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# WHAT BEER WHAT BURGER



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Join us April 2nd for an exclusive look at the new season of the HBO comedy VEEP, which follows Vice President Selina Meyer (*Emmy® Award Winner Julia Louis-Dreyfus*) and her staff as they attempt to make their mark and leave a lasting legacy, without getting tripped up in the day-to-day political games that define Washington.

**VEEP premieres April 6th at 10:30pm on HBO.**

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**HBO®**



The Washington Jefferson Skatepark is under renovation to open in April with a grand opening in June.

# Nation's largest covered skatepark opens in Eugene later this month

**T**he Washington Jefferson Park rehabilitation has been highly anticipated by local skaters and other community members. The park, scheduled to open in April with an official grand opening for National Skate Day on June 21, will be the largest covered and lit public skate park in the United States at 23,000 square feet.

In effort to create a communal environment, the Washington Jefferson Park will also include an urban plaza catering to families, vendor pads for events, bike racks, benches, drinking fountains and a relocated bathroom that is much more visible.

"This park is going to prevent the crime that used to be here. All those tweakers and bums aren't going to be here anymore," said local skater Shaun Ownbey as he peered through the fence. "When this was all a playground, it was the scariest place."

The park will also contain energy efficient lighting that will light the park 24 hours a day.

Dreamland Skateparks designed and built the park. Mark Scott, CEO of Dreamland Skatepark, also built the famous Burnside Skatepark in

Portland. It was built illegally 22 years ago, and later sanctioned by the city and immortalized in Tony Hawk's skating video game.

Funding for the Washington Jefferson Skatepark came from the City of Eugene Outdoor Program, Skaters for Eugene Skate Parks, Eugene Parks Foundation, and the Downtown Rotary. The city paid \$2.2 million of the \$2.5 million total budget, but only \$600,000 was for the skatepark – the rest covered other renovations.

"There are only a limited amount of cities that have skate parks of a substantial sort," said Darryl Larson, a Eugene parks foundation board member. "Those cities tend to get these big competitions that come in, and I think Eugene is going to end up getting some of those world-renowned competitions here."

Large-scale events and competitions will have continuous economic benefits for Lane County and the Eugene community, along with many other positive benefits. Some community members have lauded the 24-hour access to the park's bathroom, the first of its kind in Eugene. The bathroom

was designed after the Portland Loo project, and speaks directly to some of the needs of the Whoville movement, which began campaigning for 24-hour bathroom options after members of SLEEPS won a court case upholding that their removal from the Wayne Morse Free Speech was unconstitutional.

Skaters and community members alike are looking to the park as a productive renovation to the community.

"This is proof the city not only believes in the work that Dreamland provides, but they recognize the growth of skateboarding as an industry, and the revenue traveling skateboarders can bring and the events that can be held there," local skater Gabe Stoltz said. "This park will put Eugene on the map."

*Makensy Venneri contributed to this article.*

BY REBECCA BREWSTER

**“I PUSHED TO MAKE THIS RIGHT BECAUSE HELPING SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE IS A WIN-WIN.”**

JEFF MERKLEY, Oregon senator.

# YOU'VE GOT 30 MORE DAYS TO GET COVERED

The federal government granted Oregonians another 30 days to apply for health care through Cover Oregon. It also canceled the federal penalty for enrolling after April 30.

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley worked to make small business tax credit available to Oregon businesses under the new health care law. Tax credits were previously being received by small businesses since 2010, in order to aid with health care coverage for employees.

Since the change in 2014, these tax credits were made available only to small businesses that received health insurance from a federal or state small business health options program. According to Merkley's office, the exchange has not been functioning in Oregon due to Cover Oregon's website issues, "Small businesses and their employees should not lose access to quality

**▲ FAST FACT**

*Though Cover Oregon's site has experienced technical difficulties, there have been 123,000 enrollments in health care coverage through Cover Oregon.*

health insurance because of a broken website," Merkley said. "I pushed to make this right because helping small business owners to provide affordable health insurance is a win-win."

The original deadline for the open enrollment was March 31. Many issues with the website caused frustration across the state.

"While Cover Oregon was in general a good idea, I think it has been a massive failure execution wise," said Sierra Sweigert, a junior at the University of Oregon. "There seem to be more problems than solutions with trying to enact it."

