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Wyden engages a cordial crowd

Oregon Senator visits Lane to reassure constituents

ELIZABETH COMISKEY FEATURES EDITOR

On Sunday Feb. 19. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) entered Lane Community College's auditorium with over 1,000 community members cheering on packed bleachers. Stomps were heard across the building as the Senator took his place at the podium.

President Mary Spilde, state and local government officials were in attendance at the town hall meeting.

Then Wyden asked the audience if this was their first town hall meeting and a large number of people responded with hands raised.

"It's clear from my first town halls of 2017 so far that Oregonians are coming out in record numbers with real concern," Wyden said earlier in a press release. "I look forward to continuing the conversations about how to preserve and protect the Oregon way of focusing on solutions."

Each town hall attendee received a raffle ticket at the welcoming table once in the auditorium. If their ticket number was called they would be allowed to ask one question of the Senator.

During the town hall meeting Senator Wyden cracked jokes and kept the discussion light-hearted — but not everyone was happy with the senator. One community member began his question with positive statements about the senator, then broke loose with

stern comments about the Trans Pacific Partnership. Some attendees showed their agreement with applause. Wyden's opposer of continued yell out from his seat while the senator was countering his questions.

"Fair trade partnerships are killing small countries, it is still happening and all in secret," Senator Wyden's counterpart was said.

"I have no position on it, it is dead." Wyden said, "I am not going to support anything that 'guts' these public health laws of these little countries."

The crowd roared.

Senator Wyden covered a buffet of topics in his town hall meeting — his concerns of immigration, women's health and his stance standing against the president's administration among them. "This is a nation of immigrants, and the Women's March was fantastic and incredible. "We have a citizen coalition set up from one end of the country to the other."

Senator Wyden continued on the topic of women's rights, "women have the right to see the doctor they want to."

.Wyden told town hall attendees he forecasts a shift in the Trump supporters in the American government after the President's Day holiday, the first long weekend since the inauguration.

Wyden told the town hall attendees he projects a shift in the Trump supporters in the American government after the President's Day holiday, the first long weekend since the inauguration. The Senator forecasts State representatives will encounter backlash from their home states pertaining to the presidential executive orders, and how their representatives stand with them.

Wyden projects state representatives that support the president will return with a new perspective of the president due to their public discussions in their home state.

Senator Wyden also believes community members will react and frankly discuss their opinions of President Trump, and his proposals for changes in the United States.

"We have a tough battle, but we also have 'friends in high places," Wyden commented when asked of the struggle with countering the president's new policies.

In closing, the senator spoke of standing firm to keep Oregon values and priorities — the crowd stood, cheers of excitement echoed through the auditorium.

The town hall meeting wrapped up in the early evening. The senator answered more community questions and offered time for the media.

Tammy Hodgkinson, an elected school board official for South Lane School District in Cottage Grove attended the town hall meeting. "It was nice to look around and see over 1,000 people come out on a Sunday night to listen to Senator Wyden."

"I came to support Senator Wyden — I am a huge fan," Chris Dolan, University of Oregon student of political science and history, commented.

Many town hall attendees mentioned Senator Wyden will take this information back to Washington.

"You don't have to give up your liberty to have security," Wyden said throughout



Senator Ron Wyden and President Mary Spilde pose for a photograph after the town hall meeting. Wyden's recurring slogan during his speech of the night was, "you don't have to give up your liberty to have security."

the night. Wyden plans to visit 11 counties across Oregon between Portland and Ashland between Feb.18 and Feb. 25. Congressman Peter DeFazio will be holding a forum at Lane Community College on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in Bldg. 5. Following that will be the Legislature's Joint Committee on Ways and Means meeting in Building 17 Room 308/309 beginning at 1 p.m..

"You don't have to give up your liberty to have security."

Ron WydenOregon Senator

theTorch

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Holding public media accountable

NPR's public liaison educates Lane students on ethics in the newsroom

> ALEC EBERT REPORTER

On Thursday Feb. 16, Elizabeth Jensen offered her words of newsroom wisdom to writing students on what it means to be an Ombudsman for National Public Radio.

As an Ombudsman, it's Jensen's job to monitor how NPR listeners react to the stories covered each day over the radio broadcast.

"I am the newsroom liaison to NPR. I present the public's opinion to the newsroom and explain the newsroom to the public," Jensen said.

