

we have ever considered or we've ever wanted to do, but," Parsons said, "of the 43 people we employ, there are 36 kids in my company ... I can tell you, the schools get bad, I don't think I'll have any trouble moving my company and my employees because so many of them need the strong schools as well."

"From the business perspective, it isn't ideal; nobody wants a new tax," Parsons said. "But it is the situation we are in, and if we can help the schools and pass this tax, then we can put pressure in the right place on the state and fix things because everybody knows that has to happen. I don't think that passing this tax is going to make that not happen, because we need to do this — it is a crisis — and then we can put the pressure on what we need to fix."

"How great would it be in five years that Eugene could stand out and say, through this crisis — through something the entire U.S. went through — we rose and did the right thing and now we are growing, and we are a very desirable place to be in," Parsons said. "Things have turned around because we have the best schools in Oregon."

'The schools get bad, I don't think I'll have any trouble moving my company and my employees because so many of them need the strong schools as well.'

— SABRINA PARSONS, CEO PALO ALTO SOFTWARE

Roscoe Caron, a retired Kelly teacher, said the "deepest economic crisis since the Great Depression" has lead to the Eugene school funding crisis. "There's an economic crisis going on that was not caused by 8-year-old kids," Caron said. "Kindergarten teachers did not cause it."

"These are times that demand that responsible adults respond to the needs of their children and their communities," Caron said. "That's why we are here."

"There's nothing left to give up, if we want a decent educational opportunity for our children," Caron said, citing years of local school budget cuts. He noted lost school nurses, counselors, and cut shop, language, art and music programs. He said teachers' wages have also been frozen and cut and teachers have had to pay more for insurance and health care.

Caron said that frequent increases in class sizes have been the "toughest"

cuts. "For those who think it makes little difference, I'm here to tell you that ratios matter: Think of what happens if you go into a big home improvement store and they only have one or two staff members available to help you. Do you get the best level of service? Ratios matter. Do you think many private schools that wealthy families send their kids to have 38 students in a class? No."

Kevin Gordon, a River Road elementary parent and local real estate broker, said "strong schools is something that Eugene has promised to people for years and it's been part of the promise of Eugene."

But now Eugene is at risk of losing one of its best assets, according to Gordon. "In the last three years alone, 4J has cut \$30 million from its budget, and with those cuts we've had increased class sizes and reduced instructional days and that's not acceptable."

"We need to restore those instructional days and we need to hold the line on class size so we can continue to say we've got world class schools. For all of our kids, instructional days matters, ratios matter and class size matters."

As a realtor, "I get asked all the time, so what about the schools, what about the schools?" Gordon said. "We're losing our world class schools, and it matters because strong schools are not just good for kids, they are good for the business environment as we try to recruit good businesses and innovative companies to this town."

Jorge Lopez Contreras, a senior at Bethel's Willamette High School said, "teachers inspired me and encouraged me and they taught me how to dream." He said, "I really support this local tax."

Contreras said he came to school not speaking English but now has "limitless" possibilities thanks to his education. "It's really the American dream: Son of a hard-working immigrant goes to school, works hard and goes on to become a successful adult."

"If it wasn't for the schools I attended, I probably wouldn't be standing here in front

Safe Removal of Mercury Fillings

Wellness Centered

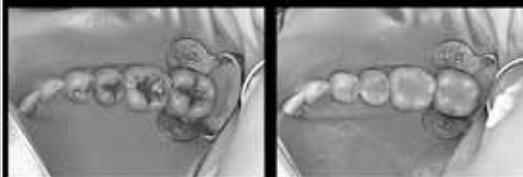
Dentistry

868-2008

300 Country Club Rd
Ste 290

Rob Whicker DDS

www.wcdentistry.com



Sushi Ya

JAPANESE CUISINE AND SUSHI BAR

Birthday Special - \$20 OFF!

(Minimum \$60 order and must show valid ID)



DINE IN OR TAKE OUT

5E 8th Ave • Eugene, OR • 541-686-3464

HOURS: Monday-Thursday 11:30am-2pm and 5pm-9pm
Friday 11:30am-10pm • Saturday 2pm-10pm • Sun 5pm-9pm



BURGER LOVERS

687-6424 | 1466 W 7th Avenue, Eugene | 11AM-9PM

ALL BURGERS
\$5 includes
fries

한 국음식 맛을

Korean Food - formerly Plaza Coffee Shop

We Have the Best Food
for the Best Prices -
All Day, Every Day



AMAZON PARK

animal clinic

Taking Care of Your Four-Legged Family for Over 30 Years



Full Service Clinic:

- Well Pet Care
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Cancer Management
- Behavior Consultations
- Dental Care

Cameron Jones, DVM
Barbara Maki, DVM
Cary Heyward, DVM

Appointments Available 8am-6pm Weekdays 9am-4pm Saturday
info@amazonparkvet.com • 541-485-0161 • 725 E. 25th Ave. Eugene

COUPON

NOW 2 LOCATIONS! ★ SY'S NEW YORK PIZZA

55 SILVER LN.
654-0603
11AM-10PM DAILY

1211 ALDER
686-9598
11AM-MIDNIGHT SUN-THU
11AM-1AM FRI-SAT

COUPONS GOOD UNTIL APRIL 7TH, 2011

SERVING DELICIOUS NEW YORK PIZZA BY THE SLICE AND BY THE WHOLE PIZZA PIE

\$2.00 OFF
ANY 18" LARGE

FREE LARGE SODA
W/ PURCHASE OF 2 SLICES

COUPON