



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

BEST EPIC MILKSHAKE

It's a Tuesday afternoon and we're hankering for something sweet. Rather than reach for the bag of carrots so conveniently stashed beside us, we instead take to fantasizing about chocolate.

Then, as if through some magical twist of fate brought about by the social media gods, a chocolate-loaded confection of utter magnificence appears on our Facebook feed. Is it a brownie? Is it a milkshake? Is it *both*?

We note that the majestic confection hails from Sundial Café and make arrangements to convene there at once.

"I'm all about flair and garnishes, and I like things to be big and beautiful," says Alex Moon, owner of Sundial Café, a gluten-free restaurant that opened in May.

Sundial's signature milkshakes start with Tillamook ice cream for the gluten-tolerant among us and Coconut Bliss for those living gluten-free. The ice cream is whipped into a sweet froth, poured into a Mason jar and adorned with chocolate syrup along the rim, topped with more chocolate and marshmallows sure to send you into a paroxysm of sugary bliss.

Moon says her personal favorite is the "Pink Cloud," a strawberry shake bedecked with fresh strawberries, marshmallows and, best of all, a rainbow sugar rim.

"We hit it hard with the toppings," Moon laughs.

To sample this wonder of desserts or partake in Sundial Café's popular breakfast and brunch menu, head to 2435 Hilyard Street; the restaurant is open 11 am to 9 pm Tuesday through Friday and 8 am to 3 pm Saturday through Sunday.

BEST BUSINESSES UNDER A JESUS SIGN

Tricycle races and whiskey drinks. Harleys. Discount RV goods. Guns and exploding targets. What could go wrong? Hop off I-5 at the 30th Avenue exit and instead of heading into Eugene, head east towards Springfield. College View, the little spur road there, is home to an odd cluster of businesses that don't really lend themselves to a mall-like experience, and that's why we love it. Don't be put off by an exterior that one Yelp reviewer likened to "the parking lot of the crime scene of my own murder." McShanes Bar and Grill has good food and friendly people once you venture inside. And Tuesday night tricycle races. And on that note, the businesses along College View Drive are kind of set up for someone to commit a perfect crime. Ammo at the Tannerite Outlet Store, guns at the Baron's Den, RV parts and a Harley-Davidson getaway vehicle a

little further down, and if you are at all confused about your ethics, a big Jesus billboard looms over the whole thing reminding you to avoid the mark of the Antichrist.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHDOG

Car crashes. Gun shots. Break-ins. House fires. Criminal suspects. Stolen goods. Lost pets. There is very little in the way of suspicious activity in these parts that isn't immediately posted and infinitely commented upon at Lane County Mugshots Uncensored (LCMU), a Facebook page whose watchdog activities run the gamut from philanthropic and altruistic to nosy and neurotic, sometimes tipping the scales into outright calls for vigilante justice.

The page is by turns fascinating, alarming and queasily addictive, thanks in large part to its brand of unhinged populism in which the community is encouraged to play cop and journalist at once (and sometimes judge, jury and executioner).

Founder and administrator Mike Weber, a Lane Community College graduate who also co-founded Lane Today, says he considers LCMU an "alternative news source" that works in real time and is largely unfiltered and collaborative.

"LCMU brings out both the best and the worst in people," Weber says. "Oddly enough, I believe that is part of what makes LCMU work ... The members have helped

solve local crimes, identify crime suspects, locate stolen vehicles and items. My hopes are that members of LCMU can keep helping our community, keep crimes in check here by networking and help local law enforcement with real-time tips."

Aside from this utilitarian aspect, LCMU also serves, for the casual observer, as a raw portrait of the surrounding community; the page is a perfect example of what writer Andrew Sullivan recently called "hyperdemocracy," a kind of anti-elitist and unregulated and hyperbolic clamoring (and trolling) of any and all voices, again for better or for worse.

You want to see where you really live, take a scroll through the neighborhood. You may not like what you hear at LCMU, but it's as real as cyberspace gets.

BEST CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

There's something beautiful about simplicity. And that holds true when it comes to our calendar. Two people who always send in their event information before the calendar deadline and in perfect form are Max Leek and Hugh O'Haire. We first appreciated the weekly, 18-word emails from Leek when they were pointed out to us. O'Haire's emails are comparable, on time, direct and he always says, "thank you."

Part of the job of the calendar editor involves sorting through roughly 700 emails per week. It can be daunting, but we enjoy learning about the events, organizations and other happenings in the community and truly appreciate people who take time to email or call to thank the calendar editor. Emails can be sorted into varying degrees of niceness or lack thereof. For example, some emails come from people who apologize for missing the deadline, others totally ignore the deadline and then there are always a few insulting emails. Some provide specific instructions on how to do the calendar editor job — several are often copied to the editor. An author once called our calendar editor uneducated and uncivilized because the author had failed to fill out an event form correctly, and before he could return a call to clarify his misinformation, he left a voicemail threatening to sue.

Here are the two winning calendar event submissions:

SOCIAL DANCE

English & Scottish Country Dancing, 7:00 Thursdays. Vet's Memorial Ballroom, 1620 Willamette St. \$7, first time FREE.

GATHERINGS

Refuge Recovery Meeting, Buddha Eye Temple, 2190 Garfield St., Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm. FREE.

We appreciate the wide range of events that are sent to us every day. Thanks for your submissions, and before you send your emails, just remember what most of us were taught as small children: manners.