Jensen says she is completely independent from NPR. She provides a third party perspective to the CEO on how NPR's stories are perceived by regular listeners.

"I deal mostly with issues of ethics, transparency and other issues relating to the journalism itself, I try not to get involved with issues of staff, but I do deal with corrections," Jensen said.

Listeners often write into NPR with

questions or suggestions on how NPR could be improved or to voice concerns related to the news they present.

Jensen can only work as an Ombudsman for three years so she does not develop a relationship with the newsroom that can no longer relay the criticism needed for NPR to provide credible news.

"One of the reasons for the three year term is because they don't want you to get too chummy with the newsroom. You have to be willing to say really tough things when it's called for, so they don't want you to be too inside the organization," Jensen said.

The best way Jensen can be reached is through the Ombudsman page on the NPR website. Jensen writes multiple columns that she posts on the page that include her thoughts and feelings as well as the criticisms and suggestions made by the public.

"The mailbag is our emailing inbox to contact the Ombudsman. We get over 1,400 emails a month, which is a lot, and we try to answer them all," Jensen said.

In one of her most recent columns she elaborates on why NPR made the choice to not use the word "lies" to describe the recent statements President Trump and

his administration have made that are contrary to evidence provided.

"Sometimes people can be very rude. I'm looking at one here from 'Bill' that says 'a lie is a lie you're normalizing words by not using the word,' so yeah pretty rude, but sometimes they can be thoughtful too," Jensen said.

A lot of Jensen's job deals with harsh criticism like this from the public. She says it can get pretty tiring sometimes but often some of the comments are so obtuse she finds humor in them too.

After Jensen's brief description to students on what her role is at NPR, she opened up the discussion to questions. She said she was in Eugene to collaborate with local stations, like KLCC, "so I can tell them what listeners have been telling me and they can tell me what their listeners have been telling them, so it's a good way to gain a good perspective on the spectrum of listeners NPR has," Jensen said.

Jensen will be traveling the country throughout the year to work with local stations like KLCC here in Eugene to help provide her insight on why NPR covers all the stories that it does, and how local stations can improve their own coverage.

40 years of brightening smiles

Long time employee recognized by Lane **County Dental Society**

> **ELIZABETH COMISKEY** FEATURES EDITOR

Sharon Hagan, director of Lane's dental hygiene certificate program won the Public Service Award, with a unanimous vote and a standing ovation, from the Lane County Dental Society on Jan. 27.

Spanning her 40-year career at Lane Community College, Hagan has taught approximately 650 student hygienists, of which, a high percentage are still working in the dental field. Each year the clinic provides services to an average of 2,500 patients.

"Over my 40 years with Lane I have seen a constant evolution of trends, the clinic is cutting-edge with keeping up with these as they come up," Hagan said. "We are working on a new course, something that is new to the United States."

The Lane County Dental Society has collaborated with Lane Dental Clinic through the years. Many society members volunteer at the clinic, or help out with contracting patient needs to outside professionals in the dental field.

"This is a fairly new award, and Sharon deserves it. When we had a member suggest she should be recognized for her tireless support and dedication the society responded," Mark Portman, executive director of the Lane County Dental Society, said.

Hagan wishes the downtown dental clinic a bright future.



Sharon Hagan director of Lane's dental hygiene associate degree program accepts the Peace Service Award from Dr. Sonja Sproul on Friday, Jan. 27. The ceremony was held at LCC's Center for Meeting and Learning. Hagan is the recipient of the award due to her dedication to students and the public for over 40 years.

She would like to see a new lab at the main campus so students could get the complete experience of what it will be like after they earn their degree and work in their chosen career.

CAUGHT ON CAMPUS

Marijuana and paraphernalia was seized from a vehicle in Parking Lot B at Lane Community College



On the west side of Lane Community College campus, in lot B, Public Safety officers searched and seized drug paraphernalia from a vehicle on Wednesday Feb. 15.



Two Public Safety officers searched a vehicle on the west side of Lane Community College's main campus and seized paraphernalia, including mason jars full of marijuana. Neither Public Safety officers at the scene nor the Watch Commander would comment.



In seizing the marijuana, Lane Community College Public Safety officers upheld U.S. Public Law 10, Section 22 regarding drug-free schools and campuses.

