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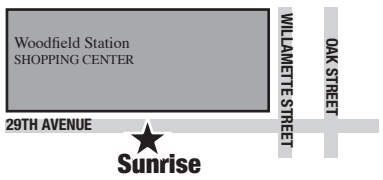

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JOSH MATTHEWS AND SARAH ADLER OF LOVELY.
Photo by Eve Weston

editorial

PUBLISHER Jody Rolnick
EDITOR Camilla Mortensen
CALENDAR EDITOR Emma J Nelson
COPY EDITOR Dan Buckwalter
BRICKS $ MORTAR Christian Wihtol
CONTRIBUTING ARTS WRITER Will Kennedy
CONTRIBUTING COPY EDITOR Jane Dods
ARTS EDITOR EMERITUS Bob Keefer
HAPPENING PEOPLE Paul Neevel
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Ester Barkai, Dan Bryant, Tom Coffin, Ayisha Elliott, Henry Houston, Will Kennedy, Chandra LeGue, Rick Levin, Susan Palmer, William L. Sullivan, Dorothy Velasco, John Zerzan
HAPPENING PEOPLE Paul Neevel
INTERNS Pierce Baugh V, Savannah Brown, Sadie Gustavson, Mason Falor, Eve Weston
CATALYST JOURNALISM PROJECT REPORTERS Bailey Meyers, Emma J Nelson, Emily Rogers, Amelia Winkelman

art department

ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER McKenzie Young-Roy
TECHNOLOGY/WEBMASTER James Bateman

advertising

ADVERTISING MANAGER Dave Newman
ADVERTISING/OFFICE MANAGER JJ Snyder
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Cuchulain Kelly
ADVERTISING TRAINEE Bentley Freeman

business

ACCOUNTANT Kernutt Stokes
DISTRIBUTORS Bob Becker (lead distributor and box maintenance), Denise Novak, Pedalers Express, Norman Riddle, Jeff Tanner, Burt Tate, Tina Vellody
PRINTING APG Printing Solutions
HANDYMAN John Winings

HOW TO REACH US
CALL 541-484-0519
EDITOR/NEWS TIPS Editor@EugeneWeekly.com
LETTERS Letters@EugeneWeekly.com
ADVERTISING Sales@EugeneWeekly.com
CLASSIFIED ADS Classy@EugeneWeekly.com
CALENDAR/EVENTS Cal@EugeneWeekly.com
CIRCULATION Distribution@EugeneWeekly.com

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OPINION

letters

Now You Know

Enjoyed your story about "Oregon's Hippie Island" in Crete (*EW*, 2/6) , and I gasped at the last line: "beneath the Matala moon." That's what Joni Mitchell was singing in "Carey"! None of my guesses made any sense.

Kathy Kifer
Eugene

Gun Toting and Bible Quoting

David Loveall is the "gun toting, Bible quoting" current president of the Lane County Board of Commissioners. He rakes in $114,000 of our taxpayer dollars per year. Is he who we want to lead our county into the future? His term is over December 2026. Come on Springfield, surely you deserve better leadership!

Debra McGee
Eugene

This is Not Sustainable

The recent ice and snowstorm exposed a painful truth: When systems fail, lives are at risk. With no official daytime warming spaces, our unhoused neighbors were left shivering on sidewalks, desperate for shelter.

In a city of over 180,000 people, only two buildings — the St. Vincent de Paul Highway 99 Service Station and the downtown Eugene Public Library — opened their doors to large numbers of people. The rest was left to volunteers, faith leaders and outreach workers who refused to look away.

This should not be our reality.

We cannot keep relying on last-minute efforts and grassroots volunteers to do the city's job. When agencies shut down and no official emergency response is in place, it is churches, outreach teams and neighbors who ensure people stay alive.

But this isn't sustainable.

Cities, emergency managers and policymakers must act now. We need designated public daytime warming spaces during severe weather — not just overnight shelters that send people back into the cold at dawn.

Eugene prides itself on compassion, yet when the weather turns deadly, people are left on the streets with nowhere to go. How many more storms will it take before we treat this as the crisis it is?

Sarah Koski
Eugene

A Life Well Lived

Sad announcement: Tom Brown, a local activist, Our Revolution Lane County member and so much more, passed away on Jan. 22.

Brown was a tireless activist and fellow warrior until his longtime health issues kept him from participating in the activities he usually attended.

Brown was known for his steadfast belief in progressive values. He was dedicated to fighting for the rights of others and he attended many rallies, marches, etc. where his huge banners — "Healthcare for All" and "Women's Rights are Human Rights" — could be seen (with him standing behind them).

Brown also helped table for ORLC and ESSN, and he went to many other events (too many to list here). He also wrote the ORLC email newsletter, which later changed to the *E-volution Newsletter*.

Brown is missed by his friends and family, and we honor his life by continuing to do what we can to improve life on this planet for everyone.

Kristy Murray
Eugene

Think of the Gardens

The Eugene City Council continues to work on its urban growth plans, with permissions for more infill and accessory dwelling units (ADU) on existing properties. Regardless of what the City Council allows, I hope people who are building additional dwellings keep in mind the needs of your neighbors.

Please recognize that, as food prices increase, it will continue to be important for people to be able to grow their own food. This means they must have sunlight on their gardens. If your home faces south, remember that a tall backyard dwelling will cut off sunlight to your back neighbor's south facing gardens. Same with neighboring construction on each side. Please keep your buildings low in height, and perhaps your neighbor will thank you by sharing some delicious garden produce.

Tricia Hedin
Eugene

Volunteers with Love

Over the last weeks I and many others have participated in volunteering for Egan Warming Centers in a variety of ways. Some cooking at a kitchen in the afternoon — chopping vegetables, making sandwiches to go or picking up donations from various places; setting up sleeping mats or serving dinner; playing music or handing out blankets; checking in guests and their belongings or some staying outside all night; handing out oatmeal and hot cocoa in the morning or coming in early to clean up and make it look like 90 to 150 people weren't sleeping there just an hour ago; or others planning on what would happen the next cold night.

Where would we set up? Would there be enough volunteers to open?

To all these people and more I witnessed an immense amount of gratitude from the guests. I also witnessed kindness, patience and compassion towards one another. Being awakened at 6:30 am to get ready to go out in the cold, some were understandably grumpy, but kindness and patience prevailed.

Knowing Egan wasn't open last night (Feb. 13) I found it hard to sleep, wondering where these people were finding food and shelter. I suspect I wasn't alone in these thoughts.

My deep thanks to all at Egan, St. Vincent de Paul's, the many volunteers, and most of all, to those guests who came and changed my life. I hope others will find suitable ways to join us. Volunteer, donate and give our fellow human beings some love.

Kathy Reardon
Eugene