AMANDA HELSER SIP SOME ALES

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