

NEWS



NEDA FATTAHI, ELIZABETH VARGAS, EVA SHAPEN AND KAILA GEHRING LEAD A DEMONSTRATION AT UO IN SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIAN REFUGEES.

PHOTO BY: MOHAMMED ALKHADHER / MOHAMMEDALKHADHER.COM

UO STUDENTS RALLY TO SUPPORT REFUGEES

Students at UO rallied Nov. 30 in response to the backlash aimed at Syrian refugees. More than four million Syrians, three-quarters of them women and children according to the U.N., are fleeing civil war in that country.

In the wake of the Nov. 13 Paris attacks that killed 130, at least 24 U.S. governors have said they would refuse to cooperate with federal efforts to resettle refugees, citing security concerns. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown was not one of them.

The group of about 100 to 150 people demonstrated on the lawn across from the Lillis Business Complex, then marched through campus to 13th and Agate, before doubling back to sign a petition in support of increasing the amount of refugees the state accepts.

Elizabeth Vargas, a senior majoring in political science and journalism, organized the rally and proposed a petition to increase the number of refugees accepted into the U.S. from 10,000 to 65,000 within the next year.

"We wanted it to be a show of solidarity," Vargas said of the event, adding, "we are very fortunate to live in a community where it's not as much of a protest, because our representatives are accepting refugees."

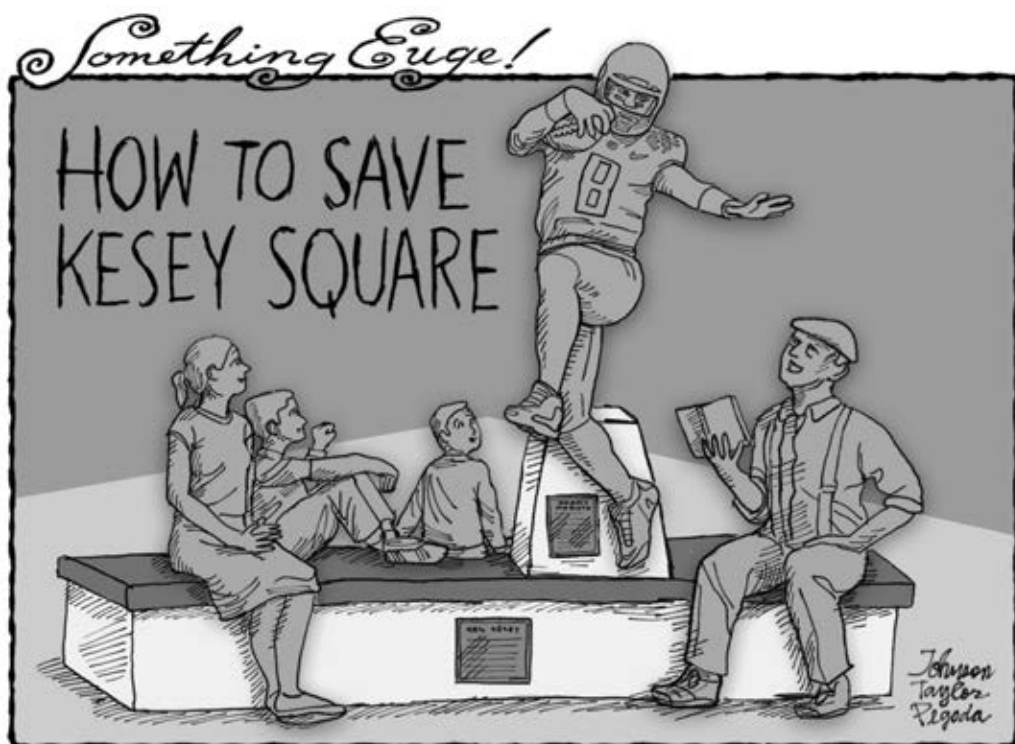
Vargas says she hopes the rally inspires someone to organize in a state where there's more opposition to the refugees, "They're going to make so much more of an impact."

The COP21 UN climate talks continued in Paris, despite the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks two weeks earlier, but climate rallies there were shut down by the government, citing security concerns. A 2015 study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* linked the 2007-2010 drought in Syria as contributing to the conflict that led people to flee that country.

