

NEWS

BURRITO BRIGADE, CEREAL FOR THE PEOPLE FEED THOSE IN NEED

On Sunday afternoons in Eugene you may have noticed some people wandering downtown with big, warm insulated bags of food, wafting the scent of burritos behind them. Burrito Brigade is an all-volunteer group of vegan burrito makers that started distributing tasty wraps to those in need about a year and a half ago.

Burrito Brigader Christy Reynolds says the group is in the process of getting 501(c)3 status to make donations tax deductible. Right now, she says, they make about 400 to 500 burritos a week using donated and wholesale ingredients from places such as Organically Grown and from anonymous donors.

Fellow Brigader Jennifer Riehl says in addition to beans, the burrito ingredients vary seasonally and by donation, and have included zucchini, summer squash, rutabaga, sweet potatoes, onions, carrots and tomatoes. “We used to use cilantro, but so many people have an aversion,” she says. “And the burritos are so flavorful without it.” She calls them a “whole meal in a tortilla.”

Every Sunday, the Brigade meets at the Lorax Manner, a student cooperative near the UO that donates the use of its kitchen. Riehl says they begin soaking beans at 10 am, and volunteers begin assembling burritos at noon. At 3:30 pm the Burrito Brigade heads downtown to Occupy Medical (OM) at the Park Blocks at 8th and Oak and begins to give burritos to the unhoused and hungry.

Many of the group’s volunteers have been high school and UO students, who are now gone for the summer, Reynolds says, so more vol-

unteers are needed to make and distribute the meals.

After leaving OM, the group carries the burritos in insulated bags, donated by Trader Joe’s, around downtown and to homeless camps to “walk and look for people in need of food,” Reynolds says. “There’s a lot and they are easy to find.” She adds, “Everybody who does it finds it really rewarding.”

Burrito Brigade volunteer Dana Jo Cook adds a little granola to the mix with her own effort, Cereal for the People, named by her daughter, Fern.

Cereal for the People started a year ago in July, Cook says, when an anonymous donor wanted to make sure that assembly-line knockoffs of bags of

granola that are not “the right weight or if a bag has too many raisins, nuts or berries” went to feed the homeless. When the stack of bags gets too big, Cook gets a call and runs over to pick it up.

Cook says she has given out 180-200 bags of organic non-GMO granola and cereal a week since she started. Like Burrito Brigade, the bags of food go to OM, homeless camps and people on the street, as well as Whitebird Clinic and local churches. “I never seem to have a problem getting rid of it,” Cook says. “We run out and barely scrape the surface of the need in this town.”

Volunteers and donors can contact Burrito Brigade at burritosundays@gmail.com or via its Facebook page where it regularly puts out requests for volunteers and ingredients. Gardeners can also participate in the Brigade’s “Grow a Row for the Hungry” campaign to grow and donate food. — Camilla Mortensen

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— DANA JO COOK, CEREAL FOR THE PEOPLE



POLLUTION UPDATE

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) fined **Lane Community College** \$3,450 last month for hazardous waste and water quality violations related to mismanagement of waste generated during ceramic making at LCC’s 30th Avenue main campus. The waste was placed in a storm drain where it was likely to end up in state waters, and exceeded regulatory requirements for chromium. According to DEQ, chromium is a bioaccumulative heavy metal that can cause mental retardation and impaired organ function. DEQ’s penalty took into consideration LCC’s efforts to address these violations once LCC was made aware of them by DEQ.

Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project

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 and 126 have recently been sprayed and Highway 36 may be sprayed soon.

• Rosboro LLC, 736-2100, plans to hire Western Helicopter, (503) 538-9469, to spray 54.5 acres near the **McKenzie River**, Quartz Creek and Finn Rock with glyphosate, imazapyr, sulfometuron methyl, metsulfuron methyl, Dyne-Amic and/or Crop Oil. See ODF notification 2015-771-08684, call Brian Dally at 726-3588 with questions.

• Doug Carnine, 485-3781, plans to hire Larry Kirner, 206-7187, to ground spray 286.4 acres near **Lorane Highway** with triclopyr, Garlon 4, Garlon 3A, Accord XRT II and/or Forest Crop Oil. See ODF notification 2015-781-09048, call Brian Peterson at 935-2283 with questions.

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

STATE DEBATES FELONY FOR PRIVACY INVASION

Social media and simple image sharing have strained and twisted modern privacy laws. Now, the Oregon Legislature might pass a privacy bill to establish the crime of “invasion of personal privacy” in the first degree as a felony in Oregon. The crime could be punished with up to five years imprisonment.

The proposed law, House Bill 2356 B, states that taking images of a person nude without consent in a space where a person has a “reasonable expectation of personal privacy” would be a Class C felony. The court could also require the defendant to register as a sex offender.

“It’s only a misdemeanor right now and not an appropriate level of punishment for the severity of this action,” says former State Rep. Denyc Boles, who proposed the bill in 2014. “The offender should be held to a higher level of accountability than is current law.”

The proposed law would keep the misdemeanor as a second degree offense for less egregious cases. The Criminal Justice Commission, after analyzing current data, estimates it could result in four more felony convictions per year.

The bill was “generated” from the story of Ashley Buckle, from Keizer, Oregon, who was stalked and secretly filmed by her stepfather, Bryan Tilley. Tilley installed hidden cameras in her bathroom and bedroom, at home and at her college apartment in Corvallis, and also filmed other women secretly.

In October 2014, Tilley was sentenced to 44 months in jail, but only because of a burglary conviction for stealing a tequila bottle from Buckle’s apartment. The secret taping and invasion of privacy was only a misdemeanor. Cases like Buckle’s have spurred legislators on to pass the bill.

“I think with technology increasing it’s hard to keep up,” Boles says of privacy laws. “There have been quite a few new laws this session to keep up with how criminals adapt to social media.”

On June 10, Gov. Kate Brown signed HB 2596 into place, which bans “upskirt photos,” and on June 11, SB 188 banning “revenge porn” was signed into law.

“We were in shock to be told that in the state of Oregon these crimes are only considered a misdemeanor,” says Buckle’s mother, Cathy McInnis, in her testimony on 2356. She and Buckle have been campaigning adamantly for the bill.

The bill has enjoyed huge support so far, passing unanimously in the House and Senate Judicial committees.

Now HB 2356 just has to pass through the full Ways and Means Committee and then will be on its way to a full vote by the Senate, which Boles cautiously predicts could happen next week. — Dash Paulson

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

Eugene’s celebration of **World Naked Bike Ride** last Saturday was listed in a couple of places in our Calendar last week and online, but one of those mentions incorrectly had Friday as the big day. Hopefully not too many people showed up naked a day early. We are em-bare-assed for our mistake.



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