

Get On the (Wine) Bus

Happy New Year! Or at least hopeful? Sane?

Over the umpty years we've been scribbling this column, we've begun each new year with an homage to Janus, the two-faced god — he who looks backwards and forwards at the same time — for whom the month is named. We wanted to praise the year that ended, and invoke, if possible, better times for the coming months.

Wine makes a fine vehicle for such reviews: Wine-fiends can often recall in agonizing detail the night they quaffed that exquisite bottle of Chateau Beauzeaux 1999; wine-makers can often recollect the entire growing season, dates and times, from bud-break to harvest to crush, sometimes better than they remember their anniversaries or their kids' names.

Maybe that's just as it should be. The wine experience is intimately linked to aromas/flavors, thence to emotions. Of course, our deepest memories transcend wine, which, after all, is really just tasty grape juice, well-fermented.

Much as I'd like to review memories of the grandly goofy 2011, I'll leave that task to my colleagues — except for one minor (I thought) issue, which might turn out to be indicative of ... something, hard to say what. But it does lead directly to wine.

The proposal to extend EmX into West Eugene first struck me as a mildly intriguing technical and financial question that I'd gladly let others fuss about. Then arose the clamorous responses by the shadowy organization Our Money Our Transit. Intensely tacky signs appeared on many businesses in affected areas, shouting strong resistance to EmX. Hmm, I thought, just when it seemed that West 11th couldn't possibly get uglier, someone found a way to add clatter to clutter.

Still I didn't feel involved. A lot of the emotionalism, I noted, seemed to emanate from folks clinging to the car culture; in fact, a lot of the upset businesses were car-related — sales, maintenance, repairs. And taverns.

Then the tactics turned wildly zany. Dude parked a vintage tank outside his car biz, draped with an anti-EmX sign. LTD itself became a target: Signs read "LosingTaxDollars." Huh?

The latest wiggle is most bizarre: On the four-lane 6th Avenue west of Blair appears a

rash of signs: "Imagine Three Lanes," then "EmX steals your lane," and the capper (on what must be the ugliest fence in Oregon) "You paid for this lane/Now EmX wants to steal it." A tavern warns against a 5-and-one-half block "bottleneck" created during construction.

What?! If I owned a biz in those tawdry acres, I think I'd do almost anything to slow traffic so people might actually see me, maybe even stop 'n' shop. But nooo — these wheeler-dealers wanna make sure drivers can blow through the blocks.

OK. Now, I'm imagining six lanes, no lights. Maybe an elevated freeway. Bullet train? Wherever I see those signs, I imagine hitting the gas. I'm watching out for white rabbits and Cheshire cats.

Clearly, this year we're gonna need lotsa wine:

Sarver Winery is one of our region's newest (but on one of our oldest vineyards), and the **Sarver 2010 Pinot Gris** (\$16) will please many palates. A whisper of residual sugar accents the pear/apple flavors, smoothes out the acidity. Try with fresh crab.

Capitello 2010 Pinot Gris (\$15) is winning rave reviews for forward fruit flavors, flawless balance — gris as good as gris gets anywhere, elegant and firm.

Spangler 2010 Chardonnay Unoaked (\$15) delivers true chardonnay flavors — baked apple, quince — not smothered in oak and vanilla notes. Lobster would be a marriage.

Stop for this: **Walter Scott 2010 Pinot Noir La Combe Verte** (\$20) is superb, a deft blend of old-vine grapes yielding a blast of raspberries and pepper, a steal at this price (if EmX doesn't snatch it).

LaVelle 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon (\$28): If you can cover the fare, this bus gathers grapes in the Columbia Valley; winds through bold, rich flavors of blackberries, cassis, whiff of mint; stops at aged cheddar or grilled filet. Open a couple hours before serving. Smooth ride, worth the ticket.

These are two-way wines, well-suited for winter fare, lovely for the coming spring. But if the face of Eugene revealed by the anti-EmX mob is an omen of the year to come, good wines and a sharp sense of humor might not be enough. **EW**

ew Classifieds

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 FAX 541.484.4044 WRITE 1251 Lincoln St., Eugene, OR 97401 VISIT Our Office 8a-5p M-F LINE ADS \$11/3 Lines, additional lines \$4.00.