University of Oregon honors Charles Darwin

Annual Darwin Day brings paleontologists to Eugene

> IAN TRAUTMAN REPORTER

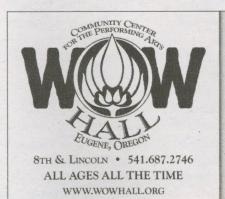
Darwin Day commemorates the birth of Charles Darwin on Feb. 12, 1809. Darwin Day is an international celebration. Organized events honoring Darwin's contributions to science have been held since shortly after his death. The day is also used to promote the scientific process and recent scientific contributions.

This year the University of Oregon,ed with the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, hosted two guest lecturers, Nick Famoso and Jack Tseng. This continues UO's tradition of hosting Darwin Day talks.

Famoso's lecture, "New Views on the Fossil Record: In the Shadow of Volcanoes" was held Feb. 10. Famoso explored the evolution of species in volcanic ecosystems throughout time and around the world.

Tseng's lecture was called "Fossil Dogs and the Search for Evolutionary Optimality." Tseng presented research o the evolution of dogs and related animals. n addition, he talked about evolutionary possibilities — that is outcomes that may have not been realized by nature. Analyzing the history of evolution, Tseng also looked to the future. He used computer simulations to create models of potential skull structures based on a couple of factors, shock absorption and jaw strength. This tool allowed him to visualize how and if evolutionary trends approached an optimum form.

Over 100 community members and university students turned out to attend the



SUNDAY **FEBRUARY 26**

THE GLADIATORS FEAT. DROOP LION

THURSDAY MARCH 2

> QUINN XCII **KOLAJ**

FRIDAY MARCH 3

DAVID WILCOX **Aimee Rngle**

SATURDAY MARCH 4

NEF THE PHAROAH Rae Rock

MONDAY MARCH 6

ADRIAN LEGG

SATURDAY MARCH 11

SAM LACHOW

FEATURES



A panoramic celebration of Pan-Asian culture

32nd annual Asian Celebration brings diverse crowd to Lane County Fairgrounds

> IAN TRAUTMAN REPORTER

The 32nd annual Asian Celebration was held at the Lane County Fairgrounds, Feb. 18 - 19. A diverse crowd filled the auditoriums for entertainment, activities and to view art and cultural displays.

Drums boomed sporadically over the crowds of chattering people as Japanese drum performances, known as Taiko, were held in various locations throughout the event.

Paintings, calligraphy and sculptures were displayed in the atrium which also housed performances from the Oregon Puppet Theatre, a fashion show, dance performances and yoga demonstrations.

The Eugene and Springfield Asian Council and the Asian-American Foundation of Oregon coordinate the event each year, the AAFO also awards students who participate in Asian community and cultural events in Oregon with scholarships. The organizations aim to represent the diversity of Pan-Asian Culture.

The event started in 1986 as a brief four-hour event. As attendance has increased over the years, the celebration has extended into a weekend-long festival.

There was a crafts and game room geared toward children, with ceramics and origami lessons throughout the day.

Kumoricon, a manga, anime and Japanese culture convention, had its own room at the event. Groups of friends gathered around video game consoles to compete with one another and socialize. There was also a cosplay contest, where attendees dressed as anime or manga characters.

The celebration also focused on the history of Asian-American cultures.

The Asian Heritage & Justice exhibit featured a few selections from "Uprooted," an exhibit about Japanese Americans in farm labor camps during World War II. The full exhibit is currently on display in the Lane County Historical Museum.



Former Lane student Harumi Morikawa talks with Fiber Crafts artist Aimee Yogi as she weaves cotton on a Japanese bamboo spinning wheel during the 32nd Asian Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 18.

The selections were paired with other informative posters about historical events that happened near or in Lane County, such as the Ping Yang School Bombings. The information on display was taken from asianoregon.org.

Surrounding the historical display was "Our Stories: Immigrants of America," a series of photographic portraits of immigrants with essays telling their stories. The collection was created by Eugene photographer and digital artist Melissa "Mimi" Nolledo. Nolledo emigrated from the Philippines in 1989. This is the first exhibit of "Our Stories." The University of Oregon has picked up the exhibit for future display.

"I wanted to make some kind of photographic essays, because there's this very negative, limited opinion of immigrants. I wanted to tell the story of immigrants and show that we're not too different from one another, we love your country, everyday we work hard to provide," Nolledo said.

