

- Staff reporter, Lake County Examiner.
- Moved to Lakeview 2 years ago from Eugene.
- Studied journalism at UO.

Peter Little: What are some things about Lakeview that you enjoy most?

Ryan Bonham: The people. I mean, no doubt. This is my first journalism job as a whole. There are a lot of good people in Eugene, but as a small town like this people help each other out more. Because it is a small town people have to rely on each other more. I certainly like the small atmosphere here. I am a big Americana type and so moving here was a perfect fit. It is a town where everyone looks out for one another.

PL: Do you think you will stay here for the rest of your life?

RB: I try to assume that I could be here for the long haul, but who knows. I guess it is just never say never. Who knows what the future may bring.

PL: What do you like about the food system here in Lakeview and how does it differ from Eugene?

RB: Well, I am relieved there isn't a McDonald's or Taco Bell on every corner. There is a difference, because we are more isolated. I mean I was a college student. I was a connoisseur of fast food, but here things are more local. There is fast food here, but even the Burger Queen has a sign that says "Our food is prepared here, please be patient." It is nice to see that the restaurants are more local. There is a more localized market here. We do have the Subway, but it is mostly local franchises. It is nice not to have all the big corporate franchises. That isn't to say that I don't like corporate entities, but it is nice to drive around town and not see it.

PL: Are there some food choices that you wish were more available to you here?

RB: I mean I am pretty easy to please, but I would like to see more Italian. I think we have a good mix here. I mean I like Sushi, but I don't think that would go over well here, but you never know.

PL: Do you garden or have a garden?

RB: No, I rent now. But sometime in the future I hope to. I don't have much of a green thumb.

PL: What is your feeling about living in a community with a prison?

RB: When I moved here it had just started. Since then it seems to have had a positive effect in the community, especially the help they provide in the winter with the shoveling. As far as I can tell, from my limited experience here, I have not seen any real negative backlash against the prison.

PL: What do you like or dislike about the natural environment here?

RB: It gets really cold in the winter. It is not like the wet cold in Eugene, but it gets pretty cold here. The rest of the year is pretty mild and of course there is a lot more sun and none of that cloudy and dreary weather you get in Eugene.