

very well could have been (and thankfully wasn't) Hart's 4-year-old mauled instead.

As the owner of a jovial 70-pound black lab, I've seen several examples of small children getting sideswiped or knocked over by dogs on accident. I've also seen small children chasing frightened dogs unfamiliar with the play of young children or petting animals that they cannot be sure are entirely friendly. I've also seen (small) dogs nip at children in the parks and generally distract parents from controlling their own dogs. My dog was attacked several years ago by another dog that was trying to protect his small family member, to whom my dog apparently roamed too close. That attack caused a trip to the emergency vet and 40 stitches.

Please keep small people out of dog parks, regardless of the size of the canines allowed inside. While it would be wonderful to assume that all dogs in parks are in accordance with the ordinances posted, the mastiff was simply one instance of a dog owner who may not have fully recognized the ways in which any given dog will respond to different stimuli.

*Karin Timmermans
Eugene*

SOARING PROFITS

As the health care debate enters our lives daily one thing is clear beyond question. Reform of the insurance industry is a must. The cost to small business is stifling. The cost to large employers is huge and

bringing down wages as a result. The cost to the unemployed is unattainable, and the cost to our economy cannot be sustained. Yet the insurance industry threatens to raise premiums while their profits soar and they enjoy exemption from anti-trust laws.

Among the remedies is the possibility of a public option. This option to private insurance is the lightning rod that has brought the scare tactics floating to the top of the boiling cauldron of fears, lies and propaganda that the insurance industry, their minions and the uninformed have concocted.

Socialism, they cry, while some of them are collecting Social Security and Medicare. Government takeover, they bellow, but if it comes to fruition it would be nothing but an option to some. The term "death panels" was thrown into the fray by the ex-governor of Alaska, which refers to end of life counseling of which she was a proponent before she quit her job. It has even been called a Ponzi scheme to which I wonder, who are the undeserving schemers other than those without an option?

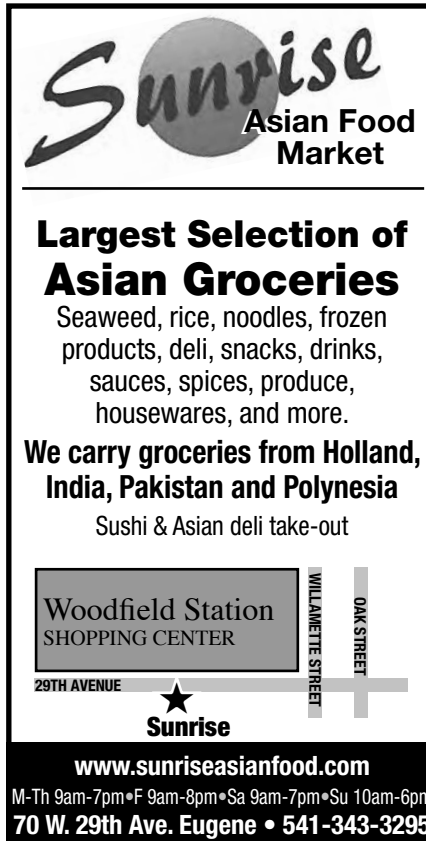
Please people, get informed! If this is important to you, do some research into the reason we are in this situation and how much money the insurance industry is spending to defeat the reform and keep us in their greedy grip.

One axiom that always pans out is "follow the money."