The main stage included musical performances from a wide variety of groups representing Chinese, Hawaiian, Middle Eastern, Filipino and other Pan-Asian cultures. The Tirta Tari Balinese Dancers from Lane Community College performed for their sixth year.

The event also acted as a type of trade show for local businesses. Some businesses showcased their services for free at the event, such as spine alignments and acupuncture. Other businesses acted as vendors, selling traditional items like calligraphy brushes, while other vendors had Asian pop-culture merchandise for sale.

Other local Asian businesses served a variety of dishes such as yakisoba, banh mi, Asian pastries, mochi and bubble tea in the food court. Large tables surrounded the food court, and in front of the Martial Arts Stage, so event-goers had a chance to watch performances while

OPINION

Extinguishing the Elliott for education

The sale of the Elliott is only made necessary by our state's refusal to look for alternative sources of revenue for education budget

DYLAN PLUMMER COLUMIST

The Elliott State Forest is being sold to help pay for Oregon's rising education deficit. The sale of the Elliott is a short-term solution to a problem that could be solved without the loss of one of our state's natural treasures.

There have been plenty of opportunities to fix the problem of the rising deficit in the last couple years. Most recently was the vote on Measure 97. The measure was a corporate tax initiative that supposedly would have supplied upwards of \$3 billion in annual revenue to healthcare, and more importantly, Oregon's schools.

The Oregon Land Board voted last Tuesday to continue with the sale of the Elliott State Forest to a Roseburg timber company with a 2-1 vote, according to KGW Portland. Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read and Secretary of State Dennis Richardson both voted for the sale, while Governor Kate Brown voted against it. Brown and Richardson's votes were expected, and newly elected Read cast the pivotal ballot to take a major step in the privatization of the forest.

The Elliott is an 80,000 acre swath of forest in Coos County that has provided \$400 million, from timber sales, to Oregon public education since its creation in the 1930s. It provides habitat for the endangered spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. It also is a public land that provides hunters, fishers and other outdoor enthusiasts some of the last truly wild terrain in Oregon.

In recent years, with the regulations on logging increasing, the revenues earned by the forest began to fall, which prompted the initial bid to sell in 2015. This short-term solution to a rising deficit in the state's education budget is convenient for politicians, but won't serve Oregonians.

Oregon's schools are in dire need of funding, but the environment should not be made to pay. Measure 97 is just one example of legislation that would have effectively made the sale of the Elliott unnecessary.

It would have placed a 2.5% tax on all corporate sales over \$25 million, which would have increased opportunity

for small businesses while creating revenue for vital government services. Sadly it was painted as a hidden sales tax for consumers, apparently an effective campaign as the initiative lost by almost twenty points last fall.

The defeat of this measure left Oregon in a tough spot. With our education deficit rising along with our high school dropout rates, finalizing the sale of the Elliott must have appeared to be the easiest solution to State Treasurer Tobias Read and Secretary of State Dennis Richardson.

This is just one example of the externalization of costs that often impacts the environment. Instead of reevaluating our state's management of the forest, and finding solutions to its recent decline in profits, we are throwing away millions of dollars in potential revenue and tens of thousands of acres of pristine habitat. Because Oregon voters weren't willing to make corporations foot the bill for our children's educations, we are forcing our environment to do it instead.

While the loss of the Elliott State Forest may just seem to be another drop in the bucket, in reality it is a hugely important piece of woodland and contains some of the last remaining first generation old-growth forest in the world. Although the profits from its management have dropped in the last years, it offers so much more to our state than just lumber. There is no price that we can put on habitat for endangered species, or the carbon sequestering capacity of old-growth forest. You can't put a price on showing a child the wonder of one of the planet's last ancient forests.

The sale of a renewable resource such as the Elliott for a one-off sum of money is irresponsible. The subsidization of our society at the expense of our last untainted wildlands must end. In a conversation with fire ecologist and sociology professor Tim Ingalsbee, he discussed how the clear-cutting of our forests under the guise of paying for our children's future is flawed logic. Those same forests are going to be necessary to provide our children with a future. According to 2011 analysis, the Elliott is projected to store about 46 million metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2050. Carbon sinks like the Elliott are going to be an essential part in assuring climate stability for future generations.

The sale of this resource cannot go through. There must be some form of monetary accountability for corporations in our state. We are not only selling an indispensable resource, but a piece of history and an integral part to maintaining some semblance of balance within local Oregon ecosystems. If we allow the Land Board to sell the Elliott now, how can we know they won't sell more of our state forests the next time they need some quick cash.

