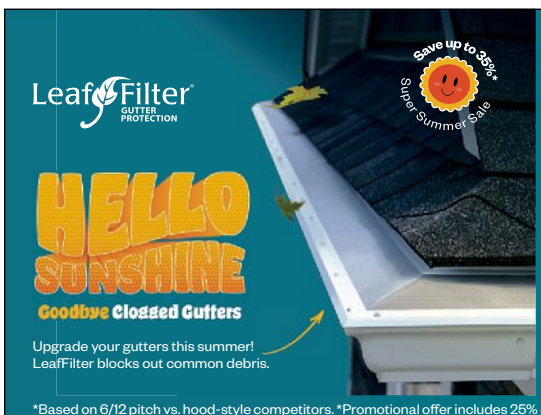

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The Register-Guard

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‘It’s about delicious food made with love’

Lola’s Mahal owners Amara Anderson and Dominick Baker hold up their bestsellers in front of their food truck, which made its public debut in early July. CHRIS PIETSCH/THE REGISTER-GUARD

Lola’s Mahal serves up fried catfish, lumpia from local parking lots

Bettina Wu
Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fried catfish and chicken adobo live alongside each other on the menu for a small white food truck that sets up shop throughout Eugene.

It’s where Lola’s Mahal co-owners Amara Anderson and Dominick Baker work side-by-side to bring steaming hot plates piled high with Filipino cuisine and soul food.

Anderson dreamt of owning a food truck for 10 years. She had previous experience working in a Hawaiian food truck, and she took what she learned there to build her own brand.

The food truck’s name means “grandmother’s love” in Tagalog. Anderson’s late grandmother, whose smiling likeness forms the logo, inspired her side of the menu.

“I grew up eating the basic Filipino, so just like the chicken and pork adobo,

See LOLA’S MAHAL, Page 3A

Baker shows off a plate of catfish with mac and cheese and collard greens.

RIVER ROAD

Man charged with killing woman in area home

Haleigh Kochanski
Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

Tyler Earl Essex, 46, was arrested in Skagit County, Washington, on Aug. 19 for allegedly murdering a woman inside a home near the intersection of Howard Avenue and Manzana Street in Eugene.

The Lane County Sheriff’s Office conducted a welfare check at the home just before 10 a.m. after a report from an out-of-state caller regarding a “suspicious set of circumstances,” which indicated Essex admitted to killing the victim, Yuvonne Joanne Allison, according to a probable cause affidavit filed in Lane County Circuit Court.

The property owner directed deputies and detectives to a path on the south side of the home and indicated Essex and the Allison lived in a converted garage.

Allison was found “obviously deceased,” lying on her side in a large pool of blood. A press release from the Lane County Sheriff’s Office said Allison was stabbed multiple times. A probable cause affidavit said law enforcement observed blood all over her body. Blood was spattered and smeared on several items in the room.

The property owner told detectives he heard Essex and the victim in a loud verbal dispute within their home earlier that morning. He said he hear Essex yelling obscenities followed by a loud scream from the victim and a loud “thud,” followed by silence.

Upon review of the property owner’s security cameras, Essex was seen entering the home just before midnight on Aug. 18 and exiting hurriedly about 21 minutes later.

Later in the day, Essex was arrested by the Sedro-Woolley Police Department in Washington.

A press release issued by the department said officers were dispatched to a welfare check at a business in the 800 block of SR 20 after a man called 911 making nonsensical statements. He also made threats toward himself and others and stated he was armed.

Police in Skagit County had been notified earlier in the day that Essex was wanted in connection with a violent felony investigation in Lane County and was armed with several firearms. Sedro Woolley police officials said another person also was detained in connection with the incident.

Responding officers said they found Essex armed with a shotgun. The business was locked down and then evacuated, sealing him off in a beer

See ESSEX, Page 2A

Ex-PeaceHealth region chief medical officer takes on system role

Hannarose McGuinness
Eugene Register-Guard
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kim Ruscher, former PeaceHealth chief medical officer for Oregon, has taken on a new role in the hospital system as enterprise vice president of physician clinical services.

In the new job, announced to staff Aug. 10 in an internal communication obtained by The Register-Guard, Ruscher will provide physician leadership for patient transfers, admissions, care coordination and clinical operations across the PeaceHealth system to advance patient flow, strengthen care delivery and improve systemwide performance.

PeaceHealth’s Oregon system includes hospitals in Cottage Grove, Springfield and Florence.

Mark Korth, PeaceHealth’s executive vice president and chief transformation and integration officer, said Ruscher’s role does not include direct oversight of the Medical Executive Committee, medical staff, credentialing or physicians in Oregon.

The role will influence policy and decisions regarding capacity management strategies, improving care coordination and making sure patients receive care in the right setting at the correct time and receive their care at the best pace.

See RUSCHER, Page 2A

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