

## WAL-MART JUGGERNAUT

Oregonians are rallying to oppose the destructive impacts on good jobs, community standards and public services “when the Wal-Mart juggernaut comes to town,” according to a statement from the Oregon AFL-CIO.

“Wal-Mart is pursuing an aggressive expansion agenda in Oregon this year,” the labor group says. “If they are successful, it will mean fewer jobs in our communities and more taxpayer subsidies for their low-wage, low-benefit workforce.” Super-centers have been planned for Bend and Gresham and a traditional Wal-Mart has been proposed in Beaverton.

A group called Gresham First is fighting against a 203,400-sq. ft. super-center that is being proposed for the corner of Powell Boulevard and 182nd Avenue. In Bend last week, hundreds of people showed up at a neighborhood meeting hosted by Wal-Mart, wearing yellow stickers with frown faces on them. So many came that one attendee reports the fire marshal had to turn people away.

Lona Conaway, vice-chair of Central Oregon Jobs with Justice, told the Bend City Council that a net loss of jobs has been reported in other communities following the opening of such a massive outlet. “For every two jobs created by Wal-Mart stores, three are lost in the surrounding community,” she said. Conaway also cited a report which found that a Wal-Mart with 200 employees meant a cost of \$420,000 in additional taxes to the community, because the low-wage employees need public assistance in everything from housing to food.

For more information, visit [www.union-voice.org](http://www.union-voice.org)

## PROTESTS BREW FOR MARCH 19

Momentum is growing for a massive march on Central Park in New York City March 19 in protest of the war in Iraq and to “end the occupation of Iraq, Haiti, Palestine and Afghanistan.”

That weekend marks the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq and demonstrations are planned in major cities around the globe involving a coalition of antiwar, community, labor and international solidarity organizations. Eugene protests are expected and some local residents may be joining the New York demonstrations.

For information on the New York events, visit [www.troopsoutnow.org](http://www.troopsoutnow.org)

## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• In our story on the Dark Star Orchestra last week the names of two band members were omitted. John Kadlecik (lead guitarist) and Kevin Rosen (bass) are also members of DSO.

• In our music story last week on Deke Falcon, a name was misspelled. The correct spelling of the founder of Happy Mistake Records is Howard Libes.

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