TITAN Calendar

Feb. 22

- Art Bar, Shadowfox 76 West Broadway 7:00 p.m. 10 p.m.
- •Farmer's Market, The Corner Market 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

Feb. 23

- Poet Rick Barot Book Reading, UO campus Knight Library 8:00 p.m.
- Zen Meditation Group, Blue Cliff Citizen Center 439 West 2nd Avenue 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Feb. 24

- •Tonewood Trio, Sweet Cheeks 248 East 5th Suite 25
- 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.
- Family Game Night, Creswell Library 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

Feb. 27

• Women Traveling Solo, Erb Memorial Union 1395 University Street 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Ongoing Events

- AARP tax aide, Center Bldg. 1st floor near Stonefire Pizza
- 9:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.
- "Emergence: An Arts Journey" by Rick Williams, Bldg. 11 Main Art Gallery
- 7:30 a.m. 5 p.m. •Feb. 13 - March 9;
- artist talk and opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 16
- •Feb. 13 March 9
- "Printmakers of the Northwest" Bldg. 11 Sister Gallery

7:30 a.m.

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FEATURES

'Cure for Wellness' is a beautiful nightmare

Film's ambitious style overshadows its substance

> HUNTER RULAND MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

"A Cure for Wellness" follows an aspiring young bank executive, Lockhart (Dane DeHaan), tasked by his company to go to a mysterious Swiss retreat to bring back his boss, who refuses to return to the states. Shortly after arriving, his leg gets broken in a car crash, forcing him to stay in the center under the care of Dr. Heinreich Volmer (Jason Issacs).

During his stay, Lockhart starts to suspect that something sinister is happening to the patients being treated with "the cure." He also befriends a young patient, Hannah (Mia Goth), the subject of a strange obsession by Dr. Volmer.

Director Gore Verbinski, famous for "Pirates of the Caribbean," takes an ambitious direction making for one of the most visually striking films in the horror genre since Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining." Every shot in the film is masterfully crafted with precise staging to give the visual tone an unnerving cerebral and surreal atmosphere. Verbinski and cinematographer Bojan Bazelli also make interesting attempts at using visual and narrative motifs, such as the use of water and phallic imagery with eels. While not always subtle, these attempts are worth mentioning as it's something that most filmmakers don't try anymore.

With all that, the film is fantastic on a technical level. However, the lengthy runtime and dark tone will polarize audiences. The film takes a lot of risks with its attempts at shock value and slower pace that will be frustrating to mainstream viewers. Verbinski doesn't shy away from showing weird and disturbing imagery pushing the limits of what viewers are willing to watch. Without giving too much away, the plot gets too convoluted - a common trait for Verbinski's films - and borrows heavily from "The Shining" and "Shutter Island."

To the film's credit however, it is refreshing to see a film try to do things that are rare in the current state of the horror genre. It doesn't rely on jump scares for few cheap thrills. Rather it creates tension by taking advantage of the setting by making a character out of the maze-like layout of the wellness center. The film was also shot, to great effect, at the Hohenzollern Castle for exterior views of the wellness center.

The three leads of the film also provide strong performances. DeHaan as Lockhart is purposefully unlikable in the beginning,

EADS

10 Senior (Fr.)

19 Aunt (Sp.)

11 Unable to hear

56 Department of

Natural Resources

A50



Photo courtesy of 20th Century Fox

Mia Goth co-stars as Hannah in the new horror film, "A Cure for Wellness." Hanna bathes in a bathtub of eels in a nightmare sequence that Lockhart (Dane DeHaan) experiences.

as a selfish young man. His stubbornness is consistent throughout the film, even when he starts to question his surroundings and sanity. Issacs gives his most villainous performance of his career. Goth shows a lot of range in her performance and has great potential as a character actress.

"A Cure for Wellness" is a rare film to come out the Hollywood system that will be a breath of fresh air for some, and a frustrating experience to others. In a day and age of seemingly constant remakes, sequels and adaptations, it is nice to see something that resembles an original film. Regardless if viewers like the film or not, they'll have a unique experience with it that will stay with them. It wouldn't be surprising to see this film become a cult classic amongst genre fans within the next decade.



