

SLANT

• An amazing cross-section of this community has come together to buy “the dirt,” 10.2 acres in the center of Eugene. This is the first and most difficult step in building a fieldhouse for kids, restoring a historic wooden stadium and installing a playing field for soccer and fun, adding a pocket park and a walking/biking path. What a lift in a world that seems to be coming apart more than coming together!

At the risk of leaving out important names, we want to tip our hat to some of the players who made this happen: Eugene Civic Alliance, Kidsports, Friends of Civic Stadium, Eugene City Council plus Mayor Kitty Piercy, Manager Jon Ruiz and legal counsel Glenn Klein, the 4J School Board, the Ausland Group, Skylab Architecture, Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architects and Planners, the Eugene Emeralds, Travel Lane County, Lane United Football Club, Friendly Area Neighbors and, of course, all the individuals and groups who contributed to the more than \$4 million raised in the last year.

• Regarding the proposed **\$35 vehicle fee** that will be on the May ballot, we’re seeing letters in the *R-G* and *EW* opposed to it, but we have yet to hear any better alternatives. We asked County Commissioner Pete Sorenson about it this week when he told us he will run again in 2015 (good news!). Sorenson doesn’t like flat taxes any better than we do. He says he looked at numerous other ways to boost our inadequate funding for county and city roads and streets, but the options either conflicted with local government funding rules or were costly and difficult to collect. Taxing emissions would be more fair, for example, but every vehicle in the county would have to be either tested or evaluated based on EPA estimates, leading to massive paperwork and clerical labor. Having the DMV collect the fees is relatively simple and cheap. And Sorenson says the more motor vehicles you have, the more you pay, and if you have no motor vehicles, you don’t pay. Concerns have been raised about the new revenues being used to build new roads and encourage sprawl, but Sorenson says the measure specifically requires the funds to be used only for maintenance and improving safety — for not only drivers, but also pedestrians and cyclists.

• Architect **Otto Poticha** might be accused of jousting at windmills, but his Viewpoint this week reinforces the idea that our old City Hall is structurally sound and architecturally significant and should *not* be reduced to rubble. The photo that Kevin Matthews took (standing precariously on a ladder outside the building) shows the impressive bones of the building. As we’ve said repeatedly: Not rebuilding on that still-solid framework is a huge waste of public resources and defies our city’s so-called commitment to sustainability. See more of Matthews’ photos on our website this week.

As the destruction continues, we’ve heard dust has been seen blowing from the site on these windy days. That’s not supposed to happen. And does that dust contain asbestos that was commonly added to concrete mix 50 years ago?

• Oregon has the highest percentage of **unvaccinated kindergarten kids** in the nation, 7 percent, and Senate Bill 442 coming before the Legislature proposes to eliminate non-medical exemptions for vaccinations. Parents can still not vaccinate their kids; they just can’t send them to preschool or public school. We appreciate Oregonians’ traditionally fierce defense of freedom and choice. The problem is that unvaccinated kids are a public health hazard, not only to themselves and their classmates but also to babies who are too young to be vaccinated. And a lot of the resistance appears to be based on outdated and flawed research. Do we trust the internet and our social network, or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics? The legislation could be amended to give parents more control in the timing of vaccinations, but it’s time for Oregon to join the rest of the nation in recognizing the low risk and high benefits of childhood vaccination. We still remember the horrors of polio and smallpox.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

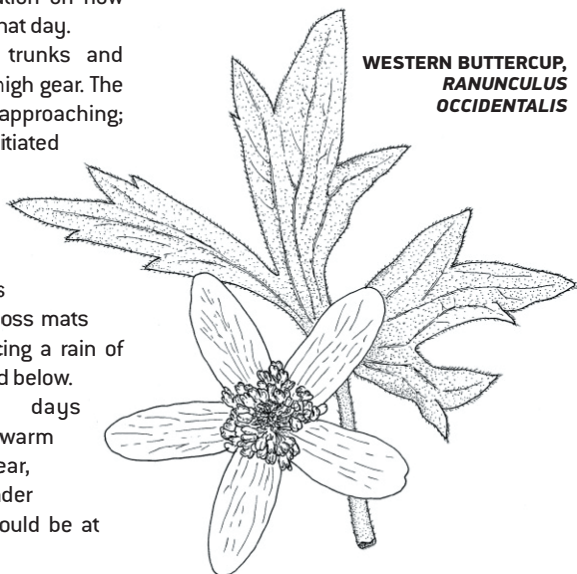
BY DAVID WAGNER

The gray whale cows and their calves are migrating north in good numbers this month. I finally visited the most fabulous place to watch whales: the shelter at the top of the Saint Perpetua Trail. The hike is very steep but a road allows one to drive up. Go early in the day, as the parking lot at the top is small. There are often volunteers with spotting scopes at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center. They have information on how many whales are passing that day.

Mosses on the tree trunks and branches are moving into high gear. The season for fertilizing is approaching; spore capsules must be initiated before the rainy season comes to a close. The tender tissue at shoot tips attract bugs that chew on the tips. The bugs attract crows that rip off moss mats foraging for dinner, producing a rain of moss clumps on the ground below.

With the longer days and unseasonably warm temperatures this year, flowering season is well under way. By Equinox there should be at

least two dozen different kinds of flowers in bloom out at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum. The western buttercup is the gay yellow of the open hillsides while the soft yellows in the woods are from the fawn lilies. Delicate pinks come from the calypso orchids, which line Buford’s trail. This is my favorite time of the year for weekly walks up Mount Pisgah itself, as the flushing of leaves and rush of blooming moves so rapidly.



**WESTERN BUTTERCUP,
RANUNCULUS
OCCIDENTALIS**

300 Shops. Experts. Ideas.



36th annual

Spring!



Lane County
**Home & Garden
SHOW**
MARCH 12-15

It's a Garden Party in the Expo Halls "Barns"
Landscaper's Showcase & Expo Plant Sales!

EugeneHomeShow.com

Admission with Canned Food ~ Fairgrounds
Thurs & Fri. 5-9pm Sat. 10am-8pm Sun. 10am-5pm



Official Show Sponsor

Follow the beat with SELCO.



Richard and his boys needed a new place to jam—with a home attached.



After SELCO’s quick mortgage pre-approval, Richard was ready to start house hunting.



SELCO’s local experts guided him through every step of the home loan process.



He also got a great rate on homeowners’ insurance from SELCO Insurance Services.

And what really rocks? Richard even saved enough for a new drum kit.

selco.org / 541-686-8000

Several locations in Eugene and Springfield

SELCO
COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Live a Good Life.



NMLS# 402847

Membership requirements apply. See SELCO for details.

Banking | Mortgages | Insurance | Retirement | Business Lending