

ACTIVIST ! LERT

- A video of the **NAACP's recent National Convention** will be shown from 6 to 7:30 pm Friday, Aug. 28, at the downtown Eugene Public Library. Discussion will be led by Eugene-Springfield NAACP President Eric Richardson. The video will feature portions of the keynote speeches by President Obama and former President Clinton. The local NAACP will send representatives to the regional NAACP conference Sept. 18-20 in Spokane. See naacplanecounty.org.

- A **fundraising pancake breakfast** in support of GEARS (Greater Eugene Area Riders) education fund will be from 10 am to noon Saturday, Aug. 29, at Arriving By Bike, 2705 Willamette Street. Donations of \$1 to \$4 suggested, and funds raised will be matched by Arriving By Bike. See eugenegears.org or call 953-3843.

- County Commissioner **Pete Sorenson** will be the featured speaker at Health Care for All Oregon's monthly meeting from 7 to 9 pm Tuesday, Sept. 1, at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street. Sorenson will talk about Lane County's present health care system under the Affordable Care Act, and how it is being handled by Trillium, its designated administrator. Trillium has been sold to Centene Corporation, a St. Louis-based health conglomerate.

- Lane Transit District is hosting an **online survey** in addition to public meetings on MovingAhead, a process to gather public input on "how transit, sidewalk and bike facilities could be improved in each corridor" of local transportation. The online survey is at movingahead.org, and the next LTD open house on the topic will be from 4 to 6 pm Monday, Sept. 14, at the Eugene Public Library.

- The **Lane County Planning Commission** has a vacancy coming up representing the western part of the county. The commission makes recommendations to the County Commission on land use issues. See lanecounty.org. Deadline to apply is Sept. 18.

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

- Oregon Department of Transportation is currently **spraying roadsides**. Call Tony Kilmer at ODOT District 5 at 744-8080 or call (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information. Highways 99, 105, 126 near Eugene and Beltline were recently sprayed.

- Freres Timber, (503) 859-2121, plans to spray roadsides in Sections 9 and 11 of Township 16S Range 7W near tributaries of Lake Creek with Element 4 (ester), Opensight, Mad Dog Plus and/or MSO Concentrate. See ODF notification 2015-781-11607, call Robin Biesecker at 935-2283 with questions.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale, *Forestland Dwellers*: 342-8332, www.forestlanddwellers.org



HIGH SCHOOL TRACK IN TAIWAN HIT BY AN EARTHQUAKE

QUAKE PREPARATION GETS ATTENTION ON UO CAMPUS

The lingering aftershocks of a recent *New Yorker* story, which pronounced everything west of I-5 "toast" when a massive Cascadia subduction zone earthquake hits the Northwest, means a lot of attention has been paid to quakes recently. An Aug. 6 UO public forum on the science behind "the really big one" drew more than 500 people, with 200 more watching on live stream. But how ready is the UO itself for a quake?

The UO has been upgrading or planning seismic upgrades for several academic buildings on campus, such as Straub Hall (\$22 million) Fenton Hall (\$5.5 million) and Chapman Hall (\$10.5 million) all funded through government bonds, grants and gifts.

When it comes to paying for immediate emergency response on campus after an incident, Kelly McIver of the UO police says that the university operates like other government agencies or tax-exempt entities like a church.

As a public, taxpayer-funded entity, the UO doesn't pay a per-incident charge for public services like fire response. The same system is true for other government agencies, McIver says, like public schools or the federal courthouse.

Still other tax-exempt entities, such as EWEB, make "contributions in lieu of tax" to local governments to fund things like fire protection.

Christopher Ramey, associate vice president for campus planning, design and construction says that the UO will "continue to seek funding for projects that need retrofits." He adds, "Generally speaking, the buildings we are most interested in are the ones that include unreinforced masonry construction, such as Villard and Deady."

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), generally, "unreinforced masonry walls do not have a grid of steel reinforcing bars embedded within them" and are the "most seismically vulnerable category of construction in a community," with earthquake damage ranging from bricks falling on pedestrians to complete building collapse.

Ramey says, "Seismic retrofits are designed and constructed to meet current building codes. These codes are intended to allow the escape of the occupants in the event of seismic activity."

A 1993 *Oregon Daily Emerald* article, written in response to damaging earthquakes in Klamath Falls, said UO's University Housing was generally ahead of the rest of the state when it came to earthquake safety. Ramey says that still holds true.

Krista Dillon, assistant director at UO's Emergency Management & Continuity office, tells *EW* that in addition to doing outreach on "drop, cover and hold on (hold on to the table or furniture you are hiding beneath)," the UO has developed an incident management team of about 30 people across campus. That group has had "tabletop exercises" to talk through immediate response steps. There are designated meeting areas on campus, generally in large, public open spaces for groups to gather in the case of a quake, she says.

Dillon says the campus is also looking at conducting a full-campus evacuation drill.

In addition to the 700 people who came to the "really big

one" earthquake presentation, Dillon says a couple hundred people came to follow-up presentations, showing a high degree of interest on campus.

She says the campus is encouraging faculty and staff to have a disaster plan for their homes — a one- to two-week emergency kit, rather than the traditional three-day kit. She says the UO has purchased a water filtration system to get a higher volume of water to campus after a quake.

The UO also encourages students to have their own kits. "We will have dry cereal," she says. Parents can purchase backpack emergency kits for their kids during the UO's week of welcome. Dillon says, "It comes back to that personal preparedness."

For more info on UO earthquake preparedness, go to earthquake.uoregon.edu. — *Camilla Mortensen*

PERMACULTURE CONVERGENCE ENCOURAGES GREEN LIFESTYLE

Duck beneath the verdant archway of a home off River Road, then traipse along the side of the house and spill out into the backyard where fruit trees, a water feature, a massive swath of vegetables and a chicken coop create a sort of urban Eden.

Jan Spencer's house is a little unusual. It does not have a typical well-manicured lawn, Spencer says, but it's his vision of the future, if others adapt to the permaculture lifestyle.

Spencer is coordinating the 8th annual Northwest Permaculture Convergence Aug. 28-30 in Eugene, a weekend-long event created to discuss and spread the practice of permaculture.

While permaculture includes taking care of needs close to home, including growing food in the yard, collecting rainwater and using solar panels for energy, Spencer says the practice of permaculture encapsulates much more than that.

"It's a collection of values, ideals and principles," he says. "We want to live more local, but it's not about living like our grandparents. We're mixing traditional wisdom with modern science to create a more resilient, sustainable neighborhood."

The convergence, which alternates years between Oregon and Washington, centers around the River Road neighborhood this year, with an expo taking place at the River Road Recreation Center. The expo features a series of panels intended to introduce and assist people interested in practicing permaculture.

Topics include drying fruits and vegetables, home composting, keeping backyard chickens and harvesting rainwater.

"If we're going to survive as a species, this is going to have to become normal," says Spencer, who bought his house 15 years ago and has since worked to turn the property into an example of permaculture in action. "This is the cornerstone of a new kind of economy."

In addition to the expo, the convergence will feature six site tours, giving participants tangible examples of what permaculture looks like and how it can be accomplished. The tour will start in the River Road neighborhood, with visits to 10 houses within the community, including Spencer's house.

The tour will also stop in the Friendly neighborhood and then visit local businesses that practice permaculture: Back