Crossword

ACROSS First principles Office of **Economic** Development

(abbr.) Study 12 Borrowed money

13 Having (suf.) 14 Great Lake 15 Asian desert 16 Backward 17 Ancient weight

18 To the rear 20 United Nations Intl. Children's **Emergency** Fund (abbr.) 22 Andiron

25 Atomic Energy Commission (abbr.)) wn (29 Once (Lat.)

12

15

18

33

38

46

58

61

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pulpit 35 Luzon people

62

37 Textile fiber ANSWER TO PRÉVIOUS PUZZLE 38 Rom. ancestral ABED TAOS AIS METR AGON DNA 40 Mountain on Crete KALO INCA OIL 42 Television BEE ARARAT channel CPRTBA ORB 43 Sickness (Fr.) TAALETRE 46 Each 49 Gardening tool TAR ORBIT 53 Alaska Hawaii TIME OBS ALBA Std. Time (abbr.) ARM DE A 54 Hebrew letter ARREST TLC 57 Coagulated substance AARE LAI SAAR 58 Death rattle RARE ORA MAAM 59 Prepare leather

PEN SLOE 60 Formerly 61 Elbe tributary Simpleton 62 Slip Woman's work 63 Shak. basket contraction

Whiff Away

21 Disease (pref.) 23 Inlet 24 Abstract being Europe (abbr.) 33 Jack-in-the-25 Mulberry of Cirrus DOWN Quill feathers India 1 Sea lettuce 26 Equal Rights Viking Amendment (abbr.) 27 Vehicle 13 30 Son of, in Gaelic names 17 16 31 Subside 32 Exudate plant 34 Agriculture goddess 36 Subjoin 39 Skin vesicle 41 S.A. sloths 30 31 26 44 Phil. island 45 Experimental Prototype Community of 40 42 Tomorrow (abbr.) 46 Rhine tributary 47 Destroying 51 52 47 50 (pref.) 48 Ait 54 50 Indian buffalo 51 Leader (Ital.) 59 60 52 Eng. statesman 55 Rower

63

Sudoku

3 6 9 3 6 4 9 2 4 9 8 9 8 6

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9

Note: there is only one valid solution to each puzzle

Answer to Sudoku

3	8	7	4	1	5	2	9	6
4	2	5	9	6	8	3	7	1
9	6	1	7	2	3		5	4
7	1	3	2	5	9	4	6	8
6	5	8	1	3	4	9	2	7
2	9	4	6	8	7	1	3	5
5	7	9	3	4	1	6	8	2
1	3	6	8	7	2	5	4	9
8	4	2	5	9	6	7	1	3



SPORTS

Titans fall prey to Riverhawks



Titan guard/ forward Chase Iwate-Bartelme high fives teammates as he gets checked out during the second half. Iwate-Bartelme, a 6'1" sophomore from Makawao, Hawaii, recorded 13 points, nine rebounds, and six assists on the night. The Lane Titans fell to the Umpqua Riverhawks, resulting in an overall record

of 11-13.



Tyler Plummer / Photojournalist

Titan guard/forward Darrell McCall drives in the middle lane for a lay in against Riverhawk guard Timmy Thompson and Riverhawk forward Jacob Danhoff. McCall shot for 63 percent for 14 points to go along with five rebounds. The Lane Titans fell 85-95 to the Umpqua Riverhawks.

