



Core Campus is planning to open its 512-bed, 183-unit student luxury housing project in August 2015, but will “The Hub” at 515 E. Broadway be able to compete with the glut of cheaper student housing already being built, particularly at a time when college enrollment is dropping? At other Core projects, monthly rent for studios runs about \$1,000 and five-bedroom apartments go for about \$3,000. Penthouse units and those with their own hot tubs are more. The Eugene City Council last summer granted about \$4.5 million in Multiple-Unit Property Tax Exemptions for the project over 10 years.

Senate Bill 1563 in this short session of the Oregon Legislature raised the amount that small businesses can receive from the Oregon Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund from a limit of \$70,000 to \$100,000. Rep. Phil Barnhart says, “In the past, this fund has provided more than \$1.6 million in loans to small Oregon businesses that are hiring and expanding. Raising the loan limit amount gives more small businesses the opportunity to hire new people and gain a stronger foothold in Oregon’s economy.”

Barnhart also says **House Bill 4005** increases the number of e-commerce zones the state can approve from 10 to 15 and encourages technology companies to locate in these areas by providing a short-term property tax waiver and a limited tax credit. “Recent news has suggested that this bill could help secure a buyer for the former Hynix plant and bring jobs back to the region,” Barnhart says.

Lane Forest Products has added a new retail location at the corner of Franklin and Glenwood Boulevard in Glenwood. The new Lane Forest Products Corner Store will offer planting soils, composts, bark and more. Some seasonal items such as fruit trees, arborvitae and shrubs will also be available. The site, previously owned and occupied by R&S Outdoor Landscape Supply, will not provide any yard-debris recycling.

We hear a new **Mohawk Valley Music Festival** is being planned Aug. 8-10 at Bob’s Ranch in the Marcola area. The festival has a website and Facebook page using the same name. Early bird tickets are \$75. This is a first and hopefully annual event.

Pacific Winds Music is celebrating its 27th year in business, says owner Willie Knaus. The independent store leases, buys, sells and repairs all kinds of wind instruments at 791 W. 8th Ave. The store is currently selling off its collection of violins and string accessories. Call 343-5660.

Another anniversary this week is at **Skip’s Records and CD World**, celebrating 25 years in an industry that’s seen huge changes and shrinking retail. The store is having a special anniversary sale this week with 25 percent off regular prices Friday through Tuesday, at West 11th and Seneca.

St. Vincent de Paul is taking 300 books from its stacks to start a special library for Adult Basic and Secondary Education students at LCC. The library will be in ABSE in Building 11 of the main campus. Improved skill in reading is linked to success in higher education and employment, say organizers. Donations of books are accepted at all St. Vinnie’s stores and Attended Collection Centers. See svdp.us.

The **Corvallis Fall Festival** is now accepting artist applications for its 42nd festival, planned for Sept. 27-28. Applications are due May 1. More information at corvallisfallfestival.com.

The **Eugene Marathon** is expecting more than 9,000 runners from all over to sign up this year for the series of events surrounding the July 27 main marathon, considered the premier U.S. summer marathon. Some 1,500 volunteers are being recruited and they will also have an opportunity to help out with the IAFF World Junior Championships that will begin July 22 at Hayward Field. The IAFF is expected to draw 1,600 track and field athletes from more than 200 countries. Volunteer registration opened March 10 and continues through July 1. See eugenemarathon.com.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our news brief last week about plans for an Alder Street mural, we wrote that Alder Street Advocates had raised \$5,402, but the group has actually received pledges, which include volunteer time, valued at that amount.

NEWS

FORMER ECOSABOTEUR RETURNS FOR ECSTATIC DANCE FUNDRAISER



Chelsea Gerlach was sent to prison in 2007 for her participation in ecologically motivated sabotage with the Earth Liberation Front. Gerlach is now out of prison and on probation, and she is returning to Eugene to guest DJ “Chance to Dance,” an ecstatic dance at the WOW Hall March 22 that will raise money for Gerlach’s 3-year-old nephew Malachi, who has cerebral palsy.

Gerlach and her fellow ecosaboteurs convicted in what the FBI called “Operation Backfire” were largely based in Eugene, and their activities ranged from burning a ski resort building project in lynx habitat to tipping over a BPA transmission tower.

Gerlach told *EW* in a statement that “returning to Eugene, I carry some shame for the anger and fear I have invoked — both through my acts of property damage and through my cooperation with the government.” But she adds, “Music and dance can be a powerful conduit for healing and personal transformation. In light of that history, I offer this event, a journey of liberation through movement.”