Vargas pointed out not all of our state's elected representatives support Syrian refugees. But Sen. Ron Wyden in a press release supported the House passing the American Security Against Foreign Enemies Act. "Our country must ensure the refugee screening process is as strong as possible and protects all Americans," Wyden said of HR 4038.

The bill proposes to only accept refugees once the FBI is able to certify to the Department of Human Services and the Director of National Intelligence that the asylum seeker is not a threat to national security; and DHS must then certify, with the unanimous agreement of the FBI and DNI, that the asylum seeker is not a threat.

"If one person reads about this and feels a little bit safer or a little bit more welcomed," Vargas said of the rally, "that's going to mean the world to me." — Mohammed Alkhadher



• One of the pleasures of the holidays in Eugene is our chance to visit the studios and homes of talented artists. That includes potter Faith Rahill whose holiday studio sale runs from 5 to 8 pm Friday, Dec. 4, at 2581 Monroe Street; potter Ken Stanhardt whose home studio sale is from 5 to 8 pm Friday, Dec. 4, at 55 W. 27th Ave.; jeweler Hannah Goldrich and painter Mike Pease who open the Pease home for their annual show and sale from 11 am to 4 pm Saturday, Dec. 5, at 768 W. 10th Ave.; plus so many others listed in our Calendar. Enjoy.

KEPW will be a new low-power community radio station operated by Eugene PeaceWorks and dedicated to "bringing the diverse voices, music and discussion of controversial issues from unique local, regional and national programs to Eugene," according to organizers. The nonprofit station has a construction permit and is working to raise \$22,500 for a transmitter, other equipment and licensing fees. The station hopes to go live at 97.3 FM before its FCC deadline of February 2017. A benefit with stand-up comedy and live music is planned for 5 to 9 pm Thursday, Dec. 3, at Sam Bond's Brewery, 540 E. 8th Ave. near the U.S. Courthouse. See kepw.org or call Rick Gold at 343-8548.

The Eugene-based Moroccan Buzz has a new retail location at 1850 C Oak Street downtown for the holidays. The mostly online store features handcrafted items from women in Morocco. The business is having its annual holiday show and sale from 9 am to 5 pm Saturday, Dec. 5, and 9 am to 4 pm Sunday, Dec. 6. Call 554-1096.

Pegasus Pizza owners Lori Reader and her husband, Paul Reader, were featured in the November/December issue of *Main Ingredient*, the trade publication of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. Lori Reader talks about the challenges of taking over a restaurant that was "in decline due to absentee ownership and other issues. ... We had to live with substandard systems and equipment, which costs you more money." She also discloses that there were problems with the staff they inherited, and "we had to replace virtually everyone in the first year, which led to further turmoil." Read the new issue online at oregonrla.org under "Publications."

The Eugene area is a major center for Peace Corps veterans and many who have served overseas are continuing their work today at home in recruiting and community projects. The West Cascades Peace Corps Association is having a fundraiser called "Curry for a Cause" from 5 to 8 pm Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Central Presbyterian Church, 555 E. 15th Ave. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. Email julietbender@aol.com for advance tickets and more information.

BRING Recycling this week is launching #WorkUpstream, "a new campaign to teach our community about upstream waste and to work new ways with local companies in high-impact industries to create less waste here at home and in their supply chains," says Ephraim Payne, BRING's development and communications director. "The best way to reduce that waste is to make businesses more sustainable. We'll be rolling out some exciting new ways to do that over the coming year." So far, PIVOT Architecture, Rainbow Valley Design and Construction and QSL Print Communications are involved and looking for new ways to reduce waste. Find out more by calling 746-3023 or visit bringrecycling.org.

We hear from Genesis Juice that unprecedented fire, smoke and drought were tough on Northwest apple growers this summer and fall. Organic apple farmers in Eastern Washington's Wenatchee and Yakima valleys provide apples that go into Genesis Juice products, and some of those farmers lost their homes, barns and packing sheds. The big sheds can serve multiple farmers and are where farmers package and ship their crops. "Despite all this hardship, the apples were high-quality, delicious fruits," says Whitney Hoshaw of Genesis, which is part of Toby's Family Foods. Hoshaw says the company uses all-local dairy products for Toby's dressings and seeks out local sources for all its products, but this time of the year Genesis gets its juice apples from Washington through the Eugene-based Organically Grown Company.