

MOUNTAIN ROSE HERBS TO OPEN STOREFRONT IN DOWNTOWN EUGENE

A Victorian-style apothecary with steampunk-inspired, post-Industrial flair will soon join the businesses in the Farmers' Union Marketplace at Fifth Avenue and Olive Street in downtown Eugene.

Mountain Rose Herbs, national purveyor of tea, spices and other herbal offerings, moved to Eugene in 2010, but the company has never before operated a formal storefront.

Shawn Donnille, vice president of Mountain Rose Herbs, says the company wanted to give its customers a "flagship boutique store," with "extensive wooden shelving" and "hundreds of different apothecary jars on

display," selling Mountain Rose's enormous selection of herbs and spices, from wild indigo root to nettle leaf.

Mountain Rose will take over Oak Street Vintage's old spot, which amounts to around 2,100 square feet of floor space. Donnille says the storefront will be Victorian-themed and will provide Mountain Rose customers with the opportunity to buy directly from the store instead of ordering in advance and picking up orders at Mountain Rose's facility in west Eugene.

"Around the time of Oregon Country Fair, we have people coming from all over the country wanting to see Mountain Rose Herbs, but when they come to our pickup area, it's not what they were expecting," Donnille explains. "People would get disheartened to not be able to buy things right there."

Mountain Rose Herbs prioritizes sustainable business, working to use organic ingredients, install solar panels

and reduce waste. It joins a handful of other sustainably minded businesses in the Farmers' Union Marketplace, including Down to Earth and Green Store.

"That shopping center has a rich agricultural history, and we're an agriculture-based company, so I couldn't imagine a better fit," Donnille says. "I think we'll complement each other wonderfully."

The apothecary will be modeled after preeminent apothecaries in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco, Donnille says, with herbal teas, extracts, housewares and tools for home herbalists. Mountain Rose plans to provide space for community herbal classes and seminars, and the storefront may serve as a home base for the Free Herbalism Project, a lecture series hosted by Mountain Rose.

Donnille says the storefront is slated to open in August of this year. — Amy Schneider

SLANT

• Eugene Weekly does not condone or encourage **acts of violence or destruction** in the name of any cause.

We were dismayed to find out that someone threw a large rock through the glass door of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce building in the early hours of Saturday, Feb. 13. The perpetrator also placed several copies of the Feb. 11 edition of EW — open to an article about the Chambers' endorsement of the 2E Broadway proposal to privatize Kesey Square — with a misspelled scrawl stating "Greedy Capitlist" and "the Colinishen of Public Spase." Chamber President Dave Hauser tells EW via email that they "found a bag of rocks nearby" and the Chamber has filed a police report. "The good news is that aside from the broken glass and damage to the door, nothing else was damaged and nothing was taken from the building," Hauser writes.

Meanwhile social media is buzzing: Many proponents of Kesey Square have wondered if the vandalism was contrived by someone who wants to see the square developed. "I really think it is someone who has a grudge against the movement to save the square," says Gwendolyn Iris, a Save Kesey Square activist. "Based on the words and spelling, it just reads like mockery."

We are disappointed to see such uncivil discourse here in Eugene. Writing your elected representatives, attending City Council meetings, as Kesey advocates have done, or volunteering to make your city better are far more effective, and more humane, forms of activism. Or do what reggae legend Norma Fraser and blues legend Tommy Castro did Tuesday night at Kesey Square — sing about it. See video of this magical moment on our blog.

• If we can pay an offensive coordinator \$600,000 a year for a college football team in this state, we should be able to pay workers a **minimum wage of \$15 an hour**, about \$31,000 a year. "Apples and oranges" is sure to be the response to that comparison. Not true. If working people earn a decent wage, they might be able to go to the UO football games or even buy burgers and beer while watching in a sports bar. In some ways, \$15 an hour is a conservative position. It will generate more buying power and reduce the need for government assistance. Isn't that what conservatives want? In this election year, Gov. Kate Brown is asking for less, but Democratic legislators should go for a phased in \$15 an hour while they hold the majority.

