

ACTIVIST ! LERT

- The **League of Women Voters** of Lane County meets at 11 am Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Valley River Inn. Joy Marshall, director of Stand for Children for Lane County, will talk on “How Can We Improve Oregon’s High School Graduation Rate?” Open to the public and free. Call 343-7917.

- The city of Eugene **Public Art Committee** will meet at 3:30 pm Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Eugene Public Library, Singer Conference Room. Call 682-2057 or email isaac.r.marquez@ci.eugene.or.us.

- **“Racial Categories and Statistics: Can We Achieve Justice Without Them?”** is the topic of a free talk by associate professor Kim Williams of Portland State University at 6:30 pm Thursday, Feb. 18, at the UO law school Room 110. Sponsored by the Wayne Morse Center on campus. Call 346-3700.

- **Initiative Petition 28** to tax Oregon corporations to fund public education will be the topic at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, Feb. 19, at the Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette Street. Speakers will represent A Better Oregon, advocating for the ballot measure, and Grow Oregon, advocating for other options to close the gap in education funding. \$5 for non-members, buffet lunch available for \$12. See cityclubofeugene.org.

- Israeli anthropologist, author and activist **Jeff Halper** will speak on “War Against the People — Israel, the Palestinians and Global Pacification” at 7 pm Monday, Feb. 22, at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 N.W. Monroe Ave. in Corvallis. Free. Email caps-info@riseup.net for more information.

- The new **Coalition for Local, Alternative and Independent Media** is meeting in support of returning *Alternative Radio* to KLCC programming. Email zupandavid@gmail.com. An online petition can be found at change.org (search for KLCC).

- Lane County is now recruiting for the **Performance Audit Committee**, which will be composed of four citizen members and one county commissioner. The deadline for applications is Feb. 29. The panel will provide input to the Board of Commissioners on audit matters and is responsible for “ensuring the performance audit program functions well.” Email shanda.miller@co.lane.or.us for information.

- Oregon author **Kathleen Dean Moore** has a new book, *Great Tide Rising: Finding Clarity and Moral Courage in a Time of Planetary Change*, and she will be reading from the book at 7 pm Thursday, Feb. 25, at Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette Street. For more information visit world.350.org/eugene.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In last week’s News section we wrote that Emily Semple was arrested at the Federal Building for protesting for the rights of homeless people, but she tells us, “Although I am an advocate for the homeless, my arrests were to defend our right to free speech on *any* topic.”



DEEPAK CHOPRA TO TALK ON BRAIN SELF-REGULATION

Oregon State University is hosting doctor, author and New Age spiritualist Deepak Chopra in collaboration with the I Am Genie Foundation at the LaSells Stewart Center across from Reser Stadium in Corvallis Feb. 23.

“I’ll be speaking about the topics from my last two books, which were called *Super Genes* and *Super Brain*,” Chopra tells *EW* from the Chopra Center for Well Being in Carlsbad, California.

Chopra’s latest two *New York Times* bestsellers are coauthored with Rudolph Tanzi, the Joseph P. and Rose F. Kennedy Professor of Neurology at Harvard University. Chopra is the author of more than 80 books and advocates for alternative medicine with a focus on the connection between the body and mind.

The India-born American author may be familiar from his appearances on television, and he frequently teams up with Oprah Winfrey on projects, including a recent 21-day meditation weight-loss challenge. Chopra has millions of followers around the world, but he also has a host of detractors. “Scientists and doctors have criticized his views about science and medicine as being unscientific,” according to Valerie Strauss of *The Washington Post*, who has written about Chopra’s scientific controversies.

Chopra says that at OSU he’ll be talking about neuroplasticity, “how you can rewire your brain for optimal well-being and higher consciousness” and on expanding the relationship between our genes and microbiology for self-regulation and healing.

“I’ll also be speaking about a broader aspect of being,” he says. “How to be more fulfilled with your work, spiritual well-being and self-awareness.”

“You will always have the genes you were born with, but genes are dynamic, responding to everything we think, say and do,” Chopra writes in *Super Brain*. “Suddenly they’ve become our strongest allies for personal transformation.”

Chopra adds, “When you make lifestyle choices that optimize how your genes behave, you can reach for a state of health and fulfillment undreamed of even a decade ago.”

He will also speak in Corvallis about medication, movement, emotions, sleep and food as social interaction, about how they can all be understood as changing our biology. He will also discuss “self-direct gene expression in the brain through lifestyle changes.”

According to Chopra, this is the first time the author has visited Oregon in 15 years. He says it’s important to reach the students at OSU because students are the nation’s future leaders.

“Our leadership is in crisis,” Chopra says. “We need younger people to have a higher vision, to be action oriented, to take responsibility for their lives, to understand things with context and creativity.”

The event is 7:30 pm Tuesday, Feb. 23, and tickets can be found at picatic.com/deepakatOSU. Prices range from \$49 to \$175 for Gold Circle seats with the opportunity to attend a meet-and-greet with the guest speaker.

“I’m looking forward to it,” Chopra says about the event. “It’s a new audience for me and I’m really excited.”

— Mohammed Alkhadher

TOXIC PESTICIDE DETECTED IN EUGENE MARIJUANA

Hey, hold on just a second before you fire up that weed — it could be toxic as hell.

A shiver ran through Eugene’s marijuana community Feb. 5 when the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) ordered the stop-sale of Guardian, a popular pesticide, after it was discovered the product contained abamectin, an insecticide that is highly toxic to bees and marine life, and which in high doses may lower sperm count in men.

Widely used by cannabis growers for its apparently all-natural ingredients like cinnamon oil, Guardian Mite Spray came under suspicion at a local lab when repeated tests of marijuana came up positive for abamectin. “In each of these cases, the cultivator claimed the only pesticide they were using was Guardian,” says Bethany Sherman at OG Analytical in Eugene. “With the third client, we urged them to bring in the pesticide itself for analysis.”

OG Analytical alerted the ODA, which confirmed the presence of abamectin in its samples of Guardian. The pesticide has now been pulled from grow shop shelves nationwide. The product itself had received a FIFRA [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act] exemption, meaning the Environmental Protection Agency “cleared it as exempt from standard pesticide tolerances,” Sherman explains.

“It’s possible that the manufacturer, All In Enterprises, added the abamectin to the product formula after the FIFRA exemption was approved, but this information hasn’t been disclosed,” she adds.

Sherman points out that the state of Oregon’s legal weed program currently doesn’t require testing for abamectin, and as far as she knows, OG Analytical is the only cannabis lab in the state that routinely tests for the pesticide. “To be clear, despite the relevant toxicity of abamectin, because abamectin is not regulated by the OHA [Oregon Health Authority], a finding will not cause a failure. If we find it,” she adds, “the dispensary can still sell it.”

What this means is it’s possible, if not likely, that Eugene retail dispensaries are currently selling marijuana laced with abamectin. Adam Jacques, lead grower at Oregon Microgrowers Guild, says the discovery of abamectin in a product commonly used in the industry is a “big deal” because a lot of so-called safe pesticide sprays might be falling under the radar. “The newest guide for acceptable spray use in cannabis gardens is pretty vast,” Jacques says. “Lots of nasty stuff in there.”

Jacques, who prefers using diluted hydrogen peroxide as “spot” pesticide when necessary, says that labs like OG Analytical go “above and way beyond” the standard in letting growers and consumers know what’s in their cannabis, and he cautions growers and consumers alike to beware: “Trust your dispensary and trust your grower.”