



The pending sale of the **Tsunami Books** building at 2585 Willamette was announced in this column last fall, and it looks like the deal will finally close later this month. Owner Scott Landfield tells us “We will get at least two more years at this location, likely at a considerable increase in rent.” To help cover the rent boost and improvements to the bookstore and events venue, Landfield has launched a 50-day Indigogo crowdfunding campaign. Links can be found at the Tsunami Facebook page.

Near Tsunami at 2621 Willamette is the old **Holy Cow** restaurant building and we see a “Sale Pending” sign on it. It appears the first offer fell through, so this is the second deal. A new eatery coming? Good location with 16 parking spaces, but we’ve seen several restaurants come and go over the years. Santa Fe Burrito Co. was one. Asking price for the property is \$600,000.

The new **Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association** will have its monthly meeting from 7 to 9 pm Friday, April 24, at The Terpene Station, 645 River Road. Guest speaker will be Sen. Floyd Prozanski. Free for members, \$40 for non-members. ORCA formed in early March as a nonprofit “working to help shape responsible cannabis policy in Oregon” and now has about two dozen members, mostly medical marijuana retailers, but also wholesale distributors, software developers and other associated businesses.

Coalesce Juicery and Whole Foods Kitchen is a new food cart that held its grand opening April 19 at the M. Jacobs parking lot, 8th and Olive. Owner is Karina Wolford and she can be reached at (619) 993-0526 or on Facebook.

Rosie is a new nonprofit started by university students to supply free feminine hygiene supplies to low-income women locally and eventually elsewhere. Executive Director Manju Bangalore is a physics and math double major at UO and says she hopes to expand the nonprofit’s services beyond Oregon. Rosie is currently partnering with First Place Family Center and also provides packets of hygiene products to individuals and shelters. The group is doing fundraising through its Facebook page and at rosiecenter.org. Other students involved, all freshmen, include Austin Ferrie, Lucas Pyper and Maria Pervova.

We hear **Todd’s Place**, the popular breakfast and brunch restaurant at 355 E. Broadway, is being torn down to build the new Whole Foods store and will be relocating to 1909 S. A St. in Springfield, site of the former El Rey Family Mexican Restaurant.

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

- ODOT is currently spraying roadsides. Call Tony Kilmer at ODOT District 5 at 744-8080 or call 1-888-996-8080 for herbicide application information. Highways I-5, 58, 99, 101, 105, 126 and Beltline were sprayed recently. ODOT also plans to spray the entire length of Highway 36 soon.

- Transition Management. Inc., 521-5897, plans to spray scotchbroom and other invasives scattered over 774 acres near Doak Creek, Preacher Creek and Marlow Road with clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, sulfometuron methyl, triclopyr and/or aminopyralid. See ODF notification 2015-781-06378, call Brian Peterson at 935-2283 with questions.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale, ForestlandDwellers.org:

NEWS

4J BOARD CANDIDATES FACE OFF APRIL 30

What’s better than a Republican, a Democrat and a Libertarian running against each other for a spot on the Eugene 4J school board? Watching them debate.

On April 30, the South Hills and Southeast Eugene neighborhood associations will host their 4J School Board Candidate Debate between incumbent Jim Torrey, Kevin Cronin and David Nickles for Position 5 on the school board. *Eugene Weekly* staff writer Rick Levin will moderate.

Kevin Cronin, regional field director for the Democratic Party of Oregon, says he was inspired to join the race when he heard about Oregon’s low graduation rates. Cronin says that, at 25 years old, he has lived through the decline of education funding that started in 1990, when Measure 5 passed and changed Oregon’s system for funding schools.

Cronin calls the debate a “healthy exercise in democracy,” adding that he chose to run against incumbent Torrey because no one has ever opposed him. “Torrey is basically Goliath and I’m David,” Cronin says, “and I think it’s important we have this talk as a community.”

Besides funding, Cronin says he’d like to talk about transparency at the debate. “The school board is suing the *Register-Guard* [over a public records request]. Why are they doing that? We need to address these things.”

Torrey, a Republican, former mayor of Eugene and 4J school board member since 2007, says he has not participated in a school board candidate debate before.

“I’m actually happy about the fact that there are debates and competitive races for the school board,” Torrey says. “It’s important that the community hears what’s going on in schools, and we as board members have a responsibility to answer questions about decisions we’ve made.”