• **The drawn-out standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge** has crept to an end with no additional loss of life. Now we are left dealing with possible desecration of Native American artifacts, delays in restoration projects such as

ridding the refuge's waterways of invasive carp and other damages. The Malheur Field Station tells EW that "loss of income, cancellations, damage from break-ins and theft from two buildings, and redirected staff time have cost MFS about \$30,000 in the past six weeks." And about \$5,000 in donations in the wake of the occupation has come in. The occupiers themselves are trying to raise money. A FundedJustice site raising money for Ammon Bundy (whose lawyer is Eugene attorney Mike Arnold) has raised a little over \$55,000 in pledges from 849 people. Meanwhile, the anti-occupier sentiment is running high. As of Feb. 16, GoHomeMalheur, created by Eugene natives Jake and Zach Klonoski, has drummed up more than \$135,000 in pledges from 1,643 people.

• Springfield's proposed ordinance to **discourage roadside panhandling** by fining drivers appears to be just another in a long string of discriminatory attempts to quash the symptoms of income disparity and homelessness, rather than dealing with their causes. Springfield and other cities already have traffic laws on the books about impeding traffic and causing unsafe driving conditions. Enforce the laws if there's a problem.

• Sen. Lee Beyer (D-Springfield) submitted SB 1573 to Oregon's 2016 legislative short session that **"Requires city to annex territory without vote** upon receipt of petition for annexation submitted by all owners of land in territory provided territory is included within urban growth boundary of city or Metro and is, or will be, subject to acknowledged comprehensive plan of city." In other words, urban sprawl on a fast-track without a public vote. We asked Beyer why he submitted this bill, which appears to be written by the Oregon Homebuilder Associations and Oregonians in Action, and he hasn't responded. Fortunately, this exceptionally flawed bill has no co-sponsors and appears to be stuck in the Senate Committee on Rules.

• **Republicans are vowing to block** any nominee for Supreme Court that Obama puts forward. The fear-based Grand Obstruction Party is being consistent. But if Antonin Scalia had died when George W. Bush still had 11-plus months in office, would the GOP have demanded Bush not fill the position? The timing of Scalia's death makes his replacement an election issue, and that's a good thing. Voters do not always appreciate the significance of Supreme Court appointments. A change.org petition asking Obama to **nominate Anita Hill** had almost 9,000 signatures by Feb. 16, only days after Scalia's death. Hill is a well-respected jurist who more than 20 years ago testified during Clarence Thomas' confirmation hearings that he had sexually harassed her. Nominate Anita Hill? As the petition says, "Now *that's* justice!" The petition is at chn.ge/1PVKAYt.



• Oregon **industrial hemp growers** will likely be happy with amendments to House Bill 4060 which passed out of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Feb. 11, has had its third reading and is up for a vote in the full House soon. The new hemp rules are significantly relaxed over existing rules and an earlier version of the bill. Growing or handling hemp will still require an annual state license, record-keeping and random testing for maximum THC levels. If the bill passes the Legislature, the minimum 2.5-acre planting rule will go away and hemp growers will be able to use greenhouses, clone desirable plants from cuttings and cultivate all varieties of hemp, even those with high levels of cannabidiol, which is not an intoxicant and is used primarily for medicinal purposes. The legislation has the support of the Oregon Farm Bureau and a number of state lawmakers, including Rep. Val Hoyle and Sens. Floyd Prozanski and Lee Beyer.

• **Smiles Dental** clinics in Oregon, Washington and Alaska are offering free dental care Friday, Feb. 19. The Eugene office is located at 2201 Willamette Street, Suite A. Local residents are being offered one-hour sessions that can be used for a variety of dental services that do not require additional lab work. Reservations will be taken by phone one day only, Thursday, Feb. 18, by calling 343-3722. Last year the clinic served 30 residents with free dental care valued at nearly \$14,000.

• **Reality Kitchen** and the **Eugene Barista School** (formally Eugene Coffee Company) have teamed up again to offer a "Barista Basics" class for young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The current classes are already under way and include instruction on order taking, specialty coffee making and also customer service, according to Sue Harnley, owner and trainer at the school. Email eugenebaristaschool@gmail.com for more information or visit realitykitchen.org.