"I know that for too many Oregonians, the Cover Oregon website and its ongoing technical problems have created delays confusion and frustration," Gov. John Kitzhaber said in a press release.

Oracle, the company originally in charge of the website creation and function, came to an agreement with Cover Oregon earlier in March due to the issues that have come up since the website went live. Oracle has claimed a cost of \$69.5 million for work in technology development from Nov. 2013 through Feb. 28, 2013. Under the agreement, Cover

Oregon is withholding \$25.6 million from the claimed cost, which will not prevent Oracle from continuing work on the site during the open enrollment and transition period.

According to a Cover Oregon press release, "despite ongoing technical problems, there have been more than 123,000 enrollments in health care coverage through Cover Oregon."

Cover Oregon is now planning on maintaining the current working technology of the site, while contracting a different developer.

"Governor Kitzhaber directed us to create a plan for the remainder of this open enrollment period, and create a path forward for the next. This agreement will allow us to continue enrolling Oregonians now and to create a smooth transition," Interim Cover Oregon Director Dr. Bruce Goldberg said in a press release.

The change now enables qualifying businesses to claim tax credits of up to 50 percent for the cost of health plans outside of the SHOP exchange. According to Merkley's office, these plans are identical.

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BY JENNIFER FLECK. @JENNIFERFLECK



Local farms in Lane County provide Eugene locals with fresh fruits and vegetables.

# LOCAL FARMS BEGIN TO BLOSSOM

As spring blossoms in Oregon, so do many vegetables, fruits and berries on the plush soils of local farms in Lane County. If you want the assurance that you're purchasing the very best produce, it has to be local and in season. Luckily for Eugene residents, access to those fresh fruits and veggies is easily attainable.

Some vegetables that are in season during April include asparagus, which lasts until June, and lettuce, which lasts until October. In May, radishes and salad greens last until November, as well as strawberries, which are in season until August. Mushrooms, potatoes and apples can be grown locally year-round. A full calendar of seasonal produce can be found on OregonFresh.net.

But it's not enough to know which fruits and veggies are in season. You also need to know where to buy them. More often than not, your local bargain or chain grocery store won't sell the same quality of produce that a natural market or farm stand would.

Believe it or not, there are several farm stands in Eugene. A full directory can easily be accessed on MyOregonFarm.org.

The Lane County Farmer's Market is an excellent place to purchase a variety of locally harvested products, as it hosts several vendors, including Oregon farmers selling fruits, veggies, berries and more fresh from their farm.

The Saturday Farmer's Market starts on April 5, lasting until November 15, and will go on from

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. downtown on the corner of 8th Avenue and Oak Street, said Carrie Swarts, the market manager. The Tuesday Farmer's Market starts on May 3 and goes until October 28, at the same location from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The summer market starts on June 5, lasting until September 25, and is on Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 295 East 5th Ave. There is also a winter market, which just ended. In other words, there are more than plenty of opportunities to buy fresh produce from a farmer at nearly any time of the year, especially during the spring and summer.

As for natural markets, Capella Market is a great option for buying high-quality produce. Capella's website explains that it has "a great relationship with Organically Grown Company, a Eugene based regional wholesaler that purchases 90 percent of its produce directly from the organic farms that grow it." It buys directly from local farms as well, especially during the peak growing season. The market is located on the corner of 25th Avenue and Willamette Street and open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Some other organic and natural foods markets include Sundance at 748 East 24th Ave., New Frontier Market at 1101 West 8th Ave. and Market of Choice on 1960 Franklin Blvd.

