

expansion of a Medicare-for-all system, and their respective advantages."

Retired attorney Rand Dawson was involved in pushing the resolution and believes this is the first county on the West Coast, aside from the San Francisco Bay Area, to go on record supporting single-payer health insurance.

Dawson says the proposal for single-payer insurance has been on the national agenda since being cut from an early draft of the Social Security Act of 1935. "Single-payer, in its best-appreciated form, returned with passage of Medicare in 1964-65," says Dawson. "Single-payer concepts also exist in the current VA system and through the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

Dawson says the local resolutions were "a collaborative effort by Oregonians and folks across the nation," and he credits Frank Turner, Mike Huntington, Marc Shapiro and others for their work in helping get them passed locally.

The Florence mayor and City Council voted without dissent to ignore the resolution, and according to the council minutes of Feb. 17, decided "the council would use its limited time dealing with items that are more pressing and of local importance." The Florence council previously dismissed

WAR DEAD

Since the U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 20, 2003
(last week's numbers in parentheses):

- **4,273 U.S. troops killed*** (4,266)
- **31,169 U.S. troops injured*** (31,153)
- **177 U.S. military suicides*** (176)
- **1,123 U.S. contractors killed**
(accurate updates NA)
- **99,774 to 1.2 million civilians killed*****
(99,754)
- **\$613.1 billion cost of war**
(\$611.2 billion)
- **\$174.4 million cost to Eugene taxpayers** (\$173.8 million)

* through April 13, 2009; source: icasualties.org; some figures only updated monthly
** sources: icasualties.org, defenseink.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)

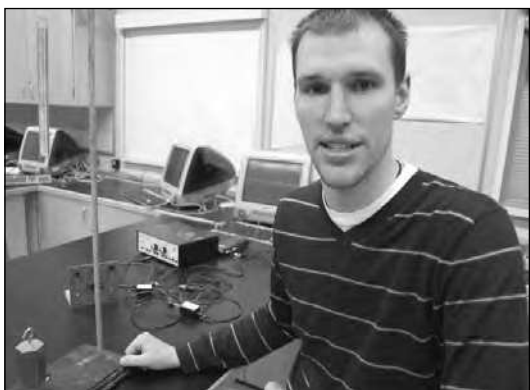
resolutions on global warming, the Iraq War and the PATRIOT Act, saying such resolutions "make them partisan," and "the council is a non-partisan body."

— Ted Taylor

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

BEN VAN DUSEN

From the time he was in fourth grade at Harris School until his junior year at South Eugene High, Ben Van Dusen collaborated with his father Jack on the design and construction of the model solar system that extends along Eugene's riverbank bike paths — from a 4.5-foot diameter Sun in Alton Baker Park to a one-10th-inch Pluto 3.7 miles away. Van Dusen left town for a degree in physics from UC Berkeley, but returned for a master's in education, then a job teaching physics at his old school, South Eugene. "This is the room where I was inspired to do physics," he says. "John Hocken was my physics teacher junior year." After two years at South, Van Dusen was the youngest ever elected as faculty vice president (and president the following year). He also does research in Richard Taylor's physics lab at the UO. "I'll have three publications this year," he notes. "We found connections with M. C. Escher's art work, using mirrors and light to model chaos in nano-electronics." In September, Van Dusen will leave for a year in D.C. as one of 15 teachers nationwide chosen as Einstein Fellows. "I'll be working with the National Science Foundation," he says, "looking at grants they've given and how they apply to K-12 education."



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• The **secrecy-obsessed Eugene City Council** needs to get educated on the requirements and intent of the Oregon Public Records Law. The police auditor was simply obeying the state sunshine law in disclosing a photograph of a police dog bite to the lawyer of the bite victim. To argue there's anything wrong with such a disclosure of a government photograph of a government inflicted wound to a person's own body is absurd. The police complaint process, and the paranoid city government as a whole, has long suffered secrets in the dark. Such secrecy recently made it possible for a Eugene police officer to sexually assault more than a dozen women over half dozen years despite numerous complaints. Keeping the public in the dark is not good government. What's needed is a lot more light. What are they afraid of citizens finding out?

