



PHOTO BY ATHENA DELENE

Pancoast says it's just swell to pet Tonto — he especially likes it on his head and shoulders — and even pick him up, as long as you don't disturb his butt; he doesn't like that. Pancoast says Tonto will let you know on the rare occasion he isn't DTC (down to cuddle).

"He's a very chill cat unless a big dog walks by," Pancoast adds. Small dogs don't bother him, but if Tonto sees a big dog, he becomes a dog bouncer, shoo-ing them away from the gallery.

The gallery also recently started "Art Bar" every Wednesday night where the public is encouraged to come get creative together, working on individual art or collaborating with others.

"He'll sit by people working on a project," Pancoast says of Tonto.

While interviewing Pancoast about Tonto, the big cat walks up knowingly, slinking around, occasionally letting out little chirping meows, before heading out the door to the street. "He's very independent," Pancoast says, explaining that sometimes Tonto will seat himself on the bench of one of the Davis Restaurant's outdoor tables as if he's out to lunch.

As an art lover, Tonto intimated that his favorite artist is Jackson Pollock because of his use of color and the dribbles of paint that look like yarn, although Pancoast wonders aloud if his little buddy understands Pollock's intended metaphors. The pussycat looks up at his sidekick nonplussed.

Lately, Tonto has spent more time in the basement, where Pancoast and company are building four artist studios that are slated to open in early 2017. Pancoast wants Shadowfox to be a home for artists and creatives, "a place to be."

If it's true what Jean Cocteau said — that cats become

the visible soul of a home — then Shadowfox is in luck with the come-one, come-all spirit of Tonto.

Visit the Shadowfox gallery at 76 W. Broadway downtown or find its page on Facebook.

BEST FISH IN A VETERINARY OFFICE

Westmoreland Animal Hospital on West 11th took the concept of a cute office fish tank and ran away with it, building an enormous wall of glass prominently displayed in their main office. Giant, glossy fish inhabit the tank, swimming placidly from one side of their domicile to the other. In a vet's office, where worried owners wait with sick pets, the tank serves a therapeutic purpose, slowly lulling visitors into uninhibited calm. Plus, it's fun to watch the office staff try to feed the fish — it involves standing on a chair and carefully distributing the fish food to discourage greedy swimmers from getting too much.

BEST (UNINTENTIONAL) DANCE HAPPENING/PERFORMANCE ART

Performers don green and yellow, and fly flags as they move about their busy mornings, gathering momentum in their sheer magnitude. Nonverbal cues signal the impetus to swirl towards the stage, as movers walk gingerly along curvy pathways, careening optimistically towards their connected, collaborative vision. Small groups randomly stop to root and chant, sing and swill, even eating, they gather in groupings with one common goal. Inside the performance hall, movers dazzle with this week's costume, and win or lose, the band plays on.

BEST DOWNTOWN CONVENIENCE

Nestled into the warm armpit of The Horsehead Bar on Broadway downtown, Thunderbird Market deserves a big fat pat on the back. The locally owned convenience store (co-owned by the owners of Horsehead and Jameson's Bar) has had some hits over the eight years it's been open.

Namely, it's on Eugene's tiny version of The Corner, a hotbed — according to many downtown businesses and denizens, as well as crime statistics from a website the EPD directed *EW* to check out — for meth and heroin deals, prostitution and public defecation.

In spite of this, the staff is always welcoming, chatty and helpful, jamming out to great tunes from heavy metal to '80s pop. While the store carries all your favorite munchies, they also feature local grub, like delicious fresh-made sandwiches from the Horsehead.

"We stay for that," manager Jeff Keim says of customer service and Thunderbird's regulars. "We care about the community."

Keim says they have tons of neighborhood regulars who keep the job rewarding. "I like the people," he says. "You get to meet a lot of interesting people, 90 percent of whom are nice."



It hasn't been easy for the Thunderbird crew to stay positive, however, as Keim says the illegal activity going down on the corner of Broadway and Olive can scare off customers.

"It's worse than I've ever seen it," he says. Keim says he wants to make it clear he has no interest in blaming the homeless — explaining that many of them are polite, regular valued customers — but he is concerned that no action is taken against the people committing obvious crimes outside the shop, many of which involve minors.

"It would be nice if they would enforce the law," Keim says of city leaders and law enforcement.

As far as keeping its community happy, Keim adds that Thunderbird encourages customers to dictate what products are on the shelf, instead of vice versa.

"We do try to do things our own way," he says. Well, Thunderbird, keep on keeping on. And thank you.

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