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Council raises fine for weed offenders

Eugene increases the fine for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, but opponents worry it will hurt medicinal users

Jan Montry
City/State Politics Reporter

The Eugene City Council voted 6 to 1 Monday to more than double the misdemeanor fine for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, despite outcry from the pot-smoking community last month.

The fine increase had been in talks for months as city officials worked to build on the success of BUSTED, a low-cost alcohol-related diversion program run by the University's Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Monday's vote will increase the fine from \$100 to \$250, and city officials hope it will be enough to provide incentive for drug offenders to join "Marijuana and Other Drugs," a new diversion program also being implemented by SAPP.

"I will be voting against this."

Betty Taylor
Ward 2 city councilor

The program will cost \$90 and will be open to the public. The current state diversion program costs \$600 to \$900 and requires a large time commitment to complete.

Opponents of the increase, while not able to express their concerns during the meeting, have decried the efforts based on concerns that the increase would adversely affect medical marijuana patients. Some patients, the opponents said, can't afford the \$150 medical marijuana card and are forced to buy on the street.

A few city councilors echoed opponent concerns shortly before the City Council voted overwhelmingly to pass the measure.

Ward 2 City Councilor Betty Taylor, who cast the lone dissenting vote, said
Turn to **Marijuana**, page 5A

Flashers plague campus area

The Eugene Police Department has received several reports involving indecent exposure, masturbation

Caron Alarab
Crime/Safety/Transportation Reporter

ASUO President Rachel Pilliod became the latest victim Monday in a series of indecent exposure reports filed in the past few days. An older man reportedly exposed and stroked his genitals toward Pilliod while she was leaving her residence near East 21st Avenue and Alder Street on Monday morning. While all the incidents have occurred in relatively the same area, suspect descriptions given by the victims — all of whom were female — don't match up.

"Indecent exposure is a definite form of sexual harassment," Sexual Assault Support Services spokeswoman Michelle Edwards said. "Just like in date rape, flashers are testing the victim, trying to see what they can get away with."

SASS provides support services to students and community members in need of counseling and representation after being victimized through sexual violence or harassment. Edwards said the context of the incident, the actions of the flasher and the personal experience of the victim in any such encounter weigh heavily on the crime's emotional impact.

Pilliod said she felt it was important to report the incident not only for her own safety, but for the sake of women throughout the community.

"The more women who know about it, the better," she said.

Pilliod was walking to her car early Monday morning on the way to the Student Recreation Center when an older male crossed the street in her direction and made eye contact with her before disappearing behind a truck parked in front of her car. At first Pilliod said she didn't notice where he hid, but as soon as she slowly drove past the parked car, the man stepped out into view. He reportedly dropped his pants and then fondled himself in Pilliod's direction.

"It was very specifically directed at me," she said.

Having forgotten her cell phone at home,
Turn to **Flasher**, page 5A

Brushing away stress

Local pottery shops offer a relaxing atmosphere for people who want to take an artistic, creative break

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

Brush-Fire owner Nancy Steers-Crist says humans possess an instinctive desire to express themselves artistically. However, this doesn't always entail sitting in front of a blank canvas waiting for inspiration, or molding a formless pile of clay into a statue of David. When the inner artist breaks through, the result can be as simple as a common coffee mug or a vase that holds fresh flowers.

Pottery is one of the most accessible art forms. Whether people are interested in creating their own pieces or simply purchasing original items, Eugene offers countless ways to pursue this highly personal form of expression.

Brush-Fire, located at 954 Pearl St., offers a unique studio environment. The establishment gives novice and experienced artists the chance to paint undecorated bisques. Customers browse through the store's collection of raw pottery items, sit down with their selection and paint away. Brush-Fire employees throw the finished work into a kiln and three days later, the creation is ready to take home. The whole process is included in the price listed with the item on the shelf.

Steers-Crist, who purchased Brush-Fire just more than a month ago, said a visit there represents a perfect break from the chaotic stresses of life.

"I feel that this whole experience is the op-



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Shirine Taylor celebrates her birthday by painting pottery at Brush-Fire, located at 954 Pearl St.

posite of everything we deal with every day," she said. "So many people come in here all the time and say it's like therapy."

Those who crave more extensive "therapy" can visit Georgie's Ceramic and Clay Company, located at 1471 Railroad Blvd.

The business caters to both beginners and professionals, with offerings that run the gamut from retail and wholesale supplies to instruction and firing. For a taste of the options, potters can visit the store during its
Turn to **Pottery**, page 6A

ASUO advocate fights against oppression

University junior Maddy Melton's life changed when she left her hometown and moved to Eugene

Ducks in profile

Jessica Richelderfer
Managing Editor

When Maddy Melton left her southern Oregon hometown of Cave Junction for Eugene at age 18, she didn't think there was anything wrong with the world. Now she most certainly does. And now she works as a student leader to change it. Melton was against abortion, and now

she strongly supports women's rights to care for their own bodies. When she was 17, she shot a deer while hunting, and now she's a vegetarian. During her senior year in high school, she was a junior cadet for ROTC, and now she's skeptical of the military.

"I think the way in which all oppression becomes apparent is when you experience that oppression," she said.

Weekly feature

This is the first in a series of articles highlighting campus figures.

Turn to **Melton**, page 4A



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Co-Multicultural Advocate Maddy Melton brings official LGBT representation to ASUO for the first time.

WEATHER

Today: High 52, Low 28, cloudy morning, then sunny

Wednesday: High 53, Low 32 mostly sunny, patchy fog

LOOKING AHEAD

Wednesday
Mike Bellotti hosts a fraternity date auction to benefit SMART

Thursday
Tennis star Oded Teig looks to break records this weekend