

The next general meeting of the **Eugene/Springfield NAACP** is 11 am, Aug. 15, at 101 W. 10th, 2nd floor, room 209. Get involved and find out how you can help move the conversation forward. Special guest: Our Oregon and the Better Oregon Coalition.

**Your Life in Print: How to Write & Sell Short Memoir** with Melissa Hart is 6:30 pm, Aug. 17, at the Willamette Writers on the River meeting at the First Presbyterian Church 114 S.W. 8th Street (enter Dennis Hall off the 9th Street parking lot entrance behind the church) in Corvallis. Learn to identify compelling topics, write, pitch and sell your memoir. The meeting is free to members of Willamette Writers and full-time students. Guests of members pay \$5. Non-members pay \$10 to attend. No one turned away. More info: willamettewriters.com/wwotr.

**Efficient water use and irrigation:** At 7 pm Tuesday, Aug. 18, Master Gardener and landscaper Bruce Kreitzberg will share techniques for conserving water while keeping yards and gardens healthy, sponsored by the Lane County Master Gardener Association in partnership with the OSU Extension Service. Free, donations accepted, no registration required. OSU Extension Office, 996 Jefferson, Eugene (enter at 10th Street ramp). Questions? linda.renslow@oregonstate.edu.

## LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

Oregon Department of Transportation is currently spraying roadsides. Call Tony Kilmer at ODOT District 5 at 744-8080 for herbicide application information.

M Three Timber Co., 767-3785, plans to hire Western Helicopter Services, Inc., 503-538-9469, to spray 74.4 acres, 1 unit north of Cottage Grove-Lorane Rd and 1 unit near Muslin Creek with Chopper Gen2, Accord Concentrate, Oust Extra, Induce and/or Compadre. See ODF notification 2015-781-11328, call Brian Peterson at 935-2283 with questions.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale, *Forestland Dwellers*: 342-8332, [www.forestlanddwellers.org](http://www.forestlanddwellers.org)

# NEWS

## YOUTH SUE OVER CLIMATE IN LANDMARK CASE

Eleven youth from Oregon have joined with 10 other kids from across the country and with future generations of children to file a lawsuit that attorney Julia Olson says will challenge the U.S. government and ask the federal court system to make a decision as important as *Brown v. Board of Education* (racial equality) or *Obergefell v. Hodges* (marriage equality).

The youth working with the nonprofit Our Children's Trust are seeking equal climate rights for children and for future generations of children and want a national plan for a swift phase-down of CO2 emissions.

Locally, participants include Kelsey Juliana, who has been a plaintiff in previous climate suits, and nationally, former NASA climate scientist James Hansen, who is participating as the guardian of his 16-year-old grandchild and as the guardian of future generations, according to Olson.

Olson — who is the executive director of Our Children's Trust as well as an attorney on the case, together with Eugene attorney Dan Galpern and a California law firm — says the case has several major components. The first is the argument that the federal government is violating due process rights — the right to life, liberty and property. Olson says, “The biggest culprit throughout history has been the U.S. government in terms of responsibility for causing climate change.” When the government is putting a person in a position of danger, Olson says, it has a duty to protect you and it has “knowingly for 50 years caused this problem” of the cumulative effects of fossil fuel activities on climate destabilization.

Next there is the issue of equal protection. The case argues that minor children who can't vote should be treated as a “suspect class” — a group of people who have historically experienced discrimination. When it comes to kids, there is a strong argument that they are a suspect class in terms of climate change, Olson says.

Finally the case involves the public trust doctrine arguing that if the government is causing harm to the climate system, it needs to be enjoined to stop harming it, Olson says.

Another Oregon component of the case, which is being filed in the U.S. district court in Eugene, involves the proposed Jordan Cove natural gas export terminal. Under the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the government grants permits for the export of natural gas when it is going to a free trade country. Jordan Cove has one of

those permits, Olson says, and the case links the permit to the due process issue and the public trust doctrine.

“It's hard to express how big this case is,” Olson says. “If we win on any part of this case, it will be landmark decision.” She adds, “It has enormous potential, and we have really incredible facts we have unearthed about the federal government and a solid legal argument.”

*Rolling Stone* recently mentioned the case in the Aug. 5 article, “The Point of No Return: Climate Change Nightmares Are Already Here,” and Olson says MSNBC came to Eugene this week to film a story on the case. — *Camilla Mortensen*

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— JULIA OLSON,  
OUR CHILDREN'S TRUST

## JAMIE WALSH

After two years at Lansing Community College, close to her family home in suburban Holt, Michigan, Jamie Walsh and a couple of friends moved to Los Angeles to establish California residency and decide where to go to school. “I didn't like L.A. at all,” says Walsh, who headed north to study art history at Humboldt State in Arcata. “It's small, and nature is everywhere,” she says of that much-smaller California town. She graduated in 2006, worked for three years at The Studio, an arts program for adults with developmental disabilities, then came to Eugene for a master's in arts management. As an intern with the Oregon Supported Living Program, she helped develop its Arts and Culture Program as part of her graduate project on arts programs for adults with disabilities. “It's a way for them to learn skills, to be productive and be a part of the community,” says Walsh, who got her MA in 2013 and became coordinator of the A&C Program when it opened the Lincoln Gallery at 309 W. 4th Ave. “It all fell into place. I live a block away.” The A&C Program offers open art studio hours and classes in many visual arts media, and in music, dance, yoga and cooking. “We're open to anyone,” Walsh notes. “You don't need to have a disability.” On Sunday, Aug. 16, 11 am - 5 pm, A&C artists will take part in Print!Eugene, a free event sponsored by Watershed Arts, at 291 Mill Street in Eugene, featuring giant woodblock prints rolled out by street-paving machines. Look for Walsh's own watercolor and acrylic paintings at the ArtWorks Gallery in Corvallis, during the Corvallis Artwalk on Thursday, Aug. 20.

## HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