Torrey says there’s no question that school funding is an

extremely important issue, adding that the debate is an opportunity to “make sure the public understands we need more funding for education, but we need to do it on a statewide basis, not just 4J or the city of Eugene.”

With new 4J superintendent Gustavo Balderas starting July 1, Torrey says, now is a particularly important time to be involved. “Frankly, I’d like to continue being on the board to help make a difference,” Torrey says.

David Nickles, an LCC student and member of the Whiteaker Community Council, says he threw his hat in the race because his son will soon enter the 4J school system, and Nickles’ own time as a 4J student was “not a pleasant experience.”

When he saw that Cronin was running against Torrey, “I thought he might be a worthy challenger for Torrey, and a good way to get some different ideas into the election would be to

enter a race that I basically have no chance of winning.”

Nickles says he is mostly participating in the election to “shake things up a little bit and make the other guys work for it.”

He says he’d like to see more school choice for students, and would like 4J to recognize that not all children can conform

to the same mold. He says that partisan politics are turning schools into battlegrounds.

While other 4J board positions are contested, Board Position 5 is the only one in which all candidates agreed to debate on April 30. Event organizer Heather Sielicki says candidates from other races are invited to attend the event and speak with audience members before and after the debate.

Position 5 candidates will field questions pre-selected by the Neighborhood Leaders Council from a list contributed by various stakeholder groups and community members. Mayor Kitty Piercy will introduce the debate, followed by opening statements. Organizers have allotted an hour for debate and half an hour for audience questions.

The 4J School Board Candidate Debate is 6:30 to 9 pm Thursday, April 30, at Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard St. Submit potential debate questions to amy@eugene-weekly.com. — *Amy Schneider*

PARENT WANTS MORE DIVERSE ROLE MODELS AT PRINCESS FOR A DAY

Mo Young’s 5-year-old daughter loves princesses. In fact, she “decided she was a princess,” says Young, a longtime community activist and parent.

When Young’s daughter came home from a princess event in tears last year, crying because she “wished she were white,” Young says she felt “heartbroken.”

“She’s beautiful, and she has beautiful dark skin,” she says. “She doesn’t see that in Eugene a lot, or in Oregon a lot.”

Now, Young says she’s encouraging young women of color to volunteer for Princess for a Day on May 3, in hopes that this year’s event will feature more representation for young girls of color.

A Family for Every Child, a local nonprofit for foster children, has put on Princess for a Day every year since 2010 — young girls glitz up in pretty dresses, get their hair done and dine on fancy snacks. Foster children attend free, while other girls from the community can attend for \$50.

Young female volunteers from the community dress up as fairy godmothers to help do hair and makeup and greet the incoming princesses. Young says she thinks her daughter wouldn’t have been as bothered if there had been more volunteers of color.

Christy Obie-Barrett, executive director of A Family for Every Child, says that the nonprofit welcomes all people at Princess for a Day, adding that she would love to see more women of color at the event.

“It is always important for our girls to be able to look up to women they can feel a connection to,” she says.

Young adopted her daughter about four years ago, and although Young herself is biracial, she says, “I have really light skin, so I don’t know what it feels like to walk in the skin that she’s in. We talk a lot in our house about the different shades that black people come in, but this particular event showed me that all of us really needed to be talking more with her, even at 4 years old.”

Young says that even though her daughter wants to be a princess, all the princesses she sees around her and in books and movies are different from her. Young points out that even Tiana, the only African-American Disney princess, has perfectly straight hair.

“We go out of our way to find books and media she can see herself in,” she says, but at Princess for a Day, “she saw a bunch of princesses, and none of them looked like her.”

Obie-Barrett says that the event has always had at least one hairdresser available to do ethnic hair, and her African-American daughter volunteers as a hairdresser, but she welcomes the idea of recruiting more volunteers of color.

“Unfortunately, Eugene is not a really diverse community,” she says, “but it’s really important for us to make everybody that comes feel special, and anything that adds to that, we’re happy to do.”

Young says she’s not sure if she’ll bring her daughter to Princess for a Day this year, but she’s hopeful that through her outreach efforts, volunteers will step forward to provide more diverse role models for the girls.

To volunteer for Princess for a Day on Sunday, May 3, contact sarah@afamilyforeverychild.org. — *Amy Schneider*