EVENTS

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE JAN 10, 6-8PM. United Way Bldg 3171 Gateway Loop. Make a difference in the life of a child in foster care. Call Hannah 541-343-2856. www.afamilyforeverychild.org

GOT A GREAT VOICE? Discover what it takes to become a professional voice talent from industry pros. **VOICE OVER WORKSHOP** Next class Jan 21. eugenevoicelasses@gmail.com or 541-556-2071

TEACHING: FUNDAMENTALS OF BUDDHISM My teacher is the 33rd generation lineage holder Dzogchen Khenpo Choga Rinpoche. Time & location: Eugene Zendo at 2190 Garfield St. on Jan 11 at 7pm.

BULLETIN BOARD

Announcements

\$11 FOR 3 LINES \$4 for each line after. If you buy 4 weeks you get the 5th week FREE! Call 541-484-0519 ask for Classifieds or email office@eugeneweekly.com

Classes

EUGENE FENCERS CLUB Modern Olympic Fencing. Foil, Epee & Saber. USAF/USFCA Certified Coaches. Roosevelt Middle School, Tuesday & Thursday, 6-8:30pm, 541-688-6574, eugenefencersclub.org

GOT A GREAT VOICE? Discover what it takes to become a professional voice talent from industry pros. **VOICE OVER WORKSHOP** Next class Jan 21. eugenevoicelasses@gmail.com or 541-556-2071

LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES NEW But not finding it? Discover the 10 secrets of finding and amplifying love. **RELATIONSHIPS 2012** Jan 14, 11am-5pm, \$50. Just Breathe, 2868 Willamette, Eug. For info or to register, 541-736-6368 or www.justbreatheeverybody.com/workshops-events.html 25% Discount with this ad.

Lost & Found

DOG SURVIVED Car Crash on Thanksgiving. Near Walton. Black curly coat w/ white on chest, 45 lb young female. Pink collar, black harness. Very frightened. If seen please call 541-662-2252

Wanted

CASH FOR CARS: Any Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You! Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

ESTABLISHED PCNW HOSPITALITY COMPANY NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR HEAD CHEF! An established Pacific Northwest company is NOW accepting resumes for Head Chef at one of our Eugene locations. We are looking for a talented and team work oriented Chef with a strong culinary background, stellar people and management skills, as well as a desire to work with fresh Pacific Northwest ingredients in a high volume environment. All interested candidates MUST have an open schedule and be available days, evenings, weekends and holidays. We offer a full benefit package and excellent work environment. Please send cover letter and resume attn: Human Resources, 430 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR, 97217 or fax to (503) 221-8749. No phone calls or emails to individual locations!!! EOE

ACCOUNT ASSISTANT/CUSTOMER SERVICE REP position available. Flexible hours. Mon-Fri. This position offers a competitive benefits package. Please send resume to rcjurt987@gmail.com

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WELLNESS

Acupuncture

EUGENE COMMUNITY ACUPUNCTURE An affordable good health practice. \$15-\$40 sliding scale. 260 E. 15th Ave, Eugene. Karen Wilson, L.Ac. 541-953-3882. EugeneCommunityAcupuncture.com

Bodywork

CHRONIC PAIN? Try Roling. Jeffrey Burch LMT #9092, 541-689-1515 jeffreymburch.com

Classes

BECOMING AN HERBALIST: Spend 1-2 days each month with Dr. Tilgner at Wise Acres Farm. Feb - October, Sundays. herbaltransitions.com or 736-0164, Hurry for discount!

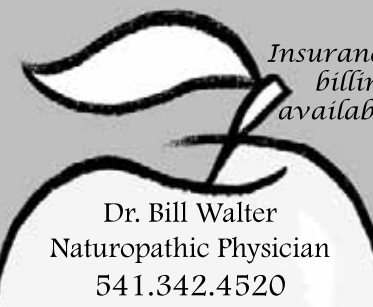
EVENTS CALENDAR

Eliel's Felties Store
Opening Jan 17th!
 Felt Art from the Heart,
 Felting Supplies, and Classes.
 Hours: Tues, Th, Sat, 11am-3pm
 (541) 543-7383
 150 Shelton McMurphy Blvd, Ste 202, Eugene

Free hour treatment w/ paid 1/2 hr Qigong Classes
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