



Sweet Potato Pie is closing after 20 years in business in Eugene, first downtown on 11th Avenue and then at 775 Monroe St. next to Sweet Life in the Whiteaker. The store features locally made clothing and natural products and Saturday will be the last day. Owner Elizabeth Thompson says the move away from downtown was expensive and foot traffic in the Whiteaker has been bad. She has kept the store going over the past five years by working full-time jobs around town. Find updates on the closing and fixtures that are for sale on the store's Facebook page or email sweetpotatopiegirl@comcast.net.

CruiseOne, a travel agency, is adding new jobs and opening a new storefront this month at 1132 5th St. in Springfield. Owner is Gary E. Smith who teaches small business management full-time at LCC. Smith says he "hopes to bring the advantages of top-volume production partnerships and exceptional pricing to the local market as well." The company provides employee travel benefits to Fortune 500 and top technology firms including Apple, Microsoft and Intel. The official ribbon-cutting will be Oct. 23, but visitors to the business the week of Oct. 20 can get discounts and sign up for a cruise giveaway drawing. See travelperks.biz or call 349-0036.

Dandelions Flowers & Gifts is organizing "**Bras for a Cure**," a bra-decorating contest to raise money for the Oregon Cancer Foundation and aid local cancer patients. The deadline for entering decorated bras is Saturday, Oct. 18. Bras will be on display Oct. 20-31, and the "Reveal Party" will be Tuesday, Oct. 21. Entry fee is \$10 and votes are \$1 each. Dandelions is at 1710 Chambers St. Call Shirley Lyons at 485-1261 or visit dandelionsflowers.com.

Claim 52 Brewing is now serving up its handcrafted beers at the Sprout! Regional Food Hub, a community building operated by NEDCO that includes the year-round farmers market, pop-up restaurants and commercial kitchen. Sprout! is at 418 A. St. in Springfield; the new space faces 4th Street and is named The Abbey to reflect the historic nature of the building, as well as the brewery's focus on European beer styles like Kolsch, Weiss beers and Belgian ales. Hours will be 4 to 8 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 3 to 9 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

SunWorks, a Eugene-based manufacturer of solar food dryers owned by Eben Fodor, is looking to win a grant from Mission Main Street, and the grant is based in part on community support. It's easy to make a vote of support through Facebook at solarfooddryer.com or wkly.ws/1tu. Fodor says he's just 89 votes short of the 250 votes needed to get to the next step. Twenty grants will be awarded of \$150,000 cash, a laptop computer, a trip to meet with small business experts and customized market research. Deadline to vote is Oct. 17.

The **American Water Works Association** Young Professionals are hosting a talk by Karl Morgenstern of EWEB on EWEB's efforts to promote conservation in the McKenzie River watershed at a meeting from 6 to 8 pm Thursday, Oct. 16, at the LCC Downtown Campus, 4th floor. Call 514-3001 for more information.

Beginning farmers and ranchers are invited to Oregon's first "Farmers Rising" weekend of learning, networking and socializing for farmers and ranchers across the state, beginning Friday evening, Oct. 17, at Two Rivers Farm, 89060 Old Mohawk Rd. in Springfield. Email beth@friendsoffamilyfarmers.org or call 359-8987.

The **Greenlane Sustainable Business Network** is celebrating its fifth anniversary with an event from 5 to 8 pm Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Sprout! Marketplace, 418 A St. in Springfield. \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. See greenlane-sbn.org.

NEWS

4J SEEKS SUPPORT FOR LOCAL OPTION LEVY

With full-day kindergarten and the new Smarter Balanced standardized tests looming on the horizon, Eugene School District 4J can't afford to lose any source of funding. That's why the district is asking voters to renew a five-year local option levy on the Nov. 4 ballot.

"A big thing voters should be aware of is that this is not a new tax," says Jennifer Geller, 4J board member. She says that voters have approved the levy three times since 2000, and the district is not raising the property tax rate but instead maintaining the current rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A person owning property with a total real market value of around \$310,000 and an assessed value of around \$270,000 would pay about \$66 per year for the levy.

Currently, the Oregon Department of Education provides the majority of 4J's funds, while the local option levy comes specifically from Eugene taxpayers and amounts to about \$8 million per year, going toward school programs, teachers' salaries and other school operations costs. If

voters do not renew the levy, 4J will lose the equivalent of funding for 80 teachers or 16 school days, according to 4J's website.

Geller says the local option levy is the only way that 4J can receive local funds for school operations. In 1990, Measure 5 amended the Oregon Constitution to cap property taxes dedicated to school funding, limiting the amount of funds directed toward education. In other states, sales tax supplements funding for education, but Oregon has no such sales tax.

"Education has so much to do with the well-being of a community," Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy says. "The success of students affects the success of our community."

