

• **Vaxxed: From Cover Up To Catastrophe** will be playing at the David Minor Theater starting June 10. According to the movie's description, "Vaxxed" is an investigation into how the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], the government agency charged with protecting the health of American citizens, concealed and destroyed data in their 2004 study that showed a link between the MMR vaccine and autism. This alarming deception has contributed to the skyrocketing increase of autism, potentially the most catastrophic epidemic of our lifetime." Michael O'Sullivan of *The Washington Post* writes of the movie: "Vaxxed never mentions that the movie's director and main on-camera 'expert,' Andrew Wakefield, is a former gastroenterologist and researcher whose license to practice medicine in Britain was taken away in 2010. Neither does it say that the original 1998 study [of a mere 12 patients] suggesting a link between the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine and autism was later retracted by the journal that published it, which went on to accuse Wakefield of scientific fraud. Or that all of the study's authors, save Wakefield, have subsequently disavowed its findings." Go to davidminortheater.com for prices and showtimes.

• Don't freak out! It's a drill! **You might see people in uniforms running around June 7-10.** "Emergency Operations and Coordination Centers at all levels of government and the private sector in Washington, Oregon and Idaho will activate as part of 'Cascadia Rising,' a national level exercise that will simulate a 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami along the Washington and Oregon coast. Thousands of people, including military personnel, will participate to test a joint response to one of the most complex disaster scenarios facing the Pacific Northwest."

• The downtown Eugene Public Library is **looking for teenage volunteers** to work on its Teen Team on Tuesdays, June 28 through Aug. 16. Participants will "help staff prepare items for check out, set up crafts projects for younger kids, create displays, clean and organize books and more." For more information, call 541-682-8316.

• There will be a **350 Eugene Summer Meet-up** from 7 to 9 pm on Wednesday, June 15, at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street. It will include a recap of the Break Free Anacortes civil disobedience action against fossil fuels, oil refineries and transportation by rail and ship and planning for a July 6 event to educate the public about the dangers of oil trains now rolling through Eugene, 350 member Betzi Hitz tells *EW*.

• **Young activists can get their start** at the Next Generation Climate Justice Action Camp, a week-long overnight summer camp for up-and-coming community organizers interested in environmental and social justice issues. The camp is July 12-19, and youth ages 14 through 18 are invited to attend. The camp will be at Camp Apserkaha, a Jackson County campground about 25 miles east of Ashland. Youth registration for the camp is open and can be found on the Civil Liberties Defense Center website. The cost of camp is \$150 for the entire week, including meals. Full and partial scholarships available, and free vanpool transportation from Portland, Eugene, Jackson County and Humboldt County. Interested teens and parents are encouraged to email camp@cldc.org or call 541-687-9180.

YOU CAN'T FIGHT CITY HALL

The City Council has yet to approve a budget for City Hall, yet the project continues to lurch forward

Councilors George Brown, Greg Evans and Chris Pryor do not recall the Eugene City Council ever voting to move into the "construction documents and bid the project" phase for a new City Hall.

Yet buried in a June 1 *Register-Guard* article "Lane County eyes bigger chunk of Eugene's City Hall block for new courthouse" was a comment from city spokeswoman Jan Bohman: The City Hall "project team is currently working with the direction we received from (the City) Council on April 27, which is to complete construction documents and bid the project so that we have firm costs to present for their consideration in July."

Brown wonders how the City Hall project could move to this middle phase when the City Council has yet to approve designs or approve a budget, one that has ballooned from \$15 million to potentially \$25 million or higher.

"The project is still not transparent," Brown says of City Hall. The city manager is "doing this exactly backwards."

Pryor tells *EW* that he sees no problem with moving forward to the next phase.

"There was no specific motion to direct the city manager to prepare bids," he says. "I didn't think we needed one. I don't know how we would expect to get accurate cost estimates without doing bid documents."

The remaining councilors did not respond to a request for comment on whether they recall voting to move City Hall to the next phase.

Confused? Let's back up.

The City Council is technically the boss of City Manager Jon Ruiz (not an elected official), who oversees all city staff. The city manager takes direction from the City Council, not vice versa, and communicates that direction to staff. When it comes to City Hall, however, it's become unclear who is directing whom.

Secondly, a capital project like City Hall typically has five phases. Boiled down they look like this: 1) initial design; 2) refined design; 3) the "construction documents" phase, or when the architects create detailed requirements for construction, which are used to secure bids and permits; 4) bidding and negotiation; 5) construction.

"That's pretty standard," confirms Matt Tinder, American Institute of Architects spokesman.

On April 27 — the work session to which Bohman refers — the City Council voted on four areas relating to City Hall, including rejecting private offices for councilors and voting to forego building to the highest seismic standard. The council also approved building City Hall to LEED Gold energy standards and gave the nod to certain "civic quality" standards, like using salvaged materials from the old City Hall.

"Those are potential elements of the project that we voted on," Brown says. "Nothing ever said 'proceed to construction documents phase without finalizing the budget.'"

Brown sought answers about the City Hall process and status and, on May 27, emailed City Hall Project Manager Michael Penwell — cc-ing the council, city manager and mayor — with six questions regarding the project's budgeting and phasing.

Brown says Penwell has yet to respond, but on June 2 Mayor Kitty Piercy responded to answer one of Brown's questions to Penwell, writing that the council had approved a series of motions April 27.

"Those motions gave the final direction that staff and the architects needed to complete the documents for the bidding process," Piercy writes. "Staff explained during that work session that based on the final direction, bid documents would

be finalized and sent out; bids would be received and reviewed by the general contractor; and the general contractor would provide the city with a not-to-exceed construction price."

She continues: "Staff then would bring to council that proposed construction price so that council could decide whether to approve moving forward with construction."

'The project is still not transparent.'

— GEORGE BROWN, EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

The mayor tells *EW* she is in Beijing and unavailable for further comment.

On June 5, Brown responded to the mayor via email:

"Staff and city manager are putting the cart (soliciting bids) before the horse (setting a project budget and identifying funding sources)," he wrote. "The budget and funding should be approved by council first; then the architects, construction manager and subcontractors all know where they stand and how to make the bids fit into the monies available. Otherwise, council will have to tailor the budget to the total of subcontractor's apparent low bids approved by the construction manager/general contractor."

As for an April 27 motion to move the City Hall project to the "construction documents" phase, Brown says, "I'm sure that no one ever made a motion like that."

Councilor Evans seconds that notion.

"My recollection of that meeting is the same as Councilor Brown's," Evans writes to *EW*. "My understanding was that the council would receive a 'report' on the revised costs estimates for the [city hall] project. I am certainly not ready to move the project forward without more information and a full vetting of our options."

Brown tells *EW* he believes that the project is still in the design development phase.

"You don't tell a contractor to get bids when you don't even know what the budget is or where the money is going to come from," he says. "We obviously have to approve a budget before bidding and construction."

The city staff will present on City Hall to the council July 11. ■

To see all of Councilor Brown's questions to Project Manager Penwell, see the story's extended online version at eugeneweekly.com.