

SLANT

- Who could have imagined that professional football players would be leading the way with a **profound free speech statement about racial justice and human rights** in the U.S.? Who could have imagined that we would have a president and vice-president who would distort that statement for political advantage? We're disappointed in NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's call to make all players stand. But locally, we're proud of the South Eugene boys' and girls' soccer players who took a knee to agree with the NFL players. School District 4-J followed with a fine statement supporting the students' right to free speech.

- It's time to celebrate the fact that **Kesey Square probably will be called Kesey Square!** The recent City Council committee vote of 7-2 goes to the full council, which should affirm it (see our blog post at eugeneweekly.com). Then the city can continue the good work it has been doing to make a proud public place equal to the great literary work that Ken Kesey gave us all. We want to point out the terrific writing EW's journalists and viewpoint writers did to keep the square public and open and alive in the face of opposition from some elements of the downtown business community and city government. Now, on to an even better Kesey Square in the center of our city.

- Students took over the stage for a "state of reality" protest Oct. 6, upstaging University of Oregon President Michael Schill's "state of the university" speech. Meanwhile, at Lane Community College on Oct. 9-10, a group called the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform put on the "Genocide Awareness Project" linking photos of aborted fetuses to genocide and lynchings, and students at LCC angrily protested in response. LCC has said it will review which displays it allows on campus. At the UO, Schill accused students of denying his right to free speech as he had to leave the stage and give his speech via video. As our annual Back to Campus issue goes to press, the protests remind us that **college campuses are, and should be, hotbeds of not just protest but of open-minded inquiry.** Well-paid UO President Schill might ponder that thought when alleging his free speech was infringed on by a protest led by students of color, LGBTQ students and low-income students.

- **Eugene Symphony's new music director, Francesco Lecce-Chong**, found himself buffeted by the lethal wildfires that killed at least 17 people in California's wine country this week. A candidate for the job of music director at the Santa Rosa Symphony, which post he could hold while working here, Lecce-Chong guest-conducted the orchestra there in two concerts last weekend with pianist Joyce Yang before the fire erupted on the edge of town Sunday night. He was forced by the conflagration to cancel the same program Monday at Sonoma State University. Lecce-Chong and Yang are both fine, says a Eugene Symphony spokeswoman.

- As Oregon's wildfires succumb to rain, **those wildfires in Santa Rosa, California** were shocking in their speed and ferocity. October is typically a bad time for fires in California, but so many fires springing up at once is stunning. No, it was not the firefighters not responding in time or the Forest Service being slow to use a supertanker to drop water that's to blame for the destruction. From worsening wildfires in the West to hurricanes in the South and the East Coast: It's climate change.



- **AeroSynth Electronic Wind Instruments** is a new high-tech startup based in Eugene. Company founder and inventor of the AeroSynth instrument is Brad Stewart, who has 40 years experience in embedded electronic systems, product design and engineering. Stewart says his next-generation electronic wind instrument (EWI) is played much like a saxophone, clarinet or recorder, and goes far beyond earlier EWIs that were awkward, bulky and expensive. Several working prototypes of the AeroSynth have been made but mass production and marketing are still in the future. One of his top priorities is getting low-cost EWIs (about \$150) into thousands of schools. Stewart says he's tapping his own resources so far, but he's also looking for marketing help and financial partners. Videos of Stewart demonstrating and talking about the instruments can be found at aerosynth.com.

- **Value Village** at 555 W. Centennial Blvd. in Springfield closed last March after 20 years, and the building is now being remodeled into a 27,000 sq. ft. gym called **Pursue Fitness**. "We have spent \$1.2 million transforming the old Value Village into a beautiful facility," says owner Troy Hake. "We have held to a low price with a basic membership only costing \$15 a

month with no enrollment fees, no annual fee, no hidden fees, no contracts." A pre-sale on memberships began Oct. 9 in anticipation of the fitness center opening Nov. 1. A description of the facility and its programs can be found at pursuefitness.club or by calling 503-383-8274.

- The sixth annual **Community Service Awards Breakfast** will be at 7:30 am Wednesday, Oct. 25, at Venue 252, 252 Lawrence St. in Eugene. Community members who are champions in the field of drug and alcohol treatment in multiple categories will be recognized. Find registration information at serenitylane.org — look for "CSA breakfast."

- **Public radio stations** are busy with their fall fund drives now and **KLCC** is doing its online "Stealth Drive" through Oct. 17 in an attempt to raise enough money to avoid the traditional on-air campaign that interrupts programming. One fall fund drive that does not get much attention is **KRVM**, which has a loyal audience for full-time acoustic music. The station at 91.9 FM in Eugene and 88.5 FM in Oakridge provides on-air experience for local high school students, along with production and engineering skills training.

Send suggestions to bizbeat@eugeneweekly.com.

SAT, OCT. 14

1st
annual

11 AM - 5 PM

FARMERS UNION FALL FESTIVAL

5% of all
Down To Earth
& Mountain Rose
Herbs Sales go
to RFC

a benefit for:

Support your local
farm and business
community



Join us for a harvest gathering with the South Willamette Chapter of Rogue Farm Corps and the Farmers Union community.

ROGUE FARM CORPS

training the next generation of farmers and ranchers

532 OLIVE STREET IN EUGENE

live music by:

• **ASHLEIGH FLYNN & THE RIVETERS** •

• **BREAKERS YARD** • **SUGAR PINE STRING BAND** •

• **PAUL QUILLEN** •

FOOD TRUCKS - RAFFLE PRIZES - LOCAL BEER & CIDER



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**Are you ready for the winter storm season?
Curious about utility infrastructure improvements?**

EWEB Open House

Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Eugene Water & Electric Board

500 East 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene

Free parking, near LTD bus stop and bike path

Stop by EWEB Headquarters for practical information on winter preparedness, energy and water efficiency incentives. Hear project updates and provide feedback on electric generation resources, pricing, and more. Speak with EWEB managers and commissioners. Bring the kids for an interactive electrical safety demonstration. Door prizes and light refreshments offered.

Can't make it? Live chat with @EWEButility on Facebook or Twitter, or visit eweb.org for preparedness tips and program information.

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