

• Before **Fred Taylor** became one of the owners of *Eugene Weekly*, he was the managing editor and later executive editor of the *Wall Street Journal*. Earlier as a reporter, he wrote many of the long, front-page features that made the *WSJ* famous, and his thoughts on writing news stories and the use of photography are quoted again and again in books and articles. Over the years *EW* staff has reaped the benefit of his influence on this scrappy paper and its mission to make the world a better place. This week we mourn his passing Aug. 10 at his home in North Bend.

• Presidential hopeful **Sen. Bernie Sanders** made a splash in Portland Aug. 9, when he drew 28,000 people to see him speak, nearly double the 15,000-person crowd that came to see him in the larger metro area of Seattle the day before. He's rocking the turnout with his platforms of income inequality and removing big money from politics. After Black Lives Matter activists took the stage during his Seattle rally, saying Sanders ignores issues of racial inequality, his campaign added a racial justice portion to its website, and he's been addressing criminal justice reform in his speeches.

Why do so many Oregonians want to "Feel the Bern" in the 2016 presidential election? In addition to income inequality, the self-described socialist touches a nerve when it comes to Wall Street greed, immigration reform, raising federal minimum wage and making public universities tuition-free. Pie-in-the-sky dreaming? We'll take it.

For local Sanders fans, a Bernie Sanders group is meeting 10:30 am Saturday, Aug. 15, at Monroe Park (10th & Monroe). On Aug. 22 and 29, the group will meet at the Democratic Party Office (224 E. 11th Ave.) at 10:30 am.

• **Can we feed ourselves?** That's the question pondered in the latest LandWatch Lane County newsletter. A survey by a Food Studies class at UO last year calculated that Lane County could meet residents' total percent need for grains, but only 75 percent for vegetables, 50 percent for fruit, 20 percent for dairy and 8 percent for meat (looking at beef only). This scenario assumes all 219,625 acres of our agricultural land is converted to food production to feed our county's 356,212 residents, and it assumes adequate irrigation water.

Why bother with such a study? A major earthquake or other natural disaster could cut off the roughly 95 percent of food that's currently trucked into Lane County, and if and when fossil fuel prices skyrocket, so will the price of food shipped in. "Every acre of productive land we lose to suburban sprawl, erosion and industrial development reduces our capacity to feed Lane County residents," writes Lynne Fessenden in the newsletter. She is executive director of the Willamette Food and Farm Coalition.

• We are reminded by the recent attention to the Brian Babb shooting that **police in the U.S.** keep killing suspects, both armed and unarmed, and nearly all killings by police are ruled "justified." We don't even have accurate numbers since police departments are not required to report the killing of civilians to the FBI or any national database. The latest estimate is 400 a year or about eight a week — out of 320 million Americans. British bobbies shot and killed two people in 2014 — out of 63.8 million Brits.

SLANT INCLUDES SHORT OPINION PIECES, OBSERVATIONS AND RUMOR-CHASING NOTES COMPILED BY THE EW STAFF. HEARD ANY GOOD RUMORS LATELY? CONTACT TED TAYLOR AT 484-0519, EDITOR@EUGENEWEEKLY.COM

GOVERNOR DECLARES AWARENESS DAY FOR OREGON NATIVE BEES

Oregon native bees now have a special day of their own. Gov. Kate Brown, at the urging of local nonprofit Beyond Toxics, has declared Aug. 15, 2015, as Oregon Native Bees Conservation Awareness Day.

People should care about the welfare of bees, says Beyond Toxics Executive Director Lisa Arkin. Without bees, crops would have to be pollinated by hand, she says.

In 2014, Eugene gained national attention when it banned the use of neonicotinoids, which are pesticides proven to be particularly harmful to bees. Arkin says the awareness day should bring awareness to stopping the use of insecticides and herbicides. Also important, she says, is preserving native bees' habitat.

"If we don't take steps now to preserve habitat such as west Eugene's wetlands, and stop using poisons that kill [bees], they will eventually go extinct," she says.

Bees are responsible for about 75 percent of pollination for food sources nationwide, according to Joel Ibova,

Beyond Toxics environmental justice and community outreach coordinator. He says that nonnative honey bees only represent 2 percent of the total bee population, putting in perspective the critical nature of saving native bees.

The native bee day also coincides with the reveal of Beyond Toxics' 2015 Beauty of the Bee Photo 'n' Video contest winner.

Catia Juliana, who took second place in the 2013 photo contest, says that it "was really fun to enter and see the beautiful images people have of bees." Juliana, who set up her first beehive this year, adds that seeing bees in an artistic medium makes you more "emotionally attached" and thus more likely to care about the welfare of the bees.

Bee-related events take place all over town this month, including pollinator-inspired drinks and

food at Cornucopia, 295 W. 17th Avenue, on Aug. 15, as well as a wine tasting and benefit for Beyond Toxics 5:30 pm Thursday, Aug. 20, at Silvan Ridge Winery, 27102 Briggs Hill Road. — *Mike Bivins*

'If we don't take steps now to preserve habitat such as west Eugene's wetlands, and stop using poisons that kill [bees], they will eventually go extinct.'

— LISA ARKIN, BEYOND TOXICS

THE GOSPEL OF BREW: THE BEER BIBLE

After working on *The Beer Bible* for nearly two years, author and beer writer Jeff Alworth says he gained a newfound appreciation for all kinds of beers, not just his old favorites.

"I had definite preferences before I started the book, but by the time I finished, it felt like they were my children, and I loved them equally," he says, laughing.

Alworth is visiting Eugene on Aug. 15 to promote *The Beer Bible*, a dizzyingly comprehensive guide to all things beer.

If this book sounds like a benevolent gift to the Pacific Northwest, that's because Alworth is one of our own.

"I live in Portland, Oregon, home to more breweries than any city on earth," Alworth writes in the book's opening section. "If you detect the whiff of a West Coast orientation in these pages, my apologies. I come by it honestly."

The Beer Bible contains vast quantities of history, and rightly so: Beer has spanned the millennia, delighting humanity in the Fertile Crescent and elsewhere. We owe our Ninkasi Total Domination and Oakshire Overcast Espresso Stout to thousands of years of brewing.

The book is organized so that the reader can browse, perusing beers of interest, or read from cover to cover. Each section introduces a category of beer, starting with ales of all sorts: bitters, pale ales, porters and stouts, barley wines and more.

Take the brown ales section, for example: Alworth breaks down the beer's history and its evolution over time,

suggesting beers of a similar style that brown ale lovers might also like — in this case, amber ales and porters.

Next comes a list of "beers to know," specific brews from around the world deemed noteworthy as examples of satisfying brown ales.

And take heart, Ninkasi fans: Under the India pale ale category, Total Dom ranks high as a model IPA. The book is chock-full of fascinating beer facts, obscure beer styles and a useful glossary that can help you sound like a top-notch beer snob in 10 minutes.

Though Alworth journeyed to Europe while researching this book, speaking to German brewers and sampling English beers, he says the Pacific Northwest still represents a unique hub of beer and brewing.

And where does Eugene fit into the world of craft beer?

"What's fascinating about Eugene is that until the mid-2000s, it was a terrible [beer]

scene, terribly underrepresented in terms of local breweries," Alworth says. "Until around 2008, Eugene wouldn't have been considered a beer town compared to Bend or Hood River, but Eugene has finally caught up and it has some really nice stuff going."

Nice enough to get into *The Beer Bible*, at least.

Hear Alworth speak about his book noon Saturday, Aug. 15, at Ninkasi Brewing, 272 Van Buren Street; free. — *Amy Schneider*

