

ACTIVIST ALERT

- A benefit concert with Rob Tobias, followed by a **discussion about community radio** in the Eugene/Springfield community will take place at Reality Kitchen, 645 River Road (next to Countryside Pizza). Sponsored by Eugene Peaceworks and Reality Kitchen, the concert is a fundraiser for KEPW-FM. The event opens its doors at 6:30 pm Friday, April 29. KEPW says “KEPW 97.3 will be Eugene’s first grassroots, community-powered radio station, providing programming that is local to the core.”

- Ophelia’s Place, a community for girls, will host Girls Rule!, “**Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead**,” a one-day event for girls ages 9-14 and a parent or caring adult on 9 am – 3 pm Saturday, April 30 at Churchill High School. Highlighting the event will be keynote speakers, Kimberly and Rebecca Yeung, ages 9 and 10, who made national headlines when they sent a homemade aircraft to the edge of space and back, and recorded the entire journey on a GoPro. STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) topics will include computer programming, fun with fractals, owl pellet dissection and more. Free with a suggested donation of \$10-\$50. Lunch is provided. Pre-registration closes April 29. Attendees may also register at the door. To register for Girls Rule! 2016, visit opheliasplace.net. Contact Celeste Yager-Kandle at 541-284-4333 for more information.

- **Local filmmaker Timothy Lewis** is fundraising for a new documentary about the first through-hike on the Jack-Ash and Applegate Ridge Trails, connecting Ashland to Grants Pass. “Although portions of each trail are already well known and heavily visited, other portions are little used and relatively undefined,” hikers and board members of the Applegate Trails Association Josh Weber and Luke Ruediger write on their Kickstarter campaign site. The entire 80-mile trail corridor has not yet been hiked. “The film will be used to raise awareness, build support and inspire volunteers to get involved.” For more information go to kck.st/26szqBL.

- 350 Eugene is hosting “mobilization meetings” leading up to **Break Free PNW**. The next meeting is 5 pm Wednesday, May 4, at The Boreal, 450 W. 3rd Street. “This May we’re breaking free from an industry that plans to turn the Northwest into a dirty energy superhighway with the largest coal and oil terminals on the continent.” There will be updates on Break Free PNW actions and events, affinity groups, tactics, transport, lodging, art builds and more. More at world.350.org/eugene/.

- Randi Feland, president of **Umpqua Strong**, says that registration for the Umpqua Strong 9K and 5K in Roseburg is set to open May 1. The Oct. 1 race falls on the one-year anniversary of the Umpqua Community College shooting and “is meant to honor victims, first responders and survivors,” Feland says. Participants can register as individuals or as part of a team and are encouraged to fundraise, as all proceeds above event costs will go toward UCC student scholarships. Register at umpquastrong.org.

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

Oregon Department of Transportation is spraying roadsides. Call 503-986-3010 to talk with a vegetation management coordinator or call 1-888-996-8080 for recent herbicide application information. Hwys. I-5, 36, 99, 101, 126 and Beltline were recently sprayed.

New Growth LLC, c/o FIA, c/o Mason Bruce & Girard, 973-1951, plans to hire Rye Tree Service Inc., 999-0295, to spray its roadsides near and north and south of Florence and Mapleton with a long list of chemicals including 2,4-D, dicamba, diesel oil, aminopyralid, clopyralid, hexazinone, sulfometuron methyl and a long list of adjuvants including surfactants, crop oils, foam busters, dyes and odor maskers. See ODF notification 2016-781-04587, call Jim Hall at 541-997-8713 with questions.

FIA Timber Partners II, LP, 973-1951, plans to hire Rye Tree Service Inc., 999-0295, to spray its roadsides near and south of Florence and Mapleton with 2,4-D and a long list of other chemicals including surfactants, crop oils, foam busters, dyes and odor maskers. See ODF notification 2016-781-04589, call Jim Hall at 541-997-8713 with questions.

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

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our story on the EWEB commission race, we wrote Sonya Carlson would resign from the UO’s Office of Sustainability if she were elected. Carlson clarifies that she is a graduate fellow and her position ends in June when she graduates and if elected she would not be working for Steve Mital during her term as EWEB commissioner.

NEWS

FLURRY OF EDUCATION FORUMS ENCOURAGE PUBLIC INPUT

Have something to say about education? In the next few months, Eugeneans have a multitude of opportunities to voice their thoughts in a series of public forums, some specifically for Eugene School District 4J and some on a statewide level.

According to Kerry Delf, 4J’s associate director for communications, 2,027 people responded to 4J’s online survey, which wrapped up earlier this month and asked community members to describe, among other things, what aspects of education should take priority — survey takers could choose from categories such as “highly qualified teachers and staff” and “higher graduation rates,” or they could write-in a category.

Delf says that one topic in particular has emerged repeatedly as one of concern to the 4J community — class size.