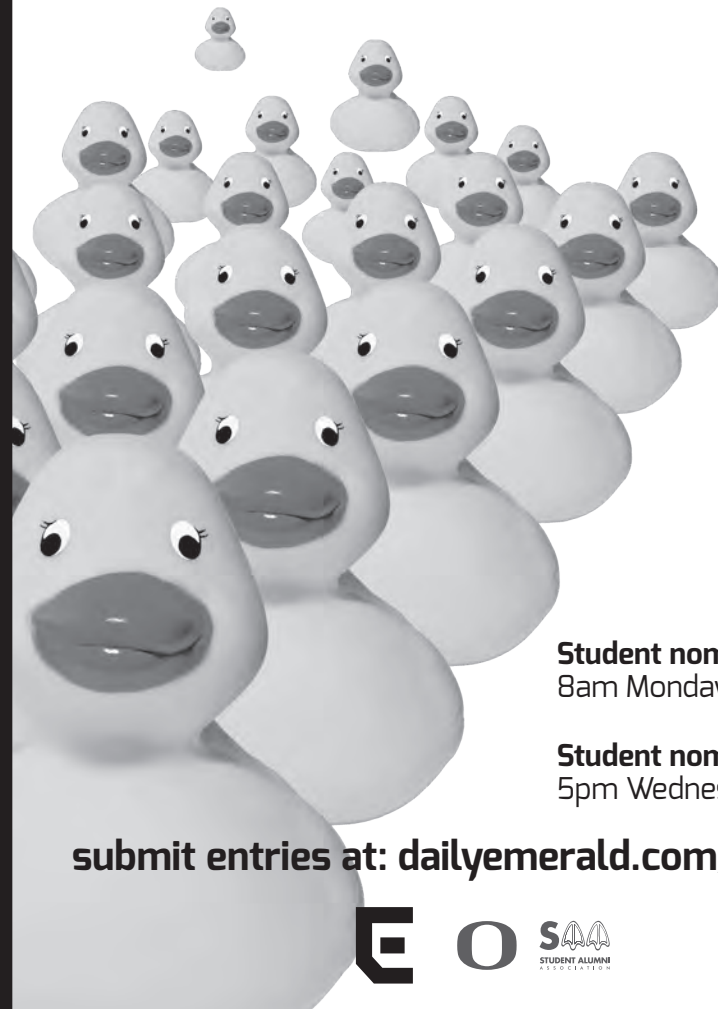
BY ANDREA HARVEY, @ANDREARHARVEY

# D<sup>25</sup>ucks

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## OAKWAY CENTER SERVES UP NEW FLAVORS



**W**hen it comes to eating out in Eugene, you're guaranteed to find appetizing food around the University of Oregon campus. After all, it is a college town.

But, for all of those people who are into adventures and like to try new things, few places will be able to match the quality and prices of restaurants located at the Oakway Center in Eugene. At the center, you will find a number of restaurants with different styles and tastes that are sure to leave any customer satisfied, and with a heavy wallet.

The top eateries located at the Oakway Center are Sabai, a small-time Thai and Pacific Rim cuisine, Mio Sushi, a well-priced Sushi Station and Ox and Fin, a northwest steakhouse with an Italian flair.

"I think what makes the Oakway Center so special is the atmosphere that surrounds it," said Ryan Sugai, a partner of the Mio Sushi franchise. "There's shopping for clothes, shopping for furniture and jewelry, places for desserts and all types of restaurants that people like."

Of all the places to go, Sabai is the

best for any type of person. Not only does the restaurant attract an older generation in the early evening, it's often the place to be late at night as young adults will gather to enjoy a late-night Pad Thai paired with one of its signature drinks.

"The atmosphere is what makes it such a special place. It's super easy to sit in a corner and have a conversation with someone while not feeling totally secluded," said Kelsey Bennett, a UO graduate student. "The drinks are really good, especially the Silver Monk, and the waiters and waitresses are really nice and helpful."

Mio Sushi is one of a number of successful branches in Oregon that serves up some of the freshest sushi and to die for shrimp shumai (deep fried shrimp balls). Recently, Mio Sushi stopped doing an electronic track for lunch and dinner specials because they found that the sushi wouldn't always be as fresh for customers.

"What sets us apart from many other sushi restaurants is the freshness of our fish and how well we prepare it all," Sugai said. "We have a really friendly staff, but we also have a healthy menu with plenty of gluten free food as well as all of our sauces being gluten free."

*Sabai is a great choice for any type of person, offering a quiet night out in the early evening, and is also a good place to be late into the night as young adults will gather to enjoy a late-night Pad Thai.*

Ox and Fin is one of the hidden gems of Eugene where it provides quality food paired with excellent wine and a more modern setting. Ox and Fin has the ability to give couples the quiet and private eatery they desire while also having room for big groups to let loose after a hard days work.

The best thing at this restaurant are its desserts, more importantly, the baked and fried doughnuts. They have the ability to brighten up anyone's day and even after a night of great food, the special thing about the doughnuts is they come with up to three icings to dip them. The doughnuts are sure to end the evening in a great way.

Not only do all of these restaurants provide a different type of experience, but they all have seating that's available outside. This is something that's definitely worth checking out as the sun continues to shine longer and the days seem never-ending.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA, @RYAN\_KOSTECKA

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On a fundamental level, food and beer are similar to the very people who enjoy them. People spend an inordinate amount of their time looking for a compatible companion to build a life. But people and their personalities are tricky. Some people like the house warm and others cold. Some people like sports and some people like books. Finding the right person for you can be much harder than finding wrong.

It's similar with food and beer. The wrong beer paired with the wrong food can wreck an evening and leave you on the hood of a car staring at the heavens. Is it me? Was it them? Was the beer too hoppy or the food too rich? Tricky questions, but fortunately we can help with at least food and beer ones.

#### Oakshire's Watershed IPA

IPAs are known for the "hoppiness" – or how bitter they are. Hops are ingredients used to balance out the sweetness or richness you'll find in some beer styles (lagers, porters) and they add subtle flavors that make IPAs such a delightful experience. For example, Oakshire's Watershed IPA is a perfect example of a "hoppy" IPA, with a level of bitterness that nicely blends sweetness with the aromas and flavors of everything from grapefruits to oranges and even to a bit of pine. The result is a ton of bold flavors that don't overwhelm and makes IPAs a great beer to enjoy with foods on the "zestier" side of the taste spectrum.

IPAs are probably the easiest beer to pair with food. Because of its intense hop and citrus flavor, it needs a food with a similar intensity. The bitterness cuts well with strong spices, making it ideal for Indian, Mexican, Cajun or Southern dishes, as well as the salty American bar food favorites, such as nachos, cheesy-bacon tots or fried mozzarella sticks.

Sweet Sriracha Wings have an Asian spiciness that balances well with an IPA, and if done correctly the sweetness of the honey will caramelize on the meat and enhance the subdued maltiness typical in an IPA. For dessert, a sweet-and-spicy combo is also recommended. Carrot Cake is always a classic and the spices of the cake – such as cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves – are enhanced by the bold IPA and the carbonation cuts



10Barrel Brewery offers a wide variety of beer types.

#### Ninkasi's Oatis Oatmeal Stout

Generically, the Oatmeal Stout style of beer is supposedly just a stronger or the "stoutest" version of the Porter style of beer but you'll find a thick, blurred line trying to define the two. Nonetheless, Stouts are generally rich with flavors that can evoke chocolates or vanillas, and they're much less hoppy than some of their ale counterparts. Take for example Ninkasi's Oatis Oatmeal Stout – which has a subtle bitter chocolate tinge to it – and a bit of coffee somewhere down in its swirling abyss. Oatis' rich flavors deserve an equally rich food counterpart like a barbecued red meat such as ribs, steaks, sausages or pork tenderloin.

The malt profile of stouts connect well with juiciness of steaks, so fire up the BBQ and try a classic dry rub. Grilled vegetables go well with the combo as well. With dessert nothing goes better with an oatmeal stout than chocolate – and the richer, the better. In fact, oatmeal stout goes so well with chocolate that oftentimes it's featured in the recipe itself. A dense, intense Flourless Chocolate Espresso Cake will seduce your tastebuds and stand up to the dark beer.

#### Hop Valley's 541 Lager

Lagers usually get derided as inferior to other styles of beer because of their status as the most widely available and consumed beer in the world (Bud, PBR, Rolling Rock, the usual suspects). This is unfortunate because there are some quality lagers out there and they can complement a meal quite nicely. Take for example Hop Valley's 541 Lager – which has all the attributes of your favorite cheap beer – but tastes like it wasn't watered down after brewing (I'm looking at you, Rolling Rock). The 541 has a sweet maltiness to it but also a bit of hop, putting it squarely in the middle of the beer spectrum in terms of heaviness and taste. This makes it an ideal companion to lighter foods in comparison to the stout.