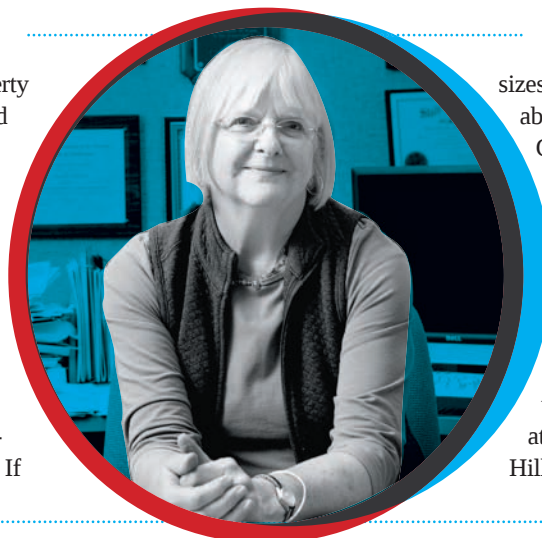
Piercy says that good schools are a huge asset to a city in that the benefits of a good education bolster a community over the long term, and Geller adds that 4J can't afford any more cuts. This year, the district added back days to the calendar and hired more teachers to reduce class sizes, but the local option levy represents about 5 percent of 4J's operating budget, Geller says, and the district needs that money to continue adding back what was lost.

"Voting for this is one of the few ways we can express how much we care about our schools and our kids," Piercy says.

Levy supporters will meet to talk to voters at 9:30 am Saturday, Oct. 25, at River Road Elementary School, 120 Hilliard Ln. — *Amy Schneider*

'Voting for this is one of the few ways we can express how much we care about our schools and our kids.'

—KITTY PIERCY, MAYOR



TOUR TALKS REWILDING, WOLVES AND CAPITALISM

Mikhail Gorbachev says that CNN creator Ted Turner "has set a new standard for what a single individual can do to address the most challenging problems threatening our survival."

That is according to the blurb on the back of author Todd Wilkinson's *Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet*, published by Lyons Press in 2013 and copyrighted to Turner Works, LLC.

Wilkinson and Cascadia Wildlands Executive Director Bob Ferris are currently touring Oregon and Washington talking about Turner, conservation and capitalism on a "Two Talking Wolves" tour that starts this week.

Ferris says that Turner talks about "the need for people that have been successful to be empathetic in terms of realizing their wealth comes from natural resources, and they need to put something back in the bank to keep human and ecological systems healthy."

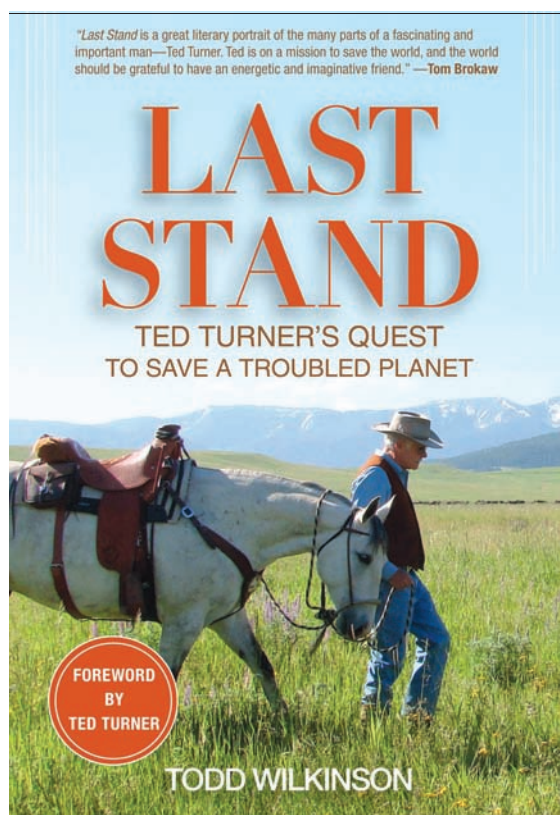
Wilkinson's biography of Turner kicks off with a dream of a wolf and the concept of rewilding — bringing back some of the native species from hundreds of years ago to the lands they once roamed. Ferris says that rewilding and Oregon's roaming wolf pair, known to some as OR-7 and his "uncollared female" and to others as Journey and Wanda, will be part of the wide-ranging discussions on the Two Wolves tour.

Ferris points to conservation work on Turner's 2 million acres of land holdings as an example of the media mogul's views as an "eco-capitalist-humanitarian."

"Ted's a good model for successful people to aspire to," Ferris says. "His sort of attitude and thinking anybody could adopt."

'The Pacific Northwest figures at the center of many urgent environmental issues affecting America and the world.'

—BOB FERRIS,
CASCADIA WILDLANDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



He says Turner puts the same spirit that led to his creation of the 24-hour news station into conservation. Some of the most economically successful businesses are also the most environmental, Ferris adds.

According to Ferris, the fact that wolves could successfully return to Oregon and that Journey and Wanda could "hook up" demonstrates that, with enough wild land, sensitive species can return, but the loss of biodiversity must be slowed before that can happen.

Ferris and Wilkinson urge that people come out and learn about how "the Pacific Northwest figures at the center of many urgent environmental issues affecting America and the world."

The Two Talking Wolves tour comes to Eugene at noon Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Knight Law School, Room 110 on the UO campus, and 7 pm the same day at Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette St. At 7 pm Friday, Oct. 17, Ferris and Wilkinson will speak in Cottage Grove at The Healing Matrix, 632 E. Main St., and they speak again 7 pm Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, 645 N.W. Monroe Ave. — *Camilla Mortensen*