

sette Pastry Kitchen, Koffee Rite, Red Wagon Creamery and Falling Sky Brewery will hold workshops.

Sprout! is currently home to 14 ongoing kitchen tenants, but, according to Elconin, there have been dozens of one-time users as well. Sprout! is also home to food carts that bolster a farmers market called Marketplace@Sprout! that sells a variety of vegetables, meats, cheeses and nuts during the fall and winter months.

"We offer hands-on demos on a variety of different food and gardening and even lifestyle and nutrition topics," Elconin says. "From week to week we'll have everything from a nutritionist giving a talk on how to integrate more veggies into your diet to somebody giving a sauerkraut demo, things like that."

NEDCO says Sprout! is all about informing the community while trying to help small businesses get their feet wet and flourish. "What we're excited about are the future Marché's of the world, the people who want to start with maybe a pop-out restaurant at Sprout!," says Ross Kanaga, Sprout!'s kitchen coordinator. "Maybe they want to start as catering and use our production facility for that."

Whatever the case may be for its inhabitants, Sprout! has plenty to celebrate and much to look forward to in year two.

"One of our slogans is 'food grows community,'" Elconin says. "We're using food as a strategy for increasing community. We're trying to put that front and center."

For more information, check out www.sproutfoodhub.org. — Nick Poust

LOCAL STORE TURNS AWAY G.L.A.M. PERFORMER

Recently, a group of local performers from G.L.A.M. Night and their friends from out of town were turned away after asking to try on dresses at Epris in the Gateway Mall.

"I've never had an issue like this before," says Reyes Rivera, aka Rhea Della Vera of G.L.A.M. Night.

G.L.A.M. (Gays, Lesbians and More) is a well-known Eugene dance party with drag queens, DJs, performances and go-go dancers. It was previously held at John Henry's and more recently at Diablo's Downtown Lounge.

Rivera was with his partner and their friends on Oct. 6 when they asked to try on some dresses at the store.

"The employee giggled and said 'Sorry, I can't let you in there. There's people in there,'" Rivera says.

Rivera said he did later speak to the employee who made the statement, who was "apologetic," and to the assistant manager, who told Rivera that the employee "didn't get the memo that gays are allowed in the dressing room."

Assistant Manager Kim McGeehon says the dressing rooms were full on Oct. 6 with mothers and daughters preparing for homecoming, and while the store "doesn't allow men" in the dressing room, it does "allow gay men." She said it was a miscommunication that could have been handled better, and in the past it has never been a problem.

Rivera called the store owner at least four times with no call back, although McGeehon said this is likely due to frequent traveling between stores.

"We were shocked. It's not about gay or straight, it's about treating everyone equally," Rivera says.

Rivera stresses that the incident was "unusual," and that in the four years he has been living in Eugene he has never experienced an incident like this at any store, local or corporate, including Forever 21, Kitsch-22, Charlotte Russe, Buffalo Exchange, Hot Topic and Wet Seal.

"I've been to most stores in this town and it's never been a problem. This is the only time this has ever happened to me," Rivera says. — Jordan Tichenor



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Thursday, October 24	North Eugene High School
Tuesday, October 29	Willamette High School
Wednesday, October 30	Churchill High School

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For more information: eugene-or.gov/budgetcommittee



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