“Our class sizes have grown over the years, and they are higher than the school district would like to see,” Delf says.

At a recent meeting on 4J elementary class sizes, parents expressed dismay about kindergarten classes with more than 30 students (see “Parents Concerned about Elementary Class Sizes,” March 3).

The first community feedback meeting was April 21, and the next two, May 12 and June 2, are opportunities to talk about the future of 4J and help the district come up with its strategic plan for the next few years.

The 4J Visioning Committee will use this information to help set the district’s priorities, Delf says.

On a statewide scale, Oregon Rising will hold a number of meetings throughout Lane County to find out what

Oregonians dream for schools and children. The public outreach effort, sponsored by the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, the Oregon Education Association and the Oregon School Boards Association, is nonpartisan and is not affiliated with any campaigns or ballot measures.

Instead, it’s an attempt to get Oregon thinking about what might be possible for schools if funding was not an issue.

“It’s not that money doesn’t need to be taken care of, but so many other groups are tackling that,” says Cathy Hamilton with Oregon Rising. “This is about removing all of the barriers that have framed a lot of the discussions for the last 20 years and figuring out what could happen.”

Oregon Rising encourages people to think big — at meetings, community members can take a survey and talk about their priorities for Oregon schools. The groups behind Oregon Rising will then take that information and create a report to be shared with education leaders and legislators later this year.

“People have been really excited to step in and share their dreams,” Hamilton says, adding that Oregon Rising hopes to hear from 10,000 people around Oregon.

Oregon Rising meetings are happening all over Lane County in the next few months, including a gathering 7 pm Tuesday, May 3, at Willamette High School, 1801 Echo Hollow Road. See oregon-rising.org for a full list.

4J’s Vision 20/20 Community Update and Feedback Meetings are 7 pm Thursday, May 12, at North Eugene High School, 200 Silver Lane, and 7 pm Thursday, June 2, at Roosevelt Middle School, 680 E. 24th Ave.

Admission for all events is free. — *Amy Schneider*

FUTURE OF THE SOUTH WILLAMETTE RE-ZONING IN QUESTION

Is the South Willamette Special Area Zone, the controversial plan to change the zoning of the buildings around Willamette Street from 23rd to 32nd avenues, “an unlawful bait-and-switch money-making scam”?

That’s the question Brian Wanty asks in a recent email to the mayor, Eugene City Council and planners. He says the city’s plan for a Multimodal Mixed Use Area within the SW-SAZ does not comply with state planning requirements.

The SW-SAZ looks to be up in the air right now: Terri Harding, who leads the city’s long-range planning team, told the Friendly Area Neighbors that: “Sometimes, we make mistakes. The South Willamette Special Area zone is one of those times.”

Mayor Kitty Piercy in an April 22 email to the city manager and City Council writes, “I applaud our planners for having some forthright and honest conversations with neighborhoods about what could have been done better.” Piercy continues, “I intend to try to help us all move forward — to get unstuck. I am not suggesting revisiting the former rezone proposal. I am suggesting pressing a restart button on the community process with some changes.”

Zack Mittge of Hutchinson Cox attorneys, with Wanty as his client, sent a letter April 1 to the City Council commenting on the SW-SAZ. The letter says the plan is not a Multimodal Mixed Use Area (MMA) and cannot be approved consistently with Statewide Planning Goal 12 and the Oregon Transportation Ruling Plan.

A Multimodal Mixed Use Area has a denser level of development of a variety of commercial and residential uses than in surrounding areas and “an understanding that increased automobile congestion within and around the

MMA is accepted as a potential trade-off,” according to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Mittge points out that the Multimodal Mixed-Use Area the city had in mind for the SW-SAZ requires “wide sidewalks and other features, including pedestrian-oriented street crossing, street trees, pedestrian-scale lighting and on-street parking.” Wanty expands on this in an April 26 email to the city, writing, “if the SW-SAZ includes the MMA designation, all new development would be subject to the state regulations. Therefore, the code amendments that make the pedestrian amenities optional are unlawful and disqualify the SW-SAZ for the MMA designation.”

Wanty says, “So, this bait-and-switch scam has nothing to do with walkability and is really about maximizing tax and fee revenue to the city, and maximizing profits for developers and investment property owners.”

He says if the city goes forward with the plan, it is a recipe for filings with the state Land Use Board of Appeals “decades into the future.”

As of April 26, the city’s land use application details webpage still lists the SW-SAZ as “recommended approved.” Wanty asks, “When will this be changed to ‘application withdrawn?’”

Piercy tells *EW* that the City Council has received Wanty’s email. She says after her communication in regard to hitting the “restart button” on SW-SAZ, Councilor Brown submitted a process proposal for consideration. Piercy will “schedule a meeting for discussion of this proposal and other considerations we have been asked about.” — *Camilla Mortensen*