

SLANT

Was the **Great Willamette Clean Up** Oct. 3 just a short-lived fix in Eugene? Local river advocate John Brown sent a note to Mayor Kitty Piercy Oct. 8 saying, "It is extremely frustrating to see the work of Willamette Riverkeeper and others not last even a week, and right on the banks of one of our most active parks in the heart of the city adjacent to a drinking water source." Brown said this is a "sensitive issue and I'm not asking for people to be kicked out without a place to go but if the city is allowing camping on the water's edge, then why not allow it on the top of the bank and at least protect the waters?"

This week it appears some action will help protect the river, thanks in part to Brown's and the mayor's urging. Craig Carnagey, director of Eugene Parks and Open Space, says his department will "coordinate additional staff to scout for illegal camps within the high-water marks of parks along the Willamette River until river levels go up sometime this fall. Our objective will be to further prevent camps from establishing and/or building up inordinate amounts of trash here." This commitment should help, along with ongoing efforts by the OURS homeless camp to engage with riverbank campers and even collect their trash, but in the end the city needs to do the obvious and designate significantly more legal, safe camping areas and provide sanitation and trash removal.

- What's your **definition of "politicize"** these days? If President Obama had called for a gun in every desk instead of tighter gun controls, would he have been charged with "politicizing" the tragedy in Roseburg? Probably not. We need to watch the use of that word with great care. It is often dishonest.

- Our local legislators look good on the **civil liberties scorecard** for the 2015 session. As the Oregon ACLU reports, "2015 was a good year for civil liberties in the Oregon Legislature. Very few of the bills we opposed made it to the House or Senate floor and many of the bills we supported passed with broad bipartisan support." The percentage of support from all our local legislators was over 83 and many hit 88. That's high considering only two senators and three representatives statewide scored 100. As for what's ahead, the ACLU says, "We anticipate a significant number of bills we defeated will resurface."

- The **Great Oregon Shakeout** Earthquake Drill is happening Thursday, Oct. 15, and it's great to see Lane Community College and other institutions yet again actively participating in this "duck, cover and kiss your ass goodbye" drill. Any preparation we do will save lives, though our Boy Scout efforts will be painfully



inadequate when The Big One hits. Many of our aging roads, bridges, public schools and most public buildings and private residences are vulnerable to damage or collapse even in a moderate quake. Find the Oregon guide at wkly.ws/0 and save an ass or two, maybe your own.

- **From the sports bar:** If USC knew that head football

coach Steve Sarkisian had a serious alcohol problem when they hired him and continued to let him coach until the Trojans lost to Washington last weekend, do some football players have a cause of action against the USC athletic department? Have players lost their chances for a lucrative career in pro ball? And then there's the little rumor that USC is interested in bringing Chip Kelly back to the Pac-12. But Kelly's Philadelphia Eagles won last weekend, finally, so he may be happy to stay longer in the City of Brotherly Love.

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

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hearing in Lane County will be from 5 to 7 pm Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Eugene Public Library. Find the proposed rules at Oregon.gov/boli.

We hear the annual **Two Fly Tournament** hosted by the Caddis Fly Angling Shop Oct. 2-3 raised \$6,092 for the McKenzie River Trust. Over eight years, the popular catch-and-release fly-fishing contest with volunteer fishing guides in driftboats has raised more than \$46,000 to support MRT's work in protecting trout- and salmon-bearing rivers and streams in our region. The event sells out each year; to be notified about next year's tournament, send an email to brandi@mckenzieivier.org.

White Bird's **Stay Warm Drive** has begun to collect blankets, sleeping bags, winter coats, hats, socks and rain gear for those in need in the community. Drop off donations at the Crisis Clinic at 341 E. 12th Ave. or call 342-8255 to arrange pick-up for larger donations.

POLLUTION UPDATE

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently visited **Bright Oak Meat Company's** Marcola Road facility in response to a complaint of "a strong and pervasive odor" originating from the facility. Odor no longer appeared to be an issue by the time of DEQ's visit, and the company attributed the problem to animal viscera not having been transported off-site by a waste hauler. DEQ asked to see waste and wastewater monitoring records during its visit and discovered that Bright Oak was not conducting required monitoring, in violation of Oregon law. DEQ asked Bright Oak to begin conducting monitoring immediately.

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 (888) 996-8080 for herbicide application information. Hwys. I-5, 99 and 126 were recently sprayed. Hwy. 36 will be sprayed soon.

- Weyerhaeuser Company, 746-2511, plans to aerially spread urea fertilizer pellets on 1,877 acres south of the McKenzie River near **Ritchie Creek, Haagen Creek** and other tributaries. See ODF notification 2015-771-13224, call Brian Dally at 726-3588 with questions.

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



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HOW: PRE-REGISTRATION will open Wed., Oct. 14th (5:00pm)

Visit www.wellspringsfriends.org to register for the auction
(no credit card required)

****As a Thank You****

Anyone who pre-registers prior to October 18th, whether you bid or not, will be entered into a drawing for a special prize!

For additional information,

call 541-686-1223 or email rgd_co@msn.com

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