Cooperating with the government in its investigation caused a schism among many in the environmental community, who also objected to the government labeling the ecosaboteurs as terrorists. Eugene-based Civil Liberties Defense Center and others have called the government’s targeting of eco-activists across the country the “Green Scare.”

When Gerlach was released to a halfway house in Portland, the Earth First! Newswire posted an update that read, “Gerlach should be shunned for her participation in sending others into the [A]merican gulag. If spotted at community spaces that cater to activists, the working poor, people of color and other segments of society who are frequently abused by the government she works with, she should be asked firmly to leave.”

Gerlach says she studied Buddhism while serving three years in a maximum-security prison in Texas. After she was sent to Florida to finish her sentence, she “got involved in a vibrant Christian community, strongly influenced by the black church and the Spanish-speaking church,” she says. “I was in a group there that did choreographed dance that brought together the Spanish and English congregations.” Those congregations were polarized by racial tension, she says.

Gerlach now studies at Portland State University and plans to pursue a graduate degree in divinity. She says, “During my prison time, I found spiritual practice to be a source of life, peace and positive transformation.” She says that, as an activist, “I was trying to change the world, basically by brute force, but I’ve learned that true change requires a change of heart, and that comes from within.”

Chance to Dance runs 7 to 9 pm Saturday, March 22, at WOW Hall. Tickets are \$7 and a portion of the proceeds will go to paying for movement therapy for Gerlach’s nephew, Malachi. For more on Malachi and his condition go to wkly.ws/1pf. — *Camilla Mortensen*

COMPLAINTS AGAINST EPD HIT RECORD HIGH

The Eugene Police Auditor’s office received 400 complaints last year — the most the office has received since it opened. Police Auditor Mark Gissiner attributes the rise partially to low capacity at Lane County Jail and the District Attorney’s office no longer pursuing certain cases, including drug charges.

“So some people feel because it’s not pursued, there’s no evidence and therefore they have a point that the officer did not have probable cause,” Gissiner says.

He says if a person is arrested on a drug charge, police will confiscate the substance they believe to be drugs and send it to a lab to be identified, but sometimes the DA will not pursue charges even if lab results prove the substances are illegal. He says some people think that “if the DA drops their charges that must mean I didn’t have drugs on me or something was wrong with what the officer did and, in fact, it’s a breakdown in the system.”

The DA’s office published a list of 100 misdemeanor crimes in 2004 they would no longer investigate or prosecute, due to lack of funding. Since then the list has grown, Lane County DA Alex Gardner says.

“Today we no-file approximately 25 percent of the viable (strong) felony case volume,” Gardner writes. “That’s a slight improvement over where we were a few months ago.”

He explains that the DA’s office generally prioritizes cases starting with violent crimes, an approach based on level of harm to the victim. After violent crimes, the office prosecutes property crimes, usually based on the dollar amount of damage. Crimes involving victims are a higher priority than most drug charges.

“Most of the felony cases we no-file are drug offenses,” Gardner says, “but many significant property felonies have to be rejected too.”

Gissiner says jail capacity issues are a factor because people charged with crimes who get taken to jail are released before their trial and the charges are dropped if they’re not indicted or charged within a certain time frame following their release.

Eugene also has a high per-capita ratio for arrests and citations, Gissiner says. In 2012, Portland Police Department made 20,407 arrests and EPD made 15,614.

“Our police are active in the arrests arena,” Gissiner says. “So it’s going to generate a certain amount of complaints.”

Gissiner says in 2013 the auditor’s office also saw more internal reports — either officers self-reporting or complaints otherwise coming from inside the police department. In one instance, officer reported that another officer used a racial slur and the officer who made the derogatory remark lost his job as a result.

According to Gissiner, officer accountability has increased and will continue to do so. He attributes this in part to the “Blue Team” computer program EPD started using approximately a year and a half ago. Supervisors now must enter uses of force in the program, rather than officers self-reporting.

“I think having the supervisor there at the scene and interviewing witnesses right away and taking pictures right away has significantly improved the efficiency of immediate first-line supervisor reviews of uses of force,” Gissiner says.

EPD Internal Affairs Lt. Nate Reynolds says supervisors can document internal and external complaints in Blue Team and the auditor’s office has access to complaints inputted in the program. — *Missy Corr*

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—MARK GISSINER,
POLICE AUDITOR