

Oregon Daily Emerald

Track teams start outdoors soon Page 10



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Smashing the glass ceiling

Eugene is seeing a new trend of businesses that are owned by young female entrepreneurs



Lauren Wimer Photographer

Ashley Mathews, 22 (left), and Brianne Bridges, 27, recently opened the clothing boutique Lemon Juice, located at 295 E. Fifth Avenue.

By Steven Neuman
News Reporter

As patrons peruse the merchandise at Lemon Juice, Eugene's new women's clothing boutique, a train rumbles by, shaking the entire store.

But the customers don't seem to notice, and co-owner and recent University graduate Ashley Mathews doesn't bat an eye.

Mathews and her business partner, Brianne Bridges, are part of a growing group of young women entrepreneurs opening

and running their own businesses in Eugene. In the past two years, another two businesses owned and operated by women under 30 opened on the same block of East Fifth Avenue, where Lemon Juice is located.

Mathews said owning a business has always been her plan.

"Both my mom and dad had their own businesses, and I always knew I wanted to be my own boss," she said. "We learned from our moms who were involved in that

whole '80s powersuit trend. By starting young we can strike a balance between all the aspects of our life."

According to a 2002 survey by the Center for Women's Business Research, Oregon companies owned by women employ nearly 148,000 people and account for more than \$16.6 billion in sales.

Just down the block from Lemon Juice, Nicole Miller opened Modern, a home furnishing and furniture store, in August

Turn to **BUSINESS**, page 4

Serious crimes disrupt break at apartments

The University Commons had a stabbing and a possible shooting during spring break

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

While many student tenants at the University Commons were vacationing during spring break, other renters who stayed at the apartments experienced a less restful week. Several serious crimes were committed, including a stabbing and a possible shooting, and officials are increasing security at the complex as a result.

Eugene Police Department spokeswoman Kerry Delf said Jack Benjamin Ramsey, 20, was stabbed several times in the neck and head on March 20, and police officers were able to trace the incident back to the University Commons. EPD learned of the incident after it received a call from McKenzie-Willamette Hospital where Ramsey was being treated.

The hospital would not release information regarding the status of Ramsey's wounds.

Delf said that a dispute began inside an apartment and then moved outside to the parking lot, where Ramsey was stabbed. Approximately 20 people reported witnessing the incident.

University Commons manager Gary Gilfooy refused to comment on the recent crime or security at the complex.

The suspect, who fled the scene on foot, was apprehended in California on March 23 at about 8 a.m., Delf said. David Kofi Spencer, 19, was stopped in South Siskiyou County for a traffic violation, and Delf said the officer was able to connect the suspect to the stabbing incident in Eugene. Spencer and two of his friends were arrested.

Currently, Spencer is awaiting extradition in Yreka, Calif., Delf said.

Turn to **COMMONS**, page 4

Ruptured water main generates costly damage

EWEB officials say the rupture may have been caused by an aged pipe and estimate the cost of repairing the area will be 'considerable'

By Moriah Balingit
News Reporter

Residents of the Walton and Hamilton complexes breathed a sigh of relief as their water was restored early Monday morning, but the cause of the water main rupture at East 15th Avenue and Agate Street that deprived students of facilities is still unknown.

"It's real hard to determine these things," said Harold Summers, water distribution supervisor for the Eugene Water and Electric Board. "It wasn't anything obvious."

But EWEB spokesman Lance Robertson said the break could have been the result of the pipe's age.

"Our records indicate it was put in back in the 1930s," he said. "Our best guess is that it was just an old pipe that wore out."

Turn to **WATER**, page 6

LTD plans services cuts, fare increases

The changes, which address LTD's major budget shortfall, include administrative cuts

By Parker Howell
News Reporter

Commuters who travel to and from the University via bus should expect more frequent transfers and fewer arrival and departure times next fall as the Lane Transit District implements a new round of service reductions. Designed to make up for a \$700,000 budget shortfall, the cuts

also include fare increases and administrative cuts beginning Sept. 19.

Andy Vobora, service planning and marketing manager for LTD, said the shortfall is the result of increasing fuel and employee medical insurance costs and decreasing revenue from payroll taxes, one of the organization's main sources of income. The cuts are designed to balance next year's budget and allow the organization to cease operating on reserves, Vobora said.

The LTD Board of Directors approved the cuts at its March 17 meeting, authorizing the organization's first cuts since it eliminated

nine percent of its services two years ago.

Vobora said he expects that the elimination of 11:40 p.m. weekday departures from the University — the last hour of weekday service provided by LTD — will affect students the most. He said students staying late on campus will have to use the 10:40 p.m. service instead.

Saturday services provided by The Breeze, the shuttle to Valley River Center, will also be eliminated. Vobora said The Breeze had "good ridership" on weekends, but that other routes also provide access

Turn to **LTD**, page 3

WEATHER

LOW
35



HIGH
55

INSIDE

Campus buzz.....3	Crossword.....11
Classifieds.....11	Nation & World.....6, 12
Commentary.....2	Sports.....7

NEXT ISSUE



Out-of-control
bicyclists
on campus?