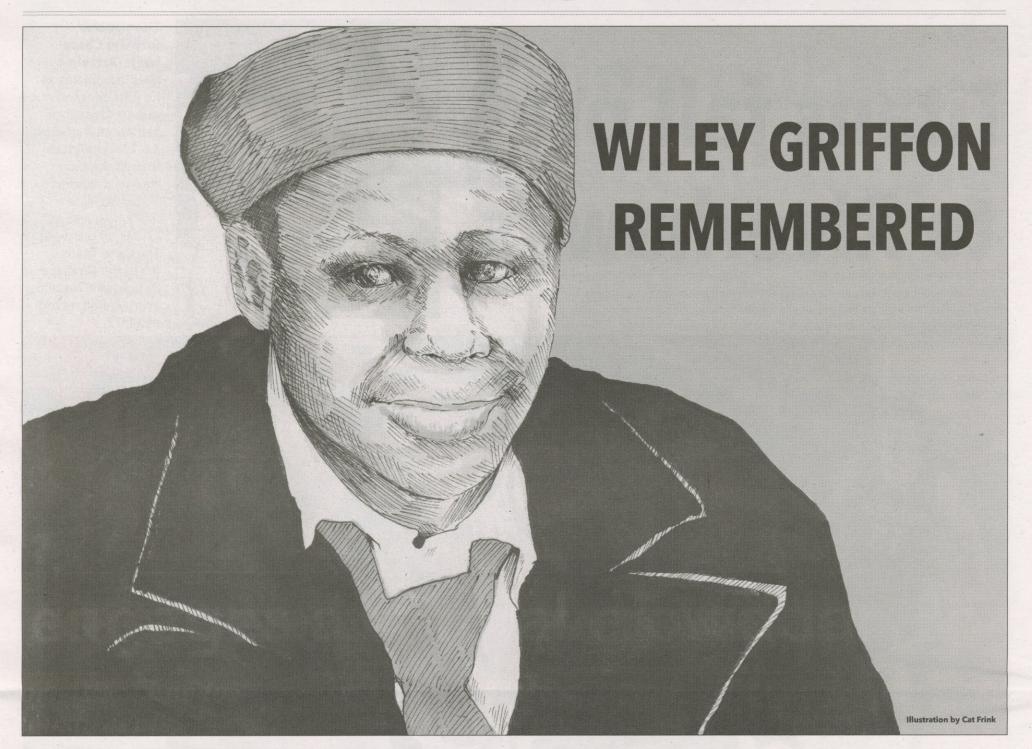


Titan forward Sarah Hall misses a rebound during the Lane game against #1 ranked Umpqua on Feb. 15. Hall, the leading scorer for her team, had 19 total points and six rebounds on the night.



Titan power forward Sierra Carrier is blocked by Riverhawks forward Jordan Stotler as she attempts a layup during the Lane game against Umpqua. Stotler had a triple double on the night. The Lane Titans lost to the Umpqua Riverhawks 56-89 and are currently ranked second at 20-4 overall.

NEWS



President of Oregon Black Pioneers, Willie Richardson (left) and President of the Lane County Chapter of the NAACP, Eric Richardson (right) help in the dedication of a historic sign commemorating Wiley Griffon.



Donny Morrison / News Editor

A sign dedicated to Wiley Griffon,

who was Lane County's first African American landowner, was placed outside of EWEB's main headquarters, located at EWEB on 500 E 4th Ave.



Lane County's first black landowner gets acknowledgement

DONNY MORRISON News Editor

"Wiley is an example of what it means to engage against the odds while forging paths for others to come," Eric Richardson, Lane County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President, said to a crowd of 25 at Eugene Water and Electric Board's main headquarters, where the county's first African American landowner, Wiley Griffon, purchased a small waterfront property in 1909.

On Feb.18, a small crowd gathered for the dedication of a historic sign acknowledging the history of Lane county's first African American landowner.

Griffon relocated to Eugene from Texas in 1891, eventually purchasing a home near 4th Avenue and Mill Street in Downtown Eugene. Today, EWEB's main headquarters sits on the same Willamette River property that Wiley used to inhabit over a hundred years ago.

Griffon was one of the first operators of Eugene's original streetcar system, driving people from downtown to the University of Oregon in a trolley car led by a mule.

In later years Griffon worked for UO as a janitor, becoming the university's first black employee. He passed away in 1913.

EWEB's general manager Frank Lawson opened the ceremony by outlining the impact Griffon had on the community and the importance of honoring the people

who have made the dedication possible.

"As a native Eugenian I appreciate all of us who have contributed to the building of this community. This was really a team effort. There are a number of people to thank along the way, including The Eugene Historical Society, the local NAACP and several community members," Lawson said.

In 1908, Oregon's exclusion clause prohibited blacks from owning property. Griffon however was able to obtain a mortgage and purchase his first home. According to Lawson, the property, which lies next to the Willamette River, used to flood periodically.

"Wiley Griffon may have appreciated the fact that we are standing on dry ground right now. Every single picture I found was apparently recording a flood event. This property in here was often flooded, which made for some interesting research," Lawson said.

In 2009, a plaque dedicated to Griffon was placed at Eugene Station commemorating his status as the "first public transportation provider in Eugene" according to the plaque.

Willie Richardson, the president of the Oregon Black Pioneers, documented the history of African Americans in Oregon to close out the dedication.

"What we're really attempting to do is tell Oregon's story in a complete way with all the historical facts. That's the goal that we are trying to achieve," Richardson said.