

# ACTIVIST LERT

- **School board candidates** from Bethel and Eugene 4J will participate in a candidates forum at City Club of Eugene noon Friday, May 8, at the Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette St. \$5 for non-members. See [cityclubofeugene.org](http://cityclubofeugene.org) for details.

- Revisions to Eugene's **Multiple Unit Property Tax Exemption (MUPT)** program are on the agenda of the Eugene City Council at 7:30 pm Monday, May 11, at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. The meeting begins with a public forum.

- **EWEB riverfront development** is on the agenda of the Eugene City Council in a noon work session Wednesday, May 13, at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. The meeting is open to the public but no public testimony time is planned.

- The **LCC Board of Education** will meet at 6:30 pm Wednesday, May 13, at the main campus boardroom, Building 3, Room 216. The agenda has not yet been posted, but statements from the audience are usually allowed early in the meeting.

## 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. Hwys. I-5, 58, 99, 101, 105, 126, Territorial and Beltline were sprayed recently. ODOT also plans to spray the entire length of Hwy. 36 soon.

*Compiled by Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale, ForestlandDwellers.org, 342-8332.*

## NEWS

>>> CONTINUED FROM P. 9

Scott Beckstead, the Oregon director for the Humane Society of the United States, says the bill is especially needed in rural communities where law enforcement is already underfunded and overloaded.

"Local sheriffs offices don't have the resources to be really aggressive towards these issues," Beckstead says.

The law would be an alternative means to take action toward it, because observers or neighbors could file their own action. Anyone witnessing cockfights, dogfights, puppy mills, the selling of raw fur or just severe animal neglect could use the bill to make the offenders stop.

"This will help society be able to begin shutting down avenues for abuse in other realms," Witt says. He says animal cruelty is often a "gateway" to physical abuse and other crimes against humanity.

Representatives from the Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Dairy Farmers Association testified against HB 2888. They voiced concern that some neighbors might have different perceptions of what animal cruelty is. They are concerned that "normal" practices of animal husbandry might fall under cruelty for some people.

"You can't process a chicken or a pig without harming it first," says Roger Beyer, representing ODFA.

Witt says animal husbandry is not illegal, so his bill would have no effect.

Rep. David Gomberg (D-Central Coast) is also working to make sure laws against animal cruelty are followed. He is the sponsor of HB 2393, a law that would make the "encouragement" of sexual assault of animals illegal. It is meant to target producers and distributors of recordings of sexual acts between animals and humans. The bill would also increase the penalties for sexually assaulting an animal to five years imprisonment, a \$125,000 fine, or both.

Both HB 2888 and HB 2393 passed out of the House and are now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Because Lane County issues code violations in most cases rather than criminal charges, previous legal improvements to Oregon's handling of animal cases haven't always affected Lane County.

Mike Russell of Lane County Parks and Animal Services says, "In general, for those severe cases that we believe rise to a criminal level, Lane County Animal Services would refer those cases to the district attorney for criminal prosecution." — *Lucy Ohlsen*

## IT'S ABOUT TIME

BY DAVID WAGNER



AMERICAN CROW

**M**ay is the month of peak flowering in the southern Willamette Valley. Riparian galleries, oak woodlands and grassy hillsides are awash in a glorious array of nature's prize beauties. This season is celebrated every year at the Mount Pisgah Arboretum with a spectacular wildflower show. The Wildflower Festival is May 17, as always the first Sunday after Mother's Day. Music, food and crafts are all available. As part of the festival activities, I will lead a nature walk and give a talk about fringed cup, *Tellima grandiflora*, the Flower of the Year.

Watching the heron rookery develop by the east Delta Ponds has been exciting, as the number of nests expanded from three and a half to seven. Doesn't seven make this colony a rookery? At any time five or six of the nests are seen actively being tended. Nestlings should be visible soon. Will they fledge unharmed by June? This rookery had been disrupted previously by the depredations of bald eagles.

Discouraging observation: In the past few years the number of abandoned dog poop bags along Delta Pond trails has increased dramatically. There seems to be a new attitude that so long as the poop is bagged, somebody else will collect it. I have always picked up trash; adding poop bags to the task is not pleasant. I continue believing that keeping the paths clean helps deter trashing. Years ago I learned that trash attracts trash and that prompt clean up of a public area reduces long-term policing.

*David Wagner is a botanist who has lived in Eugene for more than 30 years. He teaches moss classes and leads nature walks. He may be reached at [fernzenmosses@me.com](mailto:fernzenmosses@me.com).*

## UO WOMEN WRITERS SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON FOOD, RESILIENCE

Many unique stories and life experiences intertwine with what we eat. A group of notable authors is coming together to share these stories and experiences with Eugeneans with a theme of "Our Daily Bread: Women's Stories of Food and Resilience" at the 2015 Northwest Women Writers Symposium put on by the UO's Center for the Study of Women in Society.

The speakers will also guide attendees through educational workshops. Keynote speaker and Portland State University associate professor Diana Abu-Jaber — whose book *Arabian Jazz* is credited as being the first mainstream Arab-American novel — is a "high-level literary voice" who straddles two cultures — American and Jordanian — and allows us to access the Jordanian side through stories that have food at their center, says event organizer Alice Evans.

"The idea of resilience is an interesting topic because it is a great challenge for anyone interested in the arts," Abu-Jaber says. "I think it applies equally [to] men and women. None of us really have our creative expression valued, and we all have to fight for it. If you want to be a writer, this is going to pertain to your interests in a really practical way."

For Abu-Jaber's family, cooking and food were "some of the most creative forms of expression" in their lives, Abu-Jaber says. Cooking "is a sanctioned form of creativity," whereas "poetry and painting are often seen as kooky or marginalized. But if you can cook well, you can really excite people and invite people in."

Author and critical food studies scholar Breeze Harper will also give a lecture drawing largely from her new book *Scars: A Black Lesbian Experience in Rural White New England*, as well as running a workshop where attendees will use food writing to learn about topics such as racial inequity and anti-racism activism, Harper says.

Food is not mundane and can "tell us a lot about the current state of power and oppression when it comes to race, class, ability, sexual orientation and other social issues," Harper says.

Harper, who is the editor of the anthology *Sistah Vegan: Black Female Vegans Speak On Food, Identity, Health, and Society*, will also speak about ethical consumption and what that means for different groups such as vegans, vegetarians and omnivores.

Memoirist Novella Carpenter and poet Donna Henderson will also speak, and some events will take place at the Downtown Public Library in Eugene.

The symposium is May 7-9. Call 682-5450 to register for workshops and visit [csws.uoregon.edu](http://csws.uoregon.edu) for times. Events are free. — *Mike Bivins*

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— DIANA ABU-JABER