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TODAY

The Vietnamese Student Association is holding a meeting today from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Room 260 Condon Hall



TOURNAMENT HOOPS

The men's basketball team's season came to an end Wednesday night with a 71-61 loss to Hawaii in the National Invitation Tournament.



WEATHER
Cold & Wet.
High 50. Low 30.

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Town Hall Meeting



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Ward 3 City Councilman Bobby Lee speaks with some citizens who attended the Town Meeting, held at the Eugene Public Library Wednesday evening, concerning Measure 47 budget cuts.

Citizens voice opposition to core cuts

CONCERNS: Town Hall meeting attendees expressed support for the library, youth recreation, disability programs and outdoor programs

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

They came to show the value of their programs, and they came to vent their frustrations, yet citizens involved in a joint ward meeting designed to increase public involvement in the Measure 47 service-cutting process understood the tough choices members of the City Council are having to make.

Councilmen Bobby Lee and Scott Meisner, with Mayor Jim Torrey weigh-

ing responses in the audience, listened to all 44 speakers' opinions Wednesday night in the city-sponsored Town Hall meeting which drew about 130 people to the Eugene Public Library.

Citizens from Wards 3 and 7 expressed major opposition to culture and leisure services slated for heavy reductions or eliminations. Not only was the library continually praised as a "core" service in the quality of life of Eugene, but citizens were not accepting cuts in disability programs, youth recreation or outdoor programs.

"When I think of things on this list that I would be willing to let go of, I see something like the Eugene Celebration," said Anne Dochnahl, a 13-year Eugene resi-

dent. "In my opinion we can't justify throwing a party if we can't afford basic services."

The city is bracing for a \$10 million reduction in property tax revenue due to the passage of Measure 47. The Council must reduce next fiscal year's city services in order to account for the lost revenue. Measure 47 limits the amount of property taxes the city of Eugene can collect and curbs future tax increases to 3 percent.

Citizens representing neighborhood associations also came out in full force to show the value of the \$87,000 they receive each year. George Towe, vice-chair of the Crest Drive Citizens Association,

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Council chooses cross site

MOVE: The city chose to move the cross to the Eugene Bible College, but the plan must still be approved

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

It's up to the courts now, Mayor Jim Torrey emphatically pronounced Wednesday afternoon as the City Council unanimously approved Eugene Bible College property as a recommended relocation site for the Skinner Butte Cross.

Tuesday night the Skinner Butte Cross Relocation Committee voted four-to-one in favor of recommending the bible college, located on Bailey Hill Road, to the council.

"The committee did a great job in a short timeline," said Gretchen Miller, chair of the relocation committee. "There's a lot of people in town who I think deserve some kind of word of thanks because the attitude and cooperation throughout have been good."

The seven-member panel chose the college site over three local churches, Santa Clara Church of Christ, Calvary Chapel and Garden Way Church.

The city was forced to remove the cross due to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling last August, which held that the cross' location on city-owned property violated the separation of church and state clause of the Constitution. In a Feb. 20 ruling, U.S. Magistrate Thomas Coffin told city officials to devise a plan to remove the cross.

The question on at least one councilors mind was if this was the final solution to

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THE PROCESS

- **WHAT:** Recommendation for a new site for Skinner Butte cross
- **WHERE:** Eugene Bible College
- **HOW:** Approval of the council recommendation by the U.S. District Court

Gang activity, violence pose 'serious threat' to Eugene community

YOUTH: Signs of increasing gang activity have school officials and police concerned about Eugene's young people

By Ryan Maughn
Community Reporter

When Francis Hartely Gisbourne, 70, was lured out of his house in Cheshire in October of 1992 and beaten to death with a pipe by an admitted member of the Los Angeles-based Crips gang, it was a wake-up call to the community that even sleepy Eugene can't hide forever from the threat of gang violence.

In the last three to five years, the schools and the police department have seen a rise in gang activities. "We are seeing more tagging, more aggressive behavior and more assaultive behavior, especially among younger people," Jan Power of the Eugene police department said.

"We have seen a dramatic increase in

graffiti around the school," said Lynne George, principal of South Eugene High School.

While gang violence in Eugene doesn't compare to that of larger cities across the country, these early signals have alerted police that gang activity is growing in the city.

"We now have well over 400 documented gang members in this area...who are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime in the city," Sgt. Dave Poppe of the Eugene police department said. Because of Eugene's mobility, however, gang activity is not centralized in any one region.

Gang violence is a serious threat to a community, according to Sgt. Poppe, but

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WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Community Service Officer Tom Boerman speaks to 6th graders at Cal Young Middle School about the dangers of gangs.