



Some local Farmer's Markets are opening this week

am to 2 pm every Saturday. Beginning Feb. 14, the Lane County Farmers Market operates booths from 10 am to 2 pm at 8th and Oak in Eugene.

Corvallis area farmers offer their produce and meats every other Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm beginning Feb. 14 at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

Eugene vendors include Groundwork Organic, Grateful Harvest Farm, Cinco Estrellas, River Bend Farm, Sweetbriar Farm, Primrose Edibles and Wild Goose Nursery. Others are expected as winter fades.

For market information, contact Keith Cooper in Eugene at 683-7447 or Tony Gaetz in Corvallis at 295-0226.

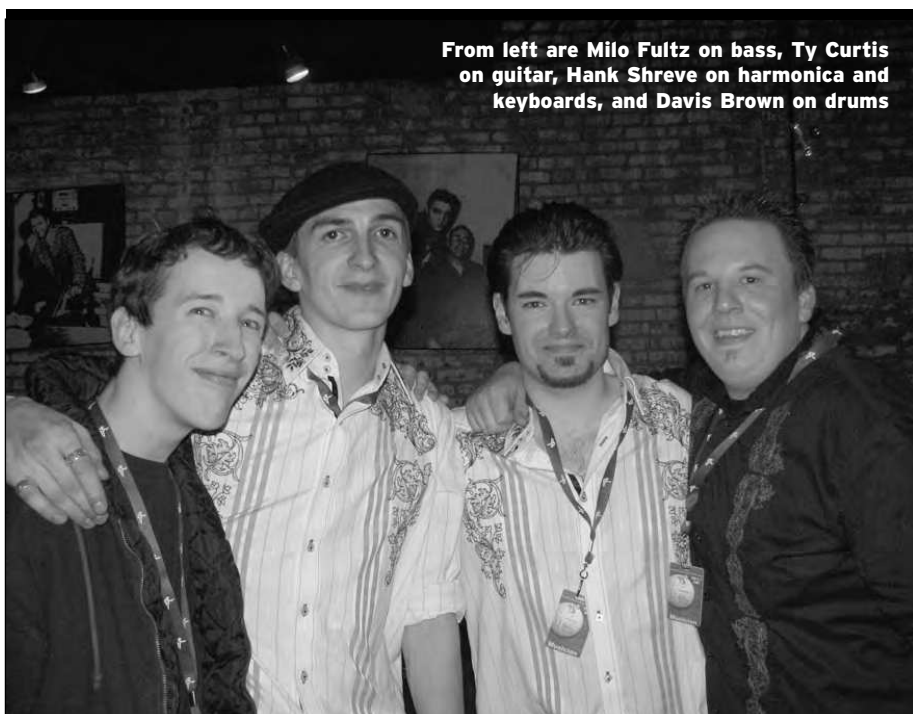
ACTIVIST ALERT

• A series of meetings on **infill and density in Eugene** is resuming beginning with a public workshop from 7 to 9 pm Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Eugene Public Library. Other workshops will be at the same time Thursday, Feb. 26, at South Eugene High School, and March 3 and North Eugene High. For more information on ICS, visit

www.eugene-or.gov/oppsiting

• **Stand for Children** is organizing a rally at the state Capitol Monday, Feb. 16, and at least seven busloads of Eugeneans are planning to go. "This is a critical time for schools," says Joy Marshall of SFC. "District 4J is facing a budget cut of 10 percent next year, which will mean pretty unimaginable damage, unless we get the Legislature to act. Of course, we are also terribly concerned about cuts to health care, community colleges, and other services." The buses will be leaving South Eugene High School at 9:45 am. Sign up at www.stand.or/rally

• The next forum in CALC's **People's**



From left are Milo Fultz on bass, Ty Curtis on guitar, Hank Shreve on harmonica and keyboards, and Davis Brown on drums

LOCAL BAND ROCKS MEMPHIS

The Ty Curtis Band took second place in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tenn., last week, representing the Cascade Blues Society of Portland. About 2,000 bands from around the world competed in the contest with more than 100 finalists invited to perform at the Memphis competition.

Hank Shreve (son of *EW* sales director Bill Shreve) and Milo Fultz are from Eugene and Ty Curtis and Davis Brown are from Salem.

Also, Al Rivers from Eugene represented the Rainy Day Blues Society in the single/duo competition and played two sets at the Beale Street Tap Room.

