



NEWS

BY HENRY HOUSTON

A JIVE TURKEY HOLIDAY

Eugene resident wins PETA award for a vegan Easter dinner

Curtis Taylor, 33, was first introduced to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) in sixth grade when he was writing a report on animal cruelty. This introduction led to his being a vegan for more than half of his life.

Now he has more of a reason to love the animal rights group. Taylor won an award from PETA for the all-vegan Easter dinner he made earlier this year; he submitted a photo of the meal to PETA's Vegan Eats and Treats contest.

When he won the award, he says he couldn't believe it. He adds that he never gambles and has never won a prize before, so it was the first time he's ever won something.

Usually, Taylor would just bring a few sides to his aunt's house for Easter, he says. But he decided to cook a full vegan Easter dinner meal for his family.

He cooked a Trader Joe's Breaded Turkey-less Roast and put together a few sides, such as roasted red peppers stuffed with dairy-free mac and cheese and a vegan pumpkin pie.

His aunt was skeptical about trying the vegan Easter meal, but he won her over. She's now preparing an all-vegan Thanksgiving meal this year. She's just not a vegan — yet, he adds.

"She was thoroughly impressed enough to buy a To-furky roast this year," he says.

PETA awarded Taylor with \$600 in gift cards, enough for six meal kits from Vestro, a vegan meal home delivery service.

Best of all, he says, it gave him more confidence in his ability to cook.

"I used to think, 'Well, I think what I make tastes good for me,'" he says. "I thought it would be a great opportunity to share with others, and I definitely have more confidence in my cooking now. And it's great to share with others."

According to PETA, when turkeys are prepared for

slaughter, they are hung by their feet from metal shackles and dragged through an electrified bath that can lead to full-body tremors — and are sometimes still alive when de-feathered.

Taylor says he doesn't get close to the wild ones in Eugene, but he says he loves domesticated turkeys because of their sweet nature.

"They're very inquisitive, cute, cluck along to music, like to be petted," he says.

He says he gets his vegan recipes from Peta.org/Thanksgiving and got the vegan mac and cheese recipe from PETA2, the youth branch of the organization.

"Why not have a meal that celebrates animals?" he says. "More than 44 million turkeys are killed every year just for Thanksgiving so people can eat the holiday's mascot."

Even though it's a presidential tradition to pardon a turkey, Taylor says those turkeys often die after the pardon because they're carrying around a ton of weight since they're bred for slaughter — so these animals are at death's door despite the pardon.

"It really is fake news," he says. "[Presidential pardons] are sponsored by the turkey industry." ■



HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

Karen Daly

JUNE 1999: As a kid in suburban New Jersey, Karen Daly loved rollerskating, jump rope and hopscotch. Her childhood ended abruptly at age 8, when "growing pains" in her right leg turned out to be bone cancer. Three years later the leg was amputated. "I have no memories of that time," says Daly, who plans to walk (on crutches) from Eugene to Hoboken this summer, to sit on the stoop of the brownstone she lived in, and consider the missing years. "I'll walk four to six hours each day," she says. "Then I'll open myself to generous people who will pick me up." An artificial leg got Daly through her teens and into a nursing career, but after 19 years she left the leg behind and started dancing. She discovered Contact Improvisation and moved to Eugene five years ago after attending Alito Alessi's DanceAbility workshop here. She has since danced on stages around the world. "Karen found that her loss was her gift," says fellow dancer David Koteen.

2018 UPDATE: "I didn't end up walking very much," says Daly, who completed her cross-country journey mostly by bus. "But it was a pivotal experience." On her return, she entered a 12-step program for a 30-year addiction to bulimia: eating and throwing up. "I needed to come out of hiding," she says, "and own up to what was inside of me." She took writing classes, and over the course of 10 years wrote a memoir, *Joy Ride: My One-Legged Journey to Self-Acceptance*, published in 2017 and available on Amazon. "I focused on the incredible influence that dance has had," she says. "I'm going to semi-retire from nursing in December and become a dance gypsy!" Daly will perform with DanceAbility at the Oregon Bach Festival at the Hult Center in July 2019.