

ACTIVIST ! LERT

- The Civil Liberties Defense Center is hosting a free **Resisting ICE: Immigrant Rights for Allies** training 6 to 8 pm Monday Sept. 18 at the Wesley Center, 2520 Harris Street, Eugene. The CLDC says, "In light of Trump rescinding DACA and the safety of our undocumented neighbors getting more compromised each week, our community needs to come together and act. Join us for a Know Your Rights training specifically for allies who want to be help protect and support the immigrant community! The training is focused on what the laws are around immigration, and how allies can assert their rights to help protect immigrant communities."

- The Democratic Party of Lane County Central Committee Meeting will host a **Eugene performance auditor info session** 6:30 pm, Sept. 21, at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High Street. Mayor Lucy Vinis' performance auditor workgroup and City Accountability, the group that is pushing for an independent elected city auditor, will be presenting and taking questions.

- St. Vincent De Paul is seeking businesses and individuals to provide parking space for its **Overnight Parking Program** in preparation for winter. People can volunteer overnight parking spaces by leaving a message for Keith Heath at the Eugene Service Station at 541-461-8688. Other ways to help the homeless include donating to St. Vinnie's new Youth House project, which will provide housing and services to homeless teen girls; to the Connections programs, which helps homeless families transition to stable housing; to the First Place Family Center, which provides critical services to families with children; to the SSVF program, which helps veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to the Eugene Service Station, which provides services to homeless adults. Donations may be made online at svdp.us or by calling Development Director Paula Berry at (541) 743-7144.

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY INFORMATION

- Waylon Mobley, 541-954-4541, plans to hire Oregon Forest Management Services, 541-520-5941, to spray 57.3 acres near Doak Creek with Accord XRT II, Oust Extra, Polaris SP, Roundup Pro Concentrate and/or MSO Concentrate. See ODF notification 2017-781-11324, call Brian Peterson at 541-935-2283 with questions.

- Ron Kummer, 541-954-7288, plans to hire Strata Forestry, 541-726-0845, to spray 14.2 acres near Peaceful Valley and Lusk roads with glyphosate, sulfometuron methyl, metsulfuron methyl, imazapyr, clopyralid, triclopyr and/or Induce. See ODF notification 2017-781-10858, call Brian Peterson at 541-935-2283 with questions.

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OREGON REFUSES TRUMP NOMINEE

Oregon's US senators oppose Trump's appointment to Ninth Circuit Court

Both of Oregon's U.S. senators pushed back hard and fast against a Sept. 7 move by the Trump Administration. The senators all but accuse the White House of a power play involving nepotism and patronage in its nomination of Ryan Bounds to fill a vacancy on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley threw an immediate obstacle in front of President Trump's nomination of Bounds by writing a strongly worded letter to White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn declaring their refusal to return "blue slips" on the nomination, saying they are choosing to honor the longstanding bipartisan process for making judicial selections.

A "blue slip" is a slip sent to both senators from a nominee's state, in which they can submit a favorable or unfavorable opinion of a nominee. The Senate Judiciary Committee takes blue slips into account when deciding whether to recommend that the Senate confirm a nominee.

Refusing to return a blue slip, as Merkley and Wyden have both done, shows an objection to the nominee.

On Monday, *Eugene Weekly* obtained a memo from Wyden's office calling for applications for the vacancy on the Oregon seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals — a bold call suggesting that the senators are proceeding under the assumption that Trump's nomination will not be confirmed in the U.S. Senate.

Applications are also being accepted for a vacancy in the U.S. District Court of Oregon, and the deadline to apply for both po-

sitions is Oct. 1, the memo says. The short deadline, as well as established process of a selection committee choosing finalists before forwarding them to the White House, is a clear counter-move against Trump's attempt to ignore judicial tradition.

In the letter to McGahn, Wyden and Merkley say that by nominating Bounds, the Senate would be dishonoring Oregon's "long bipartisan tradition of working together to identify the most qualified candidates for judicial vacancies."

Merkley and Wyden also note that disregarding the tradition brings back the days of "nepotism and patronage that harmed our courts and placed unfit judges on the bench." They further mention that they previously communicated their intent for the selection process by providing the White House counsel a list of names to consider — but wrote that now it is clear Trump "never intended to allow our longstanding process to play out."

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is reputedly the nation's most liberal federal court district. In sharp contrast, Bounds, originally from Hermiston, previously served as a White House advisor to former President George W. Bush, and is a member of the Federalist Society — an organization of conservative lawyers and judges.

"You have demonstrated that you were only interested in our input if we were willing to preapprove your preferred nominee," the senators wrote. "The judicial selection process is not a rubber stamp, and the insinuation that our offices were purposefully delaying the process is an indication of the partisanship with which you are pursuing this nomination."

The senators say that they are choosing to honor the longstanding bipartisan process and will not return blue slips for Bounds — nor for any nominee that is not selected through Oregon's judicial selection process. ■

HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

SHANE MACRHODES

On Friday, Sept. 29, in Portland, The Street Trust, formerly known as the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, will present its Bud Clark Lifetime Achievement Award to Shane MacRhodes of Eugene, whose advocacy was instrumental in securing \$125 million for Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) in a recently passed statewide transportation bill. A third-generation Eugenean, MacRhodes moved to Alaska with his mom at age 11, when his parents separated. "I biked to high school in Anchorage," he notes. He returned to Eugene for a BA in psychology, then got started in cargo biking with Pedalers Express, a division of the Center for Appropriate Transport. He subsequently worked in a cargo bike collective in Davis, California, started a cargo bike division in a bike courier collective in Spain, and spent five years with a collective in the East Bay area in California, where he met his wife Melissa. "I told her that Eugene was home," he says. "She came up in 2005 and we took a year to circumnavigate the U.S., 11,000 miles by bicycle." A few months later, he took a grant-funded job at Roosevelt Middle School to start an SRTS program. "I saw the opportunity for a regional program," says MacRhodes, who partnered with Bethel and Springfield school districts and the city of Eugene's recreation program. He enlisted Bike Friday founder Alan Scholz to design a fleet of 40 bikes, adjustable to the size of the rider, to be used for bike-safety courses in school PE classes. Five fleets are now in use. Last year, MacRhodes left his job at Roosevelt to spend more with his own kids, third-grader Isadora and second-graders Ben and Gus. He also trains cycling instructors for the League of American Bicyclists.