• Is **Emerald Valley Kitchen** going to stay in Lane County and not be uprooted by its parent company, Monterey Gourmet Foods? That's the word on the street this week, but there's no response from the company as we go to press. Let's celebrate with organic salsa parties this weekend; invite all the mild, medium and hot people we know for raucous double-dipping.

• Our story in News Briefs this week about **Willamette Family Treatment Services** has a couple of ironic twists. The big one, of course, is that when the state cuts substance abuse treatment funds, not only are matching federal funds lost, but the lack of treatment leads to more crime, more domestic violence and the need for more prison beds. The National Institute of Drug Abuse says, "For every \$1 spent on drug and alcohol abuse treatment, taxpayers save \$7." Another twist is that the statewide push for universal health insurance promises coverage for mental health care and outpatient drug treatment but not *residential* treatment, a key element in dealing with the most severe cases in Oregon and keeping families together. Round and round we go.

Here is a case where our governor should be leading the charge for social service investments that guarantee a big return on taxpayer dollars. But Kulongoski is all talk and no action. As *Oregonian* columnist Steve Duin wrote April 6, "I just hope no one is holding on to the delusion that Kulongoski is making any kind of difference when it comes to protecting Oregon's children."

Kudos to Executive Director Hillary Wylie and the dedicated staff at Willamette Family for quietly building an exceptional public service organization over more than 40 years. We hope some way is found to keep this highly cost-effective community resource on its feet for years to come.

• **Ian Van Ornum's trial** started this week and Alan Pittman has been blogging it at blogs.eugeneweekly.com. The prosecution is telling jurors to ignore context, including testimony about police over-reaction, Taser and excessive force; but in the public's eye, the police are on trial as well. This case is significant because of the context of Van Ornum's arrest.

Media coverage has been an issue throughout the case: At least one potential juror was dismissed after admitting reading about the case in *EW*. The *R-G's* online poll about the case was called "irresponsible" by Judge Jack Billings. And local TV station KVAL successfully petitioned to have a camera in the courtroom, after agreeing to make the footage available to "any media which requests it." *EW* requested footage when the trial began, but was told by KVAL News Director Jenny Kuglin that only still photos would be provided, since *EW* was "not on the list" of media requesting video *before* the trial. Local videographer Tim Lewis was ejected from the courtroom on Tuesday after filming the jurors as they evacuated after a fire alarm went off. KVAL denied Lewis access to the camera pool footage, even though the station freely used his video of the rally when Van Ornum was arrested.

• County Commissioner **Bill Dwyer's term** ends in January 2011, and he's confirmed rumors that he's contemplating retiring after 24 years in elected office. He'll make an announcement in the fall. Lots of folks in the East Lane District are likely salivating at the potential open seat. Sid Leiken, Bill Morrisette? Steve Cornacchia again? Just about everybody on the Springfield City Council?

• **More encouraging news** on the local economic front. Kesey Enterprises has announced it's buying the quarter-block building on Willamette that includes the McDonald Theatre and eight retail storefronts. And Tom Tracey, owner of the Horsehead bar downtown, says his watering hole is now in its seventh year and is doing very well. "If someone hadn't told me there was a recession, I wouldn't know there was a recession," he says. The bar's new slogan is "Sparking Downtown Revival since 2002." Find more good news on Eugene's downtown nightlife scene in our March 12 *Swizzle* section.

• **Out of work?** Job vacancies are out there, but some employers cringe at the thought of running ads for fear of being overwhelmed. *EW* is hoping to help with free job-wanted line ads. Limit is four lines or about 160 characters. Briefly list your skills and experience, phone number and/or email. Best to get it to us in writing. Email your free two-week ad to office@eugeneweekly.com or drop it off at 1251 Lincoln St. Did we mention that it's free?