The balance of hops and malt in a lager make for a easy pairing for most foods, and if you aren't sure what exactly to pair a meal with a lager is a pretty good guess. This pale lager will go great with

seafood, salads and stronger herbs such as ginger, garlic, basil or cilantro. Those herbs are typical to Thai, Italian and Mexican foods, so consider pairing a lager the next time you find yourself in a pairing pickle.

For dinner at home, chicken fajitas or a light spaghetti with lemon and olive oil are both a delicious option the lager. The lager's balance will help cut through spice, herbs and citrus to cleanse the palate between bites.

While knowledge of food and beer pairings is ideal for home cooking, it's also especially useful when eating out. Luckily, Eugene is home to both amazing restaurants and breweries, and the combination of both. Michael Zarkesh, a brewer from Eugene's Falling Sky, has weighed in on couple choice pairings to try if you visit either the Falling Sky Delicatessen or Pub locations, suggesting these mouth watering pairings:

- The Hard Rain American Stout coupled with the Grilled Chicken & Brie Sandwich (Pub).
- The Daywalker Irish Red paired with the Corned Beef Reuben Sandwich (Deli).
- The Daywalker Irish Red with the Pastrami Cheese Fries (Pub).
- The Wet Earth Winter Ale with the Corned Lamb Tongue (Deli).

The Bier Stein also has a revolving menu for each month's featured beer style. This April try the featured wild ales with fried oysters, truffle fries or a cheese plate. For a heartier meal, Bier Stein servers recommend flank steak tacos with goat cheese, pork and polenta with raab, or black bean and mushroom tacos.

With brewpubs like McMenamin's, Steelhead, Sam Bond's, The Beir Stien, 16 Tons and many more dotting the Eugene landscape there are ample opportunities to pair unique local beers with unique foods. McMenamins' Monday night Burger & A Brew deal (\$10) is an excellent way to enjoy the quintessential pairing on a budget – but don't let the location stop you. Hamburgers are a delightfully versatile food with a plethora of beer pairings, but nearly anything from a classic cheeseburger to a burger overflowing with toppings – jalapeños, onion rings, barbecue sauce, bacon, even bleu cheese – will pair well with the hoppy, seasonal 10Barrel "Project Failed" Red Ale or yearlong Deschutes "Inversion" IPA.

Food and beer pairing might not seem like an exact science or even a worthwhile science, but a few subtle combinations can create truly magical and satisfying results – or the opposite. Pairing a tuna sandwich with a Stout or a piece of cheesecake with an IPA could turn your palate into a superfund site. This is serious stuff with serious implications, but now, armed with insight into the basics of pairings, you should be able to go forth and vanquish the foes of complementary flavors. Or perhaps you'll just know which cheap beer will go best with your frozen pizza (the answer Coors Light).

BY SAMUEL WENDEL AND DANA RENGEL @DANA\_RENGEL



**WHAT  
HAPPENS  
WHEN  
FOOD  
AND  
BEER  
HOOK UP**



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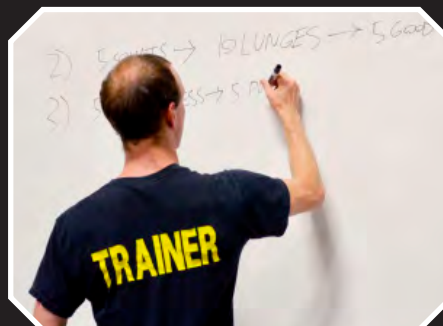
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The **REC**



The UO offers many opportunities for beginning rock climbers, including free climbing sessions at the rec.

## CLIMB TO THE TOP AT THE ROCKWALL

With the stress of going to class, working to pay off student debt and soul crushing hours of homework assigned each week, it's important to find a way to relax and blow off steam while at college. At the University of Oregon, several students have discovered a perfect way to escape from the tedium of academics, rock climbing.

There are several ways to participate in rock climbing. The easiest is simply going to the Student Recreation Center to use the climbing wall. The only requirement to climb is passing a test to make sure climbers know the basic skills. The test ensures that potential climbers won't be a danger to either themselves or their fellow climbers.

"It's not really a climbing test, but more of a belay test," rec employee Michael Carlini said. "It doesn't matter if you have terrible techniques, as long as you know how to communicate to your partner when you are climbing. Safety is the most important part."

If you pass the belay test at the rec, you become eligible to join the Oregon rock climbing club,

### ▲ FAST FACT

*Oregon rock climbing club meets twice a week and they also go on outdoor excursions.*

“

I was one of those kids who was kind of crazy. I would climb things all the time.”

**NETANYA BEARD**  
*avid climber and member of Oregon rock climbing club.*

whose only requirement is a basic knowledge of climbing. The club meets twice a week to work on a variety of climbing drills to build the skills of the members. They participate in competitions as well as going on outdoor excursions.

"Once in the fall and one or two times in the spring we set up a trip to Smith Rock to teach people who want to learn some advanced stuff," club co-President Matt Halpin said. "We camp for the weekend and have a good time."

Located in central Oregon near the town of Redmond, Smith Park – where Smith Rock is located – is known for its scenic views, hiking trails and rock climbing routes, making it the perfect weekend excursion for the club.

If you can't make the time commitment of going to practice twice a week, joining the club isn't the only way to get into rock climbing. Instead, you can go to the rec and enjoy free climbing sessions at the wall.

"I was one of those kids who was kind of crazy," avid climber Netanya

Beard said. "I would climb things all the time."

Rock climbing can be physically taxing, but for Beard the most important aspect of being a good climber is getting in the right mental state.

"You have to have confidence in yourself, that is the biggest thing," Beard said. "You have to be able to trust your feet or trust the hold that you are on."

To become a truly competent climber, it helps if you can consistently find time to head over to the rec and spend time at the wall. Just like anything else, practice is the most important part when it comes to becoming a great rock climber.

For Beard, the best part about rock climbing is getting to know everyone else at the rec.

"I think everyone should do it because you meet the coolest people and it is just so much fun," Beard said. "You go to the climbing gym and it is just you and the rock."

BY CHRISTOPHER KEIZUR, @CHRISKEIZUR



# REC CENTER RECOVERS AFTER SNOWSTORM

On Feb. 7, a flurry of snow invaded Eugene. Trees collapsed, roads were dangerous and a lengthy power outage ensued. While these side effects were obvious in appearance, one ramification at the Student Recreation Center stayed under wraps until a couple days later.

Bryan Haunert, the associate director for facilities, operations and services at the university, was one of the first to come face-to-face with a problem at the SRC.

“We had noticed some leaks downstairs in a room that was underneath the three court gym,” Haunert said. “When we started doing a little more research, we noticed at that point that there was a ton of water underneath the wood floor.”

Though the three-court gym had experienced slight water damage before, the damage from the snowstorm was greater than anything it had previously experienced.

The water damage limited court access throughout winter term, and physical education classes had to be moved to the basement of Gerlinger Annex. As of March 18, Haunert said the timetable for the courts’ reopening would likely extend into spring term. However, when the term began on Monday, the gym at the rec center had two courts readily available for use.

“We saw significant progress a couple weeks ago and began to strategize how to reopen the courts if they became available spring term,” Haunert said in an email. “The biggest decision to be made was if we would take the courts offline for another two or three weeks for sanding and refinishing and, in the process, have to close down the track area due to fumes from the materials used to refinish the floor.”

“The second option was to reopen courts 1 and 3 starting spring term and

keep court 2 closed due to cupping in the floor,” Haunert said. “(Cupping creates an unsafe playing surface) and do the sanding and refinishing of the floor over the summer, when the impact to the student body is minimal.”

When the problem first began in winter term, Haunert and the University of Oregon’s risk management team brought in two restoration companies to deal with it immediately. After a couple weeks of giant fans and tubes encasing the court, though, students began to wonder what was going on.

“It’s super inconvenient,” senior Topher Davis said. “I thought it would be short-term. Drying a court doesn’t seem like a super long process ... It’s probably more than just a wet court.”

The students who freely participate in playing basketball and badminton in the three-court gym weren’t the only ones affected by court’s closing. Physical education classes and intramural sports leagues also had to undergo some changes.

“It was a little bit of a nightmare to switch classes up in the middle of the term,” said Peg Rees, the associate director of PE at the UO.

