

SweetWaters' chef de cuisine. "We got some hate mail about how inhumane it is and how dare we serve foie gras."

U.S.-produced foie gras is made from ducks and SweetWaters buys their ducky delights from Sonoma Foie Gras Farm in California. This farm lets their ducklings run free until they are a year old, at which point, they are moved to pens. The ducks are fed a "pre-measured" amount of feed, which is funneled into the esophagus. According to Sonoma Farm, the procedure only takes a few seconds and does no harm to the animal.

Complaints have been made against the force-feeding of ducks and geese because it can cause bruising, lacerations, sores and throat tearing. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, "Force feeding is necessary to produce the size and fat content that makes a liver 'foie gras.'"

California has banned the force-feeding of ducks and geese starting in 2012. In 2006 Chicago banned the sale of foie gras, and in Portland protestors have been making a scene large enough to persuade two restaurants to remove foie gras from their menu. Why is that Eugene, a town known for activism, has so little to say about such a controversial issue? Local members of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) didn't respond before press time.

EW also spoke with Marché Restaurant, but the management declined to go on record, stating only that the restaurant buys "free-range" liver and that customers find the paté "yummy." Perhaps that is the answer: Taste buds trump the foul treatment of fowls.

—Cali Bagby

## FORMER CM QUILTS POST

A Montana newspaper has reported that Dennis Taylor, Eugene's former city manager, has left his new position as executive director of the Montana Meth Project after six weeks on the job. No public reason was

given for the parting other than it was a mutual decision, according to an April 23 story by Angela Brandt in the *Independent Record* in Helena.

The story quotes former Executive Director Peg Shea saying, "The project and Dennis have decided to amicably part ways ... Dennis remains a passionate advocate, as he has always been."

Taylor left Eugene in July 2007 after clashing with councilors over the establishing of a police auditor that would not be under his supervision. Some councilors praised his management, while others criticized him for setting policy instead of following council direction, and his unwillingness to investigate police department failings in the Lara/Magaña sex scandals.

Taylor has a long history of public service in Montana and remains active in volunteer work. He is currently a member of the Helena-Lewis and Clark Planning Board.

## TASER-TOWN SHOCKING ART

New "Taser Town" T-shirts are on the local market inspired by two recent events, the Olympic Track & Field Trials and the use of Tasers on a Eugene demonstrator.



The design is by illustrator and cartoonist Harvey Dickson ("Art as Therapy" cartoons) and the printing is by Triangle Graphics.

The message on the shirts is "Welcome to Taser Town, USA, Eugene, OR, You'll be shocked!" The shirts sell for \$15 (or more) as a fundraiser for the "Kese

Square 3" and the Civil Liberties Defense Center. They are available at Saturday Market, public gatherings around town, and at a yard sale benefit for CLDC July 19-20 at 1970 W. 13th. Or call "Taser Tess" at 337-3229.

## Happening Biz BY PAUL NEEVEL

### JOHN ARCHER

After many years of work in local mills, and an off-hours career as a martial arts instructor at LCC, John Archer was ready to stop working for others and go into business for himself. He and his wife, Donna, North Eugene grads who will celebrate 40 years of marriage this summer, took over Claymore Waggin' Inn Kennels in Alvaldore nine years ago. "It's been here 35 years," says Archer. "We were looking for a business, and this one seemed ideal." It wasn't long before Archer began working with rescue dogs, many of whom would have otherwise been euthanized. He specializes in difficult dogs and interviews potential adopters in depth to make sure they will be reliable caretakers. "They've given me the rep of a dog whisperer," he says. "But I don't train them at all. I just give them the care and affection they didn't have before." In the photograph, Archer returns from the vet with Bosco, a rescued bulldog and pit bull mix who had tendon surgery after a car accident. "I usually absorb the cost," he says. "But I'm getting help on this one, a thousand dollars from a fundraiser on Craigslist."



• **A charter amendment** to strengthen our police auditor position cleared the council this week, thanks to a tie-breaking vote by Mayor Piercy (we can imagine a different outcome under a Mayor Torrey). The measure, if it passes in November, should take some of the ambiguity out of the charter language and establish the independent auditor as a permanent function.

We've been hearing mild words of support for Eugene's police auditor position from Eugene's city manager, police chief and some elected city officials. But with our auditor under attack and our police department out of control, it's not enough to say the words. It's time for something stronger, even beyond the charter language fix. Reform is not coming from the bottom up; it needs to come from the top down. The council needs to make it clear to the city manager that our auditor needs full access as already provided by the charter, full cooperation and full respect down the chain of command. Anything less is unacceptable.

Another battleground is the contract the city has negotiated in the past with the police union. It's bargaining time again and time for our city manager to challenge some of the elements in the contract that conflict and interfere with the functions of the auditor, such as excessive confidentiality of personnel records, way beyond state legal requirements. Should our city attorney or city manager have the final word in these matters, in effect setting policy? Hardly. A policy of transparency in government must be an ongoing council priority, and the responsibility of the city attorney and city manager is to help make it happen, whatever it takes. This is one way we can begin to rebuild trust in our police department.

• **A proper Eugene welcome!** That's what Mayor Piercy and other city officials gave Bradley Malsin of Beam Development last week in a sunny ceremony on Kesey Square, just across the street from the building and pit that Malsin will bring back to life. Malsin bought the Centre Court building, the pit, and the Washburne building from the city for \$3.6 million. His Portland-based company plans to restore the Centre Court, not demolish it, much to the approval of Councilor Betty Taylor who called this "a great day for Eugene." Councilor Alan Zelenka said the Beam project is a "real turning point in downtown development." He has gone to Portland to see finished Beam projects, and believes "we couldn't have a better partner." Mayor Piercy praised three other positive downtown developments: 200 employees in the renovated Bon building, a new downtown neighborhood association, residents moving into the apartments next to the WOW Hall. One of her goals: "for the downtown to be pitless." We're optimistic.



• A decision on **who will develop the pit** and parking lot across the street from the Eugene Public Library is expected in the next few weeks, but we are reminded by local designer Thomas

Lincoln that the popular idea that he and others have pitched for a small public park (his plan is pictured here) is not included in the leading plans. "This is what the public wants," he says, "and I see no reason why a proposal to develop the Sears pit must include a somewhat lame proposal for the space across from the library." Lincoln was responding to our Slant column last week about the "quasi-public plaza" included in the WG proposal. "I don't think the public is interested in an 'almost' plaza," says Lincoln.

In the end, it appears the idea of a public park across from the library may be doomed. Who can we blame? Despite strong evidence that public parks downtown stimulate housing and commercial development nearby, city planning staff and some city councilors just don't get it. No public space was required in the city request for proposals.

• **The imposter is still around.** We broke the story July 3 on Kenny Roberts who pretended for years to be the son of the late rock star John Cipollina, and we figured he would pack his bags and start a new life elsewhere. But we hear Roberts showed up and spoke at a July 10 meeting of the nonprofit KSOW-FM community radio station in Cottage Grove. According to our sources, Roberts, who serves on the KSOW board, apologized for his deception, asked to remain on the board, wants his canceled radio show back, and wants people to continue calling him Michael, which he says is his middle name. He also told the group that he's spoken with members of the Cipollina family who have forgiven him, he's been interviewed by *Rolling Stone* and some San Francisco radio stations, and promoters who were originally interested in syndicating his '60s-era radio rock show are *still* interested. Roberts says he wants to call the show "Imposter Radio."

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com