

LIBRARY'S FREE, LEGAL MUSIC DOWNLOADS

Eugeneans now have the chance to take something from the library and never give it back. On Dec. 7 the Eugene Public Library began offering a music lending service, "Freegal Music." Freegal provides free and legal MP3 files to all library cardholders.

As *EW* goes to press, Eugene's number one download is Billy Joel's "Piano Man," followed by the *Glee* cast's cover of Adele's "Rumor Has It" and "Winter Wonderland" by Ukulele Christmas in the third spot.

The content of Freegal's online database is based on a license with Sony Music Entertainment, and it is

available to libraries all over the country. More than 500,000 songs are available for download in every genre, from current hits to classics, and the database is growing every day. The library pays an annual sum based on its number of cardholders for the service.

To download music, library patrons can log into the Freegal Music on the library's website using their library card number and password. The songs download to a variety of music software, and no special program is needed to access the database. Once you have a song, it's yours to keep — there is no digital rights management on the music files, although other copyright laws do apply for all music downloaded. Each cardholder is allowed three downloads per week, with the week's allotment turning over every Sunday at 6 pm.

Connie Bennett, the director of the Eugene Public Library, hopes that this new service will attract new people to the library's services. "If we offer a service like this, people will notice that the library is still relevant to our entertainment and information needs," she says. "Log in now and you can get three songs before Sunday!"

— Caitlin McKimmy

KIDS TAKE CLIMATE TO COURT

Eugene's Western Environmental Law Center (WELC) has filed a brief on behalf of climate scientist Dr. James Hansen, which was part of a lawsuit that will now be reviewed by a U.S. district court in Washington, D.C.

The lawsuit was filed by members of Kids vs. Global Warming, a nonprofit organization led by 15-year-old Alex Looz, in an effort to force federal and state governments to reduce carbon emissions by 6 percent in the U.S. each year by 2013.

Hansen directs the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and is an adjunct professor of Earth Sciences at Columbia University. He gave his opinion in what is known as an amicus curiae brief, which was filed by WELC attorney Daniel Galpern. In this form of legal brief Hansen is not part of the lawsuit, but a volunteer offering information he has on climate change

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OCCUPY CONTINUES SANS CENTRAL CAMP

If 4,000 people were homeless after a natural disaster such as a tsunami, that would be an emergency, Occupy Eugene volunteer Chris Calef said Dec. 22 as the Occupy camp slowly shut down. Around him Occupiers packed, sang and put up a tree-sit. However, as the chant goes, "Occupy will never die; evict us, we multiply!" and it appears that Occupy Eugene might have lost its camp at Washington-Jefferson Park, but not its spirit.

Calef was echoing comments he'd made at a Eugene City Council meeting earlier this year. He pointed out the fact that about 4,000 people (according to the last homeless count) are houseless and in the cold in Lane County because they are poor is something most people ignore. But if a natural disaster hit, the city would be offering long-term camping, bathrooms, showers and everything else the victims might need.

Instead, Occupiers said, many of the county's homeless

found themselves back on the street only days before Christmas. They protested this at Councilor George Poling's lawn at 8 pm Dec. 25, putting up tents, ringing his doorbell and making noise. Poling was targeted not only for his vote to close the camp, but specifically for blocking the campers from using heating fires. Four people were arrested for trespassing.

Poling said in an earlier interview with *EW* that he blocked having an immediate public hearing and action on the fire issue because he did not know that the issue would "have received a fair and impartial 'public hearing' due to the fact that other than one person that I know of, the rest of the people in attendance were either city staff or folks from the camp" at the time the council was making the decision.

Geneva Martin, who sat in a tree at the edge of Washington-Jefferson Park on Dec. 22 as Occupiers celebrated the solstice and protested the camp shutdown, said "I have friends that have been evicted from a warm place to sleep three days before Christmas." Eugene police officers at the Occupy Eugene camp, in a marked turn around from previous responses to downtown tree-sits, let

Martin remain in the tree until she came down on her own the next day. Police and firefighters also put out attempts to start warming bonfires without fanfare.

OE held a candlelight vigil Dec. 23 for Rick Youngblood, the Florence man who died last week after an altercation at Washington-Jefferson Park. And for Christmas, Occupiers delivered socks full of coal to five banks in Eugene: Bank of America, Chase, Wells Fargo, U.S. Bank, and Umpqua. Next to each sock hung a chronicle of the bank's actions that OE said "made them part of Santa's naughty list." The coal came from the wood stove used at the Occupy Eugene site.

Occupy Eugene is currently cleaning up the park campsite and offering to participate in its restoration, planning protests against corporate greed and working to end homelessness. The Occupiers have an office at the Growers Market near the train station and have another space at 7th and Polk.

A "living, evolving" vision statement for Occupy Eugene can be found at <http://wkly.ws/15f>

— Camilla Mortensen



Occupiers circle before starting to take down camp



An occupier waves an upside down flag, which is a distress signal