

LONE ