

• Eugene's **Downtown Public Safety Zone**, aka exclusion zone, was extended by the City Council this week, despite no evidence that the zone has accomplished anything positive. This program has been in effect for two years and we still have no data to look at. How hard can it be? Kudos to Councilors Betty Taylor and George Brown for recognizing the folly of a program that is a convoluted violation of our constitutional rights.

• Last week's cover story on **Susanne Schumann's final days** and her family's experience involving Oregon's Death With Dignity Act has proven to be an emotional roller-coaster for many of our readers. Calls and letters keep coming in, and we'll run more letters next week. We didn't have much room in the story to talk about Schumann herself. She was known to many as Suzi Fogelson, the noted psychologist, and she will be remembered not for the way she died, but rather for the way she lived. She was a powerful figure locally and beyond, and many of Eugene's most prominent families turned to her for counseling and insight in their times of need. We welcome your stories about her contributions to our community.

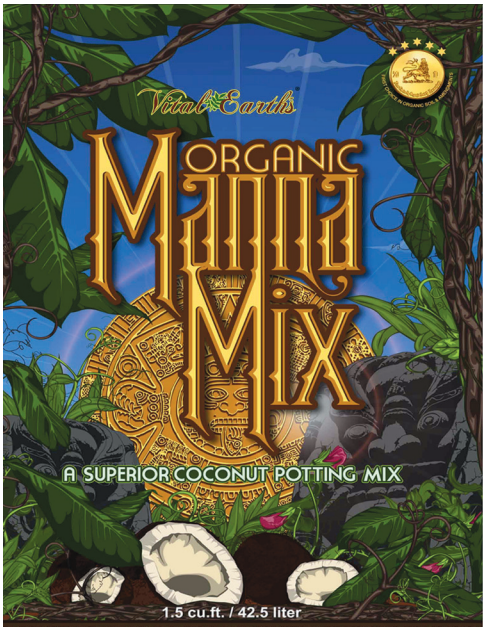
• *Eugene Weekly* congratulates **Rabbit Bistro chef Gabriel Gil**, who won the Bite of Oregon Iron Chef competition after a head-to-head contest with Camp Sherman's Kokanee Café chef Roscoe Roberson. Gil earned himself a Shun cleaver "crafted in Japan from 16 layers of high carbon steel" and a lot of attention for one of Eugene's tastiest restaurants. Hint: We think an Iron Bartender contest would have Rabbit Bistro high up in the finals as well, so don't skip the cocktails when you hop on by.

• A little story reprinted in the local daily from the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* Aug. 9 reminds us how much **we want the trains rolling** in Oregon. Venell Farms and south Benton County growers are again shipping wheat and other commodities on a short rail line that had been abandoned for three years. Maybe this is the time to send a passenger car from Eugene to the coast, or how about a train from Eugene to Ashland? That particular route interests Congressman DeFazio. We know the hurdles are immense, but probably not tougher than shutting off an oil spill a mile deep in the Gulf of Mexico.

• *EW's Next Big Thing* is growing like a Russian forest fire and has more than twice as many songs as last year at this time in the contest. About 45 songs are now online at <http://nextbigthingeugene.com> and voting and commenting are well under way. Check out the professional quality music produced by some Lane County people with names you may not have heard before. Some of these songs have the potential to become big hit singles, and that's the whole idea: to give exposure to talented but undiscovered musicians.

• We reported earlier this summer (6/17) that Lane County commissioners are looking into PACE, an acronym for **Property Assessed Clean Energy**. PACE started in Berkeley and serves as a way for property owners to finance solar systems or energy efficiency retrofits. California cities and counties are jumping on it, but we haven't heard of any city or county in Oregon doing it yet. One way it works is for the county to sell municipal bonds that finance loans for solar systems. Property owners pay back the cost on their property taxes over 20 years. If a property is sold in less than 20 years, the remaining tax liability goes to the new owner. We like this idea a lot. Potentially everybody wins: Solar installers and manufacturers thrive, homeowners see their net monthly energy costs go down, properties gain in resale value, and we reduce the demand for electricity and fossil fuels. To find out more, Google "Berkeley First Program."

SLANT includes short opinion pieces, observations and rumor-chasing notes compiled by the EW staff. Heard any good rumors lately? Contact Ted Taylor at 484-0519, editor@eugeneweekly.com



Maude Kerns Art Center Presents Artwork by Scott Schuldt



"Honoring the ancestors with phenomenal beadwork."

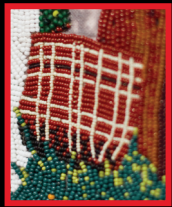


Exhibit on display through August 27

Meet Seattle Artist Scott Schuldt:
Wednesday, August 18, 7-8:30pm

1910 East 15th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97403
www.mkartcenter.org • 541.345.1571



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Here's a tip from the Eugene Water & Electric Board:

Install a ductless heat pump to replace your baseboard, wall, or ceiling heat.

A ductless system will use 25% to 50% less electricity than these other heating systems—plus you get air conditioning. EWEB's ductless heat pump program offers qualified homeowners either a \$1,500 rebate or a 0% loan up to \$4,000. For more info, visit eweb.org.