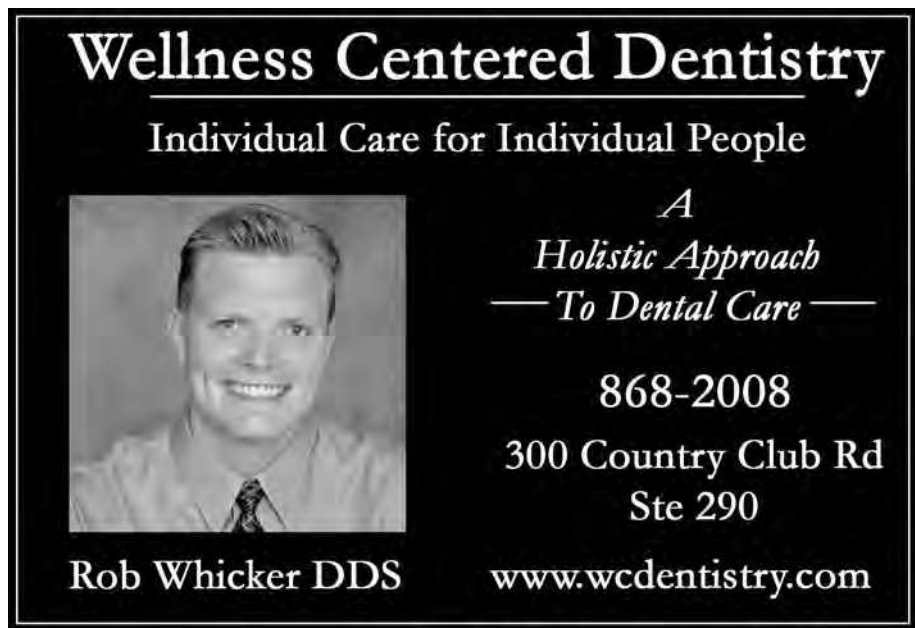
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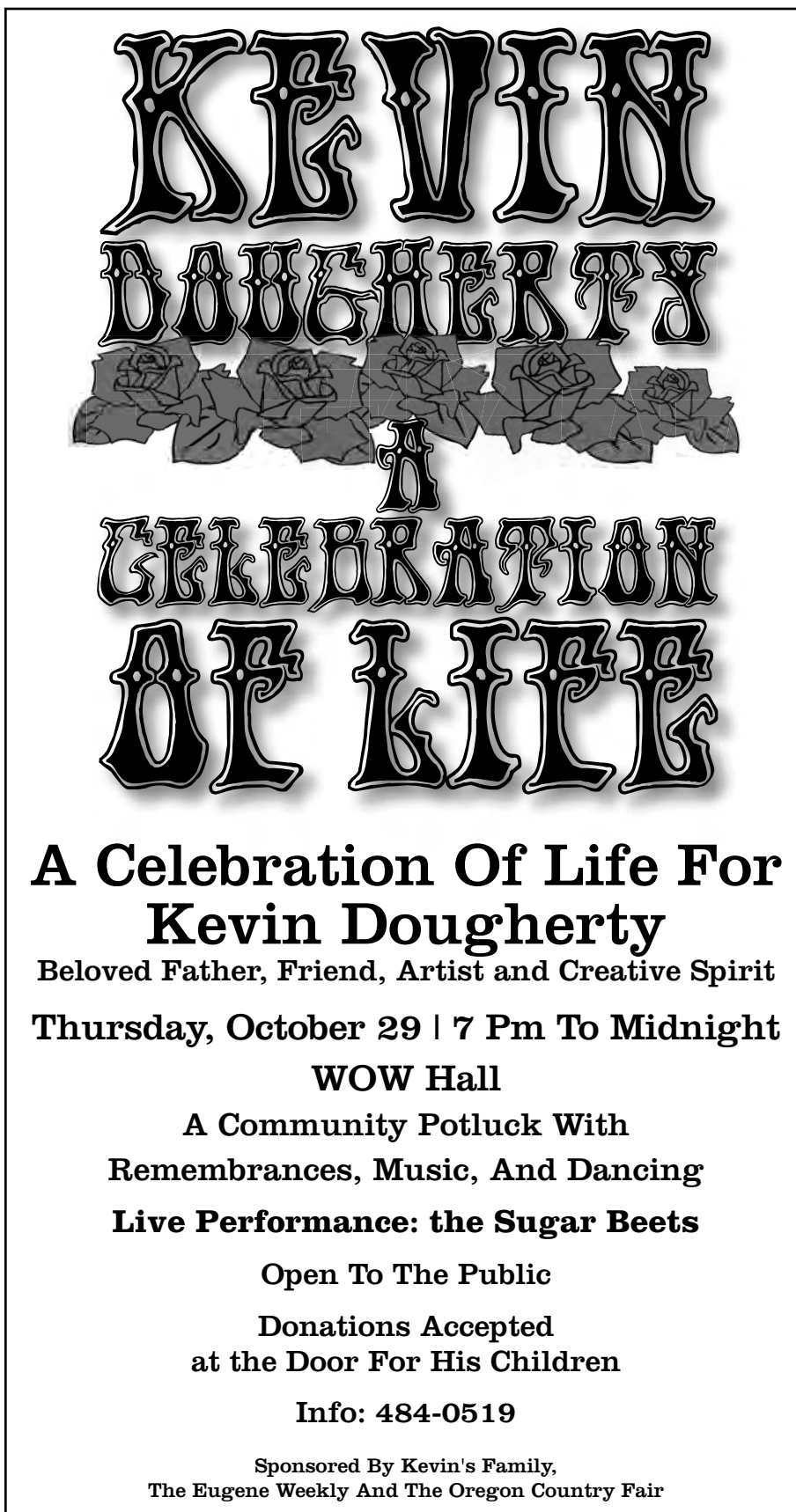
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