The band made its debut at the Waterfront Blues Festival in 2007 and went on to play at DaVinci Days, the Eugene Celebration, Silverton Art Faire, Bones & Brews, KMHD's Summer Bash and the Oregon State Fair. The band plays gigs at Mac's, Lefty's, Rogue Brewery, the Oregon Garden, Roadhouse 101 and Chinook Winds Casino. They have opened for Curtis Salgado and for Paul deLay and performed on air for KMHD radio in Portland.

The band's CD, *Stubborn Mind*, has been getting air play on KRVM, KLCC, KBOO, KMHD and KINK. And their CD was recently selected to represent the Cascade Blues Association in the Blues Foundation's "Best Self Produced CD" competition for 2008.

See www.myspace.com/thetycurtisband for more information.

• **Some good news** in the local economy. Some businesses are doing well and even thriving. Below are some examples we have collected. Send what you know to editor@eugeneweekly.com

We hear Cornucopia, The Bier Stein, and Ta Ra Rin Thai Cuisine are experiencing more business than the same time last year (see CHOW in our 1/29 issue for more restaurant news). The new WestTown on 8th housing complex next to the WOW Hall is giving a nice boost of foot traffic to Kiva and other businesses downtown. The folks at Clockmaker's Gallery, 987 Garfield, tell us January revenues were better than last January, and their repair benches are still busy.

The performing arts look pretty good, too. The Lord Leebrick Theatre added a week to its recent run of *Clean House*, for instance. At the Hult Center on Saturday night, where the Eugene Opera and Ballet Fantastique each produced a show at 7:30, the lines for tickets overwhelmed the box office and the ticket pick-up machine. Even with the confusion and a late start time, the opera audience thrilled to the world-class principals in the semi-staged *Il Trovatore*. Eugene arts fans clearly want a high quality product, and they're responding even during a tough recession.

New businesses continue to sprout locally. Mira Fannin of Eugene is expanding www.sweetskins.com to a retail storefront in the Whiteaker. Fannin's grand opening party for Sweet Skins Eco Boutique is from 6 to 10 pm Saturday, Valentine's Day, at 782 Blair St.

Thanks to super board and staff work, the staff of Maude Kerns Art Center will receive a 5 percent pay raise this year, not exactly the pattern for arts organizations. Board president David Wade announced the raise at the January annual membership meeting. Other board members are Alison Voss, Coni Tarquini, and Esther Jacobson-Tepfer. Staffers are Karen Marie Pavelec, Sabrina Hershey, Kelly McCormick, Marsha Wells Shankman, Dena E. Brown, and Martha Snyder.

• **Thousands of Eugene residents** are sleeping in cars and under tarps while city staff are calling for spending \$16 million on a new police headquarters that voters have trounced repeatedly. The message city staff is sending to the people is that staff knows what's best, so just go along with it. The city manager's proposal also overrides direction by the City Council and Budget Committee to retrofit rather than build. Who's in charge here?

Good reasons exist for citizens to be skeptical of such a project. The \$16 million price tag sounds too cheap to be true. Are we in danger of approving a relatively modest project and watching it grow to millions more with "surprise" cost overruns? The police originally went to voters asking for \$36 million. Does the \$16 million include plumbing and wiring?

The safety of police officers in an earthquake is a valid issue, but except during shift changes, most officers and squad cars are out in the community, not under concrete.

And the current City Hall can be reinforced for seismic safety at about \$3 million, assuring the safety of all who work and do business in City Hall. The issue of overcrowding assumes Eugene's police force needs to grow – and we haven't seen evidence to support that claim. Crime rates overall are dropping.

Meanwhile, our economy is in crisis, we have pressing needs for a city homeless shelter and other priorities, and our police department is still resisting oversight. When citizens voted down three bond measures for a new cop shop, they were in part expressing their irritation at years of police intimidation, abuse and obfuscation.

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



WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003

(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **4,243 U.S. troops killed*** (4,237)
- **31,010 U.S. troops injured*** (30,984)
- **167 U.S. military suicides*** (167)
- **317 coalition troops killed**** (317)

• **1,123 U.S. contractors killed** (accurate updates NA)

• **98,911 to 1.1 million civilians killed***** (98,848)

• **\$594.5 billion cost of war** (\$593.6 billion)

• **\$169.3 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (\$168.8 million)

* through Feb. 9, 2009; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly

** sources: icasualties.org, defenselink.mil

*** highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate civilian deaths as high as 655,000 (Lancet survey, 2006) to 1.1 million (Opinion Research Business survey, 2008)