

The author went on to intimate that patients can't obtain medical marijuana and that one local dispensary is singlehandedly meeting their needs. Yes, some patients have trouble obtaining their medical marijuana. A bigger story is that the Oregon Legislature secretly raised the fees for OMMP patients, with the intent that many would drop out of the program because they can't afford a card. That is sure to drive them to the black market.

Sadly, the article barely mentioned one of the most important aspects of medical marijuana — it helps people decrease or eliminate their use of more dangerous drugs. In a survey of our patients this year, 66 percent had used medical marijuana to quit or decrease their use of pain medication! Oregon (and the feds) are making a big mistake when they ignore this fact. Most people don't want to be addicts and will choose a less harmful option for treating their pain. This documented harm reduction strategy not only saves on the cost of drugs, but can prevent health care costs due to adverse effects of opiates, and even avoid rehabilitation expenses.

Marijuana prohibition is an important issue that deserves better than this kind of coverage.

*Cheryl K. Smith
Eugene*

MORE ZOMBIE TIPS

My friend and I were relieved to discover the Zombie Apocalypse survival kit in the *Weekly*. Particularly, we were glad to see inclusion of ever-useful duct tape. But, we believe you have left out a number of critical items that should be included in any robust zombie ready kit. The year 2012 is but a month away so let's get down to brass tacks here:

- Item 16: machete. No zombie-fearing citizen will be able to sleep soundly with out a machete under her pillow. \$11 at Eugene True Value.
- Item 17: night vision goggles. How can anyone expect to spot zombies during those long, frigid, frightening hours between dusk and dawn without of decent pair of NVG's? Plus there is some utility in the fright factor in looking like a member of the riot. Just ask the LAPD. \$70+ at Action Surplus
- Item 18: high powered crossbow. Didn't you guys know that zombies can

hear gunshot blasts from miles away? Anyone interested staying alive would do wise employ a high-powered weapon that doesn't elicit a zombie feeding frenzy by loudly broadcasting the user's coordinates. DIY on the cheap, can be made with everyday materials important in any apocalypse situation.

*Olallie Stahl Wellborn,
age 11 zombie expert,
and Angela Navarra
Eugene*

THE ART OF PIZZA

Wow, a pizza letter! I was excited. I grew up in New York and consider myself somewhat of a pizza snob. Like bagels, knishes and Italian ices, there are some things that we New Yorkers know about and pizza is up at the top of that list. So, Bill Shaw (11/17) writes that pizza in Eugene sucks (almost agree) and that the closest thing to the real thing is Provisions. So what do I do? I run right out and try this delicacy. Big mistake.

The remark that La Perla is a close second should have tipped me off! No, let me correct that: The remark of PRI being no good should have tipped me off. Let me set the record straight. PRI is delicious and awesome! But hey, it's not really "pizza." Provisions and La Perla, well, they're someone's ideal of what "pizza" should be, and they're not terrible, but they pale in comparison to good food, let alone good pizza. Let's face facts: N.Y. pizza rules and the only place in Oregon to come close to an actual slice of real pizza is, and always will be Sy's Pizza. My kids stopped eating pizza ("We hate pizza, dad!") until one day I bought a slice at Sy's and they devoured it. I realized something: they don't hate pizza, they hate *bad* pizza. They know the real thing when they eat it.

*Jared Wolfson
Eugene*

WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING?

In hard times, it might help to ask, "What keeps you going?" The answers are not carved in stone and shift depending on circumstances. But on reflection a little more clarity may emerge.

Here are six things that keep me going at this moment: 1) A Republican majority in the House saves me from complacency, though I refuse to let them set my agenda.

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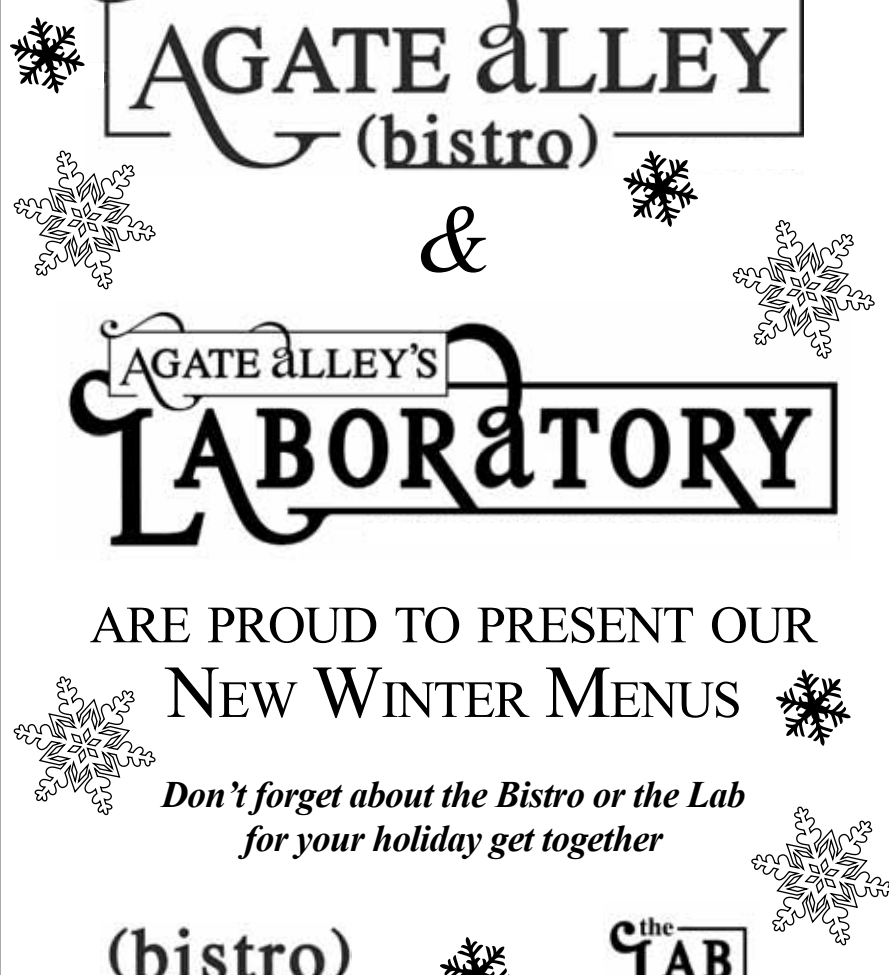
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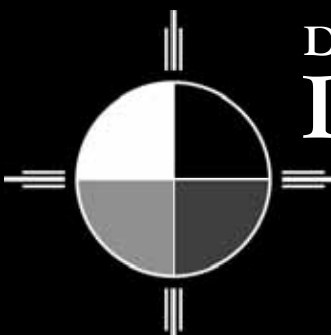
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