

News briefs

LTD raises prices

You could ride a bus Saturday if you have only a dollar. Try to ride with a buck on Sunday, though, and you might have to walk instead.

The Lane Transit District is raising bus fares Sunday, but the change shouldn't be too dramatic for regular bus riders.

A regular adult fare will go up from \$1.00 to \$1.25, while day passes will increase from \$2.00 to \$2.50. Youth and senior tickets will increase from \$.50 to \$.60, while youth and senior day passes will increase from \$1.00 to \$1.20. Youth tickets are for 5-18-year-olds, and senior tickets are for ages 62-79.

LTD riders can still save money on tokens, monthly passes and three-month passes. Five-packs of tokens still cost \$4.25, monthly passes cost \$28.00 and three-month passes cost \$65.00. LTD will also

continue special fares for Medicare recipients, children under four, seniors over 80 and those with disabilities.

Free HIV testing, counseling available today

The Lane County Public Health office is offering free HIV testing and counseling today at its office on 135 E. 6th Ave. Testing will be offered all day and counseling will be available from 9 to 11 a.m. The testing commemorates National HIV Testing Day, which was June 27.

Legislature passes financial aid grants

As the two-year budget for state universities moves closer to Gov. John Kitzhaber's desk, The Oregon Legislature has passed two grants that increase funding to help students relieve the burden of the upcoming fall tuition hike.

House Bill 5015 includes \$500,000 of federal money for the

Student Child Care Block Grant, and the Human Resources Subcommittee allocated \$1 million to the Student Block Grant. Both will come before the governor in the coming weeks.

Emeralds rained out

For only the fourth time in more than six years of Northwest baseball, the Eugene Emeralds were rained out at Civic Stadium Tuesday night.

The Ems, currently last in the Northwest League's West Division with a 2-5 record, dropped their first two home games to the Vancouver Canadians. Tuesday's game with the Canadians will be made up in Vancouver Aug. 26.

Eugene will play three games at Salem-Keizer starting tonight, then return home for a five-game stand against Yakima. That series concludes with the July Fourth fireworks show Wednesday.

Meditation music company sues Napster

By Andrew Kramer
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — A company that sells meditation music has filed a federal lawsuit against the file-swapping Internet site Napster, alleging that a warning notice included with its product is omitted in the Napster version.

The light and airy flute music, with sounds of birds and running water in the background, may pose a danger to drivers or heavy machinery operators who could fall asleep from the mellow tracks, according to documents filed Monday in Portland's U.S. District Court.

The Beaverton-based Centerpointe Research Institute, which specializes in meditation music and materials, asks Napster for protection against liability associated with the downloaded files.

"Having Napster giving this out for free puts us in a position of people using this who don't know what this will do," said Bill Harris, Centerpointe's founder. "It's not just like listening to music."

Napster declined Wednesday to comment on the lawsuit.

The case was a new twist on Napster's legal troubles, which have focused mostly on copyright infringement, said Harris' attorney Robert Dorband.

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founder,
Centerpointe Research Institute

Napster, which is based in Redwood City, Calif., is currently striking deals with record companies for legal music distribution.

The Portland lawsuit also seeks losses from copyright abuse, and alleges Napster used two registered trademarks, Holosync and The End, without permission. It also claims Napster used the labels to falsely identify meditation music

not made by Centerpointe.

Harris said he found copies of his recordings "Immersion" and "The Dive," from a package of relaxation music called "The Awakening Prologue," swirling about on Napster's Web site last spring, and that Napster did not remove the files when he asked.

"The Awakening Prologue" sells for \$149 per cassette and \$159 per CD and includes instructions and access to a telephone hot line for meditation questions.

"I consider them giving this away to people stealing," Harris said.

Harris said he first became interested in meditation in the 1970s and practiced the discipline with friends. He said he designed the music to ease stress and bring listeners into a mental state verging on sleep for health benefits.

Harris said he was not aware of accidents involving drivers who were listening to "The Awakening Prologue" since the recording went on sale in 1990, but "for legal reasons, we have to say this takes you out of your usual state of consciousness."

He was arrested Monday after police stopped a car that had been reported stolen. Police found Beal sleeping in a house owned by an occupant of the stolen car, Donald Gregory Wiseman, said Springfield Police Sgt. Dick Jones.

Beal was charged with escape and was returned to jail, Jones said. Police believe he may have helped steal the car, he said.

Wiseman was not charged, but

another passenger, Lori Lund, was arrested for on an outstanding warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

Beal was serving time for burglary, aggravated theft and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He was scheduled for release in 2004.

Police on Wednesday were still investigating the car theft that led to Beal's arrest.

The Associated Press

News wire brief

Police find escaped prisoner sleeping in Springfield home

SPRINGFIELD — Police found a man who escaped from a minimum-security prison last week sleeping in a house here.

Martin Elery Beal, 31, walked away from a work site near Scio Mill on Friday.

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