With only two courts at their disposal in the Gerlinger Annex basement – in comparison to three at the Student Recreation Center – classes had to be cut down.

“We had to downsize the course numbers which meant fewer opportunities for students and less revenue,” Rees said.

Now, physical education classes have moved back into the rec center, something Rees is very happy about.

“Numbers will stay small but at least we’ll be participating in a newer facility,” Rees said.

BY JOSEPH HOYT, @JHOYT42

FEBRUARY'S SNOWSTORM left the SRC's three court gym severely water damaged.



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JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

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Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Rating: GOLD

Solution to 4/1/14

Solved Sudoku grid.

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4/2/14

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0226

- ACROSS: 1 Fare in "blankets" 5 Do the Wright thing? 11 Half-... (coffee order) 14 In a frenzy 15 Bahamas cruise stop 16 South American cruise stop, for short 17 Journalists covering abstract art? 20 Coriander, for one 21 Cry with a fist pump 22 Hill staffers 23 "Mob Wives" star Big \_\_\_ 25 Aim high 26 Help from a jerk? 32 "... cup \_\_\_ cone?" 33 Model plane, e.g. 34 Like steak tartare 37 Letters on a radial 38 Sheer curtain fabric 39 Medium for short-lived sculptures 40 Ages and ages 41 Typists' copies, once 43 \_\_\_-devil 44 Canned tuna without mayo? 47 The Scourge of God 49 Like one texting :-( 50 Ill-humored 51 Shell carries it 54 Jump the shark, e.g. 58 Narcoleptics with string instruments? 61 Toledo-to-Pittsburgh dir. 62 Holding-hands-in-the-dark event 63 Gutter problem 64 Mike Tyson facial feature, for short 65 Guinness Book superlative 66 Equipment miniature golf players don't need DOWN: 1 "Super" campaign orgs. 2 "You can stop trying to wake me now!" 3 Desert that occasionally gets snow 4 Winter topper 5 Hobby farm denizen 6 "Results may \_\_\_" 7 "Oh, O.K." 8 Hieroglyphics creatures 9 Chinese "way" 10 "1984" superstate 11 One unable to get a loan, say 12 TV station, e.g. 13 Bob who directed "Cabaret" 18 Mister in a sombrero 19 They're often off the books 24 Compadre of Castro 25 Mountaineering attempts 26 World leader with an eponymous "mobile" 27 Guestimate words 28 Where to find the only stoplight in a small town, typically 29 Picnic utensil

crossword grid

PUZZLE BY RUTH B. MARGOLIN

- 30 It's best when it's airtight 31 Towers on farms 35 Hurt 36 Pull up dandelions and crab grass 41 Harry Belafonte genre 42 It carries a shell 45 Flooring option 46 One needing detox 47 It's a plus 48 Tornado Alley city 51 Mortarboard tosser 52 \_\_\_ cream 53 Jiffies 55 Castaway site 56 Siouan speaker 57 Txts, e.g. 59 Symbol of slipperiness 60 Net judge's call

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Answer grid for previous puzzle.

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HOROSCOPE by Holiday Mathis

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Because you get along with others so well, you'll be able to leverage your relationships to get what you need and strike upon mutually beneficial arrangements. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll feel slightly indulgent, but that won't stop you from luxuriating in self-care today. By taking excellent care of yourself, you are giving something special and precious to your loved ones: you at your best. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A relationship will have you adjusting your expectations again. It doesn't mean you were wrong before; it just means you're changing with the times. CANCER (June 22-July 22). Nagging is immature, but often the people who rely on this style of communication are in committed relationships and are old enough to know better. You'll now be inclined to distance yourself from nagging influences. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You make room for the people you want in your life, and so does everyone else. If you feel like you have to nudge your way into someone's life, or if someone is doing that to you, it's not a good match right now. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In some sense, you'll have to face the music. You'd rather do this sooner than later. Maybe it won't be as smooth and graceful as you'd like, but it will be done with, and then you can move on to a happier tune. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People who don't know the real you but love an idea they have about you are giving you a love you can't feel. When you show the real you, you increase your chances of having true love in your life.

