

Oregon Daily Emerald

How did Oregon
fare in Pac 10?
See Page 7

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Special arrangement

Dorothy Kephart spends part of Memorial Day Monday arranging flowers to place on the grave of her husband, Frank, a World War II veteran, at the Resthaven Cemetery in south Eugene.

Photo by John Giustina

ASUO Executive changes hands

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Kasey Brooks and Karen Gaffney assume control of EMU Suite 4 as the new ASUO Executive takes office today.

Brooks, ASUO president, and Gaffney, vice president, said they both have been very busy since the April elections with law school finals, EMU Board duties and attempts to establish a new office.

"I've been touching base with different areas on campus," Brooks said, adding that the recently completed hiring pro-

cess also took up a considerable amount of time.

Brooks just completed her first year of law school and spent the weeks after the elections catching up and getting ready for finals.

Gaffney, a junior journalism major who was also chairwoman of the EMU Board, has been meeting with her predecessor, Caitlin Cameron, and discussing various projects Cameron has been working on, Gaffney said. This is to ensure a smooth transition and continuation of those projects, she said.

This has gone well, she added, saying Cameron has been "wonderful" to work with.

Brooks has been working closely with former President Steve Nelson on the ASUO insurance program. Brooks and Nelson both are serving on the insurance committee next year and flew to Chicago on Monday to work out details with a potential insurance carrier, Brooks said. They will return Wednesday, she said.

Brooks said she isn't happy about missing her first day in

Turn to ASUO, Page 5

Education posts added to governor's staff

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's request for funding to add to his staff three members who will concentrate on education in the state was approved by a Ways and Means Subcommittee last week.

The three added education specialists will cost the state \$342,237 in the next biennium.

That figure is part of the 63 percent increase in the two-year budget that Goldschmidt requested for his office; an increase that is larger than any other agency's requested increase this legislative session.

The education specialist positions will include one cabinet-level assistant to the governor. The executive assistant for education will earn \$4,999 a

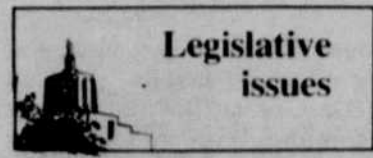
month.

Theoretically, the funding for these positions will come from reductions in the not-yet-approved budget for the Oregon Educational Coordinating Commission.

Legislators say they're not sure about the details of what Goldschmidt has in mind for these staff positions.

But the governor's executive assistant, John Yunker, generally explained that the education specialists will "be looking at planning and policy issues for

Turn to Education, Page 5



Legislative issues

month.

A second education specialist position will cost \$3,727 a month.

And a part-time administrative support position to assist the two education

Pets welcome in nursing homes as company, therapy for elderly

By Scott Maben
Of the Emerald

Twenty years ago, if a dog was found running inside a nursing home it probably would have been escorted out the front door.

But today domesticated species are welcome visitors and even permanent residents in most nursing homes. Dogs often are taken in to provide spunk and companionship throughout the wide corridors and quiet sitting rooms.

Volunteers for local animal shelters bring dogs, cats, and sometimes even rabbits to many of Eugene's nursing homes each week for pet therapy sessions. On Thursdays, pets are brought to the Hillside Heights Convalescent Center, boosting morale for everyone, according to Andrea Gillispie, the activities and social services director at Hillside.

"The first time we did this I was really surprised. A lot of the residents who respond to very little responded well to the animals," Gillispie said.

One woman at Hillside who seldom chooses to leave her room and who refuses to take part in organized activities immediately became enchanted with the animals, Gillispie said. "She'll hold them on her lap and talk to them, telling them how cute they are. She becomes real animated and gets all excited about it," she said.

Some of the animals used for pet therapy at Hillside visit as part of the Pet Facilitated Therapy program at the Lane County Animal Regulation Authority, a Eugene-based county agency handling most animal control and shelter facilities in the area.

More than a dozen volunteers pick out pets from shelters under the jurisdiction of the regulation authority and take them to nursing homes in Eugene, Springfield and outlying towns, according to Lisa Moses, the education and volunteer coordinator for the regulation authority.

The therapy program began serving nursing homes and retirement centers last fall. Program volunteers currently visit up to 15 facilities a week.

In addition to its therapeutic value, the program aims to encourage nursing homes to adopt pets from local shelters "so that the people can have the benefit of the animals all the time," Moses said.

"Some of them can't see, but they can feel the fur and the warmth," she said.

Moses said that during one visit she placed a puppy in the lap of a man who had neither spoken to her nor paid any attention to the pets during previous visits. Once he had the animal in his arms, "he just started talking away... I didn't even know he could speak or hear," she said.

To encourage pet therapy, the regulation authority will waive the fee for adoption of a pet by nursing homes. The pets are also spayed or neutered, administered shots and licensed without expense. The regulation authority currently is applying for membership in a national program that finances adoptions and lifetime care of pets for senior citizens, whether they live in a nursing home or not, Moses said.

At Hillside, pets make room-to-room visits, "especially to the people who are in bed, who can't get out of their room," Gillispie said, adding that one day the residents "fell in love" with a half-poodle, half-terrier puppy, which they have since adopted and named Scruffy.

Currently, Scruffy is attending obedience school for voice control and temperament but is expected to be back making social calls soon. "He

Turn to Pets, Page 5



Photo by Scott Maben

Leona Johnson, 81, gets a start while feeding carrots to Ginger, one of several pets owned by the Applegate Residential Care Center in Eugene.