coming generations will see these changes accelerate. It is heartening to see local climate leaders pushing for needed changes.

But we also need our elected officials to lead the way, by not just talking the talk but also walking the walk. In the race for Eugene City Council Ward 1, Joshua Skov stands out. For 15 years since co-founding Good Company, he has been helping businesses and government agencies reduce their carbon footprint while saving money. He teaches sustainable business practices at the UO. I am supporting Joshua Skov because Eugene needs his expertise and leadership to translate our Climate Recovery Ordinance aspirational goals into practical actions leading to a community that is better for people, prosperity and the planet.

Rob Zako
Eugene

DISPARAGING SPRINGFIELD

I have lived in the Eugene area for 23 years. I went to school at the UO and have been a productive member of this community all 23 years. I own property in both Eugene and Springfield, I have raised a family here, I work in Eugene and live in Springfield. I have read *EW* on and off for more than two decades. Although I don't always agree with the opinions, I have always enjoyed some aspect of your publication and found it useful.

I am utterly disgusted and disappointed that you would run the article "All Quiet on the Eastern Front" March 10. Not only is it short-sighted, harmful and plain asinine to disparage your neighboring city, but it is patently untrue. I will also point out that the article ignores the fact that Eugene has its fair share of dirty strip clubs that are packed on any given night. Writer Ben Ricker may not have enjoyed his time in Springfield, but I suspect it's because he is a trendy hipster with extremely limited taste. Although the nightlife may be better in the collegiate downtown of Eugene, Springfield's new downtown businesses boast good food, good atmosphere and high quality entertainment. They certainly don't deserve Ben's brand of slander.

Chass Thuresson
Eugene/Springfield

FORESTS & CLIMATE

With so much attention focused on climate change — and rightfully so — it is of utmost importance for us to be paying attention and protecting the forests we have left.

Forests are an essential climate regulator, store massive amounts of carbon and produce clean water and air, as well as provide habitat for critical species, medicine and food.

Forests are continuously threatened here in Oregon. Currently, the Elliot state rainforest is up for privatization and could end up in the hands of big timber.

Logging has long time been a part of Oregon's economy, but big timber is wiping out ecosystems at the cost of the future. Too often you hear the argument that logging generates necessary jobs and revenue to pay for essential services, but there will be no future for jobs if we continue to allow entire ecosystems to be wiped out. As for revenue, you have to question this when you realize that in 1999 a law was passed by Gov. John Kitzhaber allowing tax exemption to anyone owning over 5,000 acres of forestland. Who owns that much forestland? Big timber. This is millions of dollars lost annually in revenue.

There is no price tag for clean water and fresh air and a livable future for the generations to come.

It is time for bold action to create jobs in a sustainable, viable future. It is time that all native and intact forests be protected, for regulated selective logging practices in tree plantations, and for a full ban on herbicide and synthetic fertilizer applications.

We must find another way.

Brennan McGee
Dexter

JUNCTION CITY NEXT

Nice job with the cartoon about Springfield March 10. You've become the Donald Trump of journalism. Lies and insults are very trendy these days and seem to work with the masses. I'm sure your circulation for that issue was 'uuuuuge! Looking forward to your hit piece on Junction City. Keep up the good work.

Paul Roth
Springfield

A UNIQUE SPACE

Broadway Plaza? I enjoy watching a movie at the theater, and then having dinner or a beverage nearby afterwards. You are discussing one of my favorite places in Eugene — so I feel strongly about the current development plans. I am not opposed to a development there, just not the apartment complex proposal. Why?

A large population boom is expected in our community in coming years. Would a community with that many more people appreciate having an open space in central downtown? That is a unique little space.

VIEWPOINT

BY PAULA GOODBAR

Outdated Stereotypes

SPRINGFIELD HAS RECLAIMED ITS DOWNTOWN VITALITY

It was one of those moments when I felt like all the air had been sucked out of the room. I had entered the Growler Underground in anticipation of meeting several friends and hearing lots of great music at the weekly open mic on Main Street in Springfield. As soon as I walked in, someone handed me the latest issue of *Eugene Weekly* and said, "Look what they did to Springfield."

I could not believe what Ben Ricker had written about the downtown nightlife in his cartoon graphic "All Quiet on the Eastern Front" in the March 10 edition. The article was being passed around to several people attending the open mic and jaws were dropping all night. This reaction continued into the following day and was the only topic of conversation throughout downtown Springfield before, during and after the art walk. The anger was palpable everywhere I went as I talked with others in the downtown area.

I wanted to understand why I reacted so strongly to Ricker's article. Why was I taking it so seriously and, in fact, personally?

I have been involved in the revitalization of Main Street for more than five years. There have been countless hours, energy, money spent and volunteers that have worked and will continue to work diligently to develop an arts and culture district. We worked hard to reclaim the streets and make it enjoyable for everyone without having to step around barf or someone passed out on the sidewalk.

There are merchants who have spent their life savings investing in downtown, and all of the people who support this effort to bring people back to downtown Springfield have been dealt a very mean-spirited blow to their vision.

What was the true concept behind Ricker's piece? I was told that Ben had asked a business owner for the seediest places* to go on his nightlife exploration of our area. Why wasn't that mentioned as part of his exploration or in any of the aftermath, instead of links to articles from the past that don't help with anything that is believed to be the current situation in this area?

The rest of the Swizzle supplement was devoted to all of the positive activities and events happening in Eugene and even in Dexter at the Dexter Lake Club, while the back page was dedicated to the non-existent scene happening in Springfield. The continued bias toward Springfield needs to be questioned at the *Weekly*. Old press releases and articles do not hold any weight. What is currently perceived as happening takes precedence.

That was the same weekend that Plank Town had its Cask Festival and the lines were out the door and on the sidewalk, which Ben would have certainly seen had he been there anytime prior to closing at midnight.

Everything that all of us in downtown Springfield have strived to improve in regards to the age-old stereotype of seedy bars and strip clubs along with the work to bridge the division between Eugene and Springfield felt like it was slipping away as we were once again made to be the butt of a joke.

We will continue to grow as an arts destination as our downtown grows and offers more art, shops, restaurants and events, and through it all we hope that someday in the not so distant future, more of Eugene will venture over and explore the actual life happening in our community.

Paula Goodbar is an artist, arts advocate and activist, coordinator of Downtown Springfield Second Friday Art Walk, and executive director of Emerald Art Center.

**EW sent Ben Ricker without an agenda, and the suggestion to go to Brick House was put forward by several people.*