

news Briefs

writer's block by what I found there ... "

For the local performances, Eugene actress Katherine Lewis and Ashland actress Carolyn Hitt will share the role of Fox McFearlips. The original staging of the play was directed by Alan Donovan.

Rude Awakening has been performed in Ashland, Grants Pass, Portland and Canyonville, and has been well received by audience members across the political spectrum. "It's amazing what happens when you drop judgment," McGowan says with a smile. "*Rude* has a very diverse fan club."

Performances are followed by an optional sing-a-long of the show's theme song, "If We're the Problem, We're the Solution," which McGowan will videotape and send to President Bush, Sens. Walden and Wyden, U.S. Rep. DeFazio and Gov. Kulongoski. "Each tape comes with a letter thanking our leaders for dedicating their lives to public service and letting them know we are here to help them deal with today's difficult challenges. I just received a personal note from Sen. Smith thanking me for the thoughtful note I sent with the first round of tapes," McGowan said.

Schedule information and will-call reservations are available at 688-8270.

HYNIX BRINGING IN OUTSIDE WORKERS?

Unemployment among unionized Lane County sheetmetal workers is running high this summer — about 35 out of 175 are without work — and adding to their frustrations are rumors that Hynix Semiconductor in Eugene is bringing in non-union workers from Korea to do duct work for its latest re-tooling.

Retired sheetmetal worker Henry Alvis says he "can't prove it," but he heard from an engineer at Hynix that "they're using a lot of in-house people, and they're also using these Korean nationals" for sheetmetal work. "They did it without hiding it in the first remodel, and this is the second remodel, and I guess they got so much flack they're trying to keep it hidden this time."

Alvis says it's "not even kosher" that they use their in-house people because "when you use pipes that move air, it's our work, according to the rules in construction and the union construction rules."

The computer chip manufacturing plant in west Eugene was recruited to the valley and given \$50 million in tax breaks based on its promises to create local jobs for local people.

Hynix officials did not respond to a request for information regarding the rumor, but Jack Roberts, director of the Lane Metro Partnership, says the last time he heard the rumor it was regarding pipe-fitters.

"I have talked to Hynix about this generically," says Roberts, "and my understanding is that the workers they brought over from Korea have been people charged with installing what they call 'tools,' but which the rest of us would think of as extremely expensive equipment — as in \$100 million or so. My understanding is that the workers in question are responsible for installing and maintaining these 'tools,' here and at other Hynix plants around the world, and are Hynix employees, not contract labor being imported from Korea."

Roberts says the installation of this equipment "enables Hynix to continue to provide

over 1,000 jobs at this site, over 95 percent of which are filled by locals. I think it makes sense for them to use people who are trained, experienced and already in their employ to do this work."

Doug McClaughry, business representative for Sheetmetal Workers Local 16, says Roberts might be right about the Hynix crew, and a few of his members have gotten work at Hynix recently; but he remains concerned about sheetmetal workers, plumbers and electricians losing jobs in enterprise zones all over Oregon. About 400 out of 1,200 members statewide are unemployed.

"You give these enterprise zones great big tax breaks and then they do all the construction work with out-of-area people. Guys come in, whether it be from a different country or a different state .. they don't spend much here, they just send it back home. Taxpayers are sharing the burden and not getting any reward for it." — *TJT*

LIBRARY ADDS HOURS

The new Eugene Public Library will be open more hours starting Jan. 1. The downtown building will be open from 10 am to 8 pm Monday through Thursday and 10 am to 6 pm Friday through Sunday. The Sheldon and Bethel branch libraries will have similar hours except they'll be closed Sundays.

In all, the city is adding eight more hours to the downtown library schedule and 16 more open hours at each of the branch libraries.

The added hours will be funded through 2007 by the \$20 million Measure 20-58 voters passed last year. — *Alan Pittman*

LOCAL CHILDREN'S 'ZINE GOES NATIONAL

All Round, a local publication "for children ages one to 100 and up that champions people who love the earth," has acquired a contract with Ingram Periodicals, a major leader in the specialty magazine distribution industry.

The magazine has been nationally distributed since it started in 1998, but on a smaller scale by regional companies scattered across the continent. *All Round* will continue distribution through regional carriers. With the additional Ingram contract comes the possibility of having the magazine carried in more than 9,000 stores, including national chains like Borders, Barnes & Noble and Waldenbooks.

Marketing Director Nathan Lester says circulation for the biannual publication has more than doubled, jumping from 1,500 to 3,000 since signing with Ingram.

The magazine, printed on 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper with vegetable inks, is "a vibrant, interactive investigation of a theme, handmade by Tilke [Elkins, editor and illustrator] in collaboration with other local artists and featuring artwork by readers." The latest issue "All About Being Born," which Elkins calls "our best yet," is available locally at Bambini, Book Mark, Mother Kali's Books and Sundance Natural Foods. — *Bobbie Willis*

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• Last week's cover story on OFAM, "Show Tunes," was missing a by-line. The story was written by Brett Campbell.