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ON THE COVER

The cover photo was taken by Emerald Photo Editor Taylor Wilder.

# PITCHING DUO PUSHES TEAM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



The softball team relies on Cheridan Hawkins and Karissa Hovinga's leadership.

In order to have a chance at winning the Pac-12 conference, the Oregon softball team needs at least one dominant pitcher.

Luckily for Oregon, it has two dominant pitchers in Cheridan Hawkins and Karissa Hovinga. They give No. 2 ranked Oregon a great chance not just to win a Pac-12 championship but a national championship.

"I think we're very good," Hovinga said about herself and Hawkins. "We complement each other very well. I think it (the experience together) is going to pay off very well because we have each other's backs."

Sophomore Hawkins is the workhorse of the staff, leading the team with an 18-2 record in 127.1 innings thrown. She has compiled 182 strikeouts on the year with just a 0.99 earned run average. The junior Hovinga is 9-1 on the year, amassing 73.1 innings thrown with 50 strikeouts and a 2.00 ERA.

Hawkins is known for being a "power" pitcher, one that relies on a lot of swings and misses. While her ball doesn't move a lot, she has a devastating rise ball that is one of the main reasons she leads the Ducks with 182 strikeouts.

"(Hawkins) just has high expectations. She's never satisfied with how she does and always thinks she can do better," Oregon head coach Mike White said. "She wants to seek perfection but definitely with her, she's going to work as hard as anyone I know."

Hovinga, on the other hand, is a drop ball pitcher who doesn't have the overpowering pitches to consistently get strikeouts. Instead, she relies on pristine location and the movement of her pitches to get batters to make weak contact.

"I feel like Karissa is very aggressive. She works really hard, is a go-getter and I feel like that works for us," Hawkins said. "Hov just really attacks the zone, keeps the ball low and is really aggressive with her down ball."

When pitching back-to-back, teams are forced to make numerous adjustments at the plate just to have a chance at getting on base, making it very difficult to score runs. The difficulty was proved when the Ducks faced then No. 1 Florida on Feb. 28. Although Oregon lost the game 2-1, the real story was how the duo kept the Gators' high octane

offense to just two runs, a far cry from the 6.79 runs they average per game.

Hovinga started the game on the mound and held the Gators at bay, throwing 5.0 innings and giving up just one run on six hits. Hawkins entered the game in the sixth inning and threw three innings, giving up just one hit and one run (unearned) as she struck out five batters for the nine outs recorded.

As evidenced in the Florida game, the Ducks will have the opportunity to beat any team in the country with Hawkins and Hovinga in the pitcher's circle. The team will only go as far as the pitching duo will take it. If the start of the season is any foretelling of the future, it could be pretty far.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA. @RYAN\_KOSTECKA

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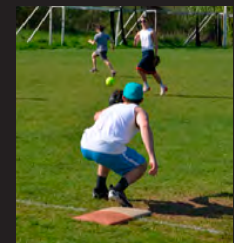
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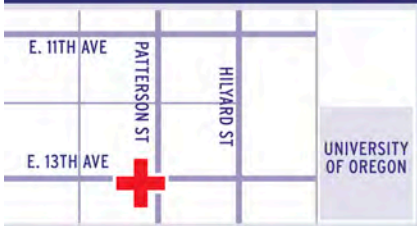
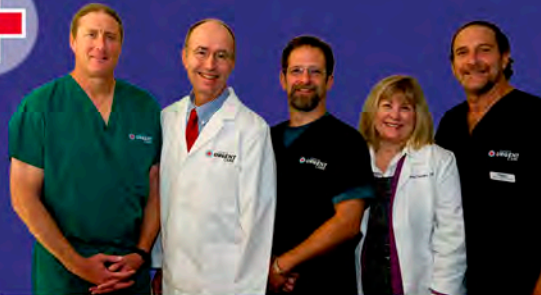
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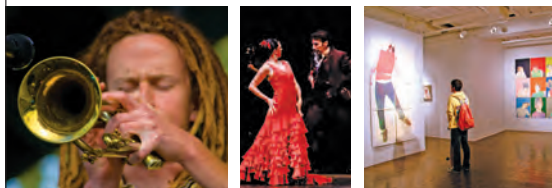
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