

Tobacco

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"If students can get out of here in four years without smoking or chewing, the numbers say they probably will not start," said Paula Staight, health education director at the University Health Center.

Smokeless tobacco comes in two basic forms: snuff and chewing tobacco. Snuff is the highly ground or shredded form of tobacco, most commonly sold in a small round can. Users place a "dip," "wad" or "chew" of snuff between their bottom teeth and lower lip. Snuff users can often be identified by the tobacco ring in their back pocket.

Chewing tobacco is known as the more coarse and leafy cut of tobacco. Users place a "chew" or a "wad" in their cheek pouch. Severson said baseball players are a common group that uses chewing tobacco.

Severson said the high nicotine content is a lure for chewing tobacco. Tobacco companies offer a wide range of smokeless products, from the sweeter-tasting Skoal Bandits, which have very little nicotine, to

the heavy-hitting Copenhagen, which contains as much nicotine as three packs of Marlboros.

University sophomore Jeff Struthers never saw the lure of chew.

Struthers chewed Skoal for just less than three months, bought at most a can a week during that period and dropped it cold turkey.

"It was something I tried out. I thought it was gross, and I stopped using it," he said. "It was no problem quitting."

Major tobacco companies are beginning an attempt to paint smokeless tobacco as a more healthy alternative to cigarettes. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company, formerly United States Tobacco, formally petitioned the Federal Trade Commission in early February for permission to create advertisements that say its products could be a safer alternative to smoking.

Officials such as Severson have been trying to demystify that notion.

"Smokeless tobacco is not harmless," he said. "It is not a safe alternative."

E-mail features editor John Liebhart at johnliebhart@dailymerald.com.

EWEB

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bus of the evening back from 11:40 p.m. to 10:40 p.m., decrease frequency of Route 11, which serves Springfield, and make other schedule changes. LTD was also planning on cutting Route 78, which connects West Eugene to the University, but has since decided to keep the popular route running in the morning and late afternoon.

Spokesman Andy Vobora said the bus company has already collected public feedback for the proposed route changes, but students are welcome to come.

"We never discourage people

Public issues

EWEB's rate hearing is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in EWEB's board room at 500 E. 4th Ave.

Sprint's appeal for its 120-foot cell tower is at 5 p.m. Tuesday, in the City Council chamber at 777 Pearl St.

LTD's board meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at 3500 E. 17th Ave. in Glenwood.

SOURCE: City of Eugene

from coming," Vobora said. "Feedback is good for the board to hear."

E-mail reporter Brook Reinhard at brookreinhard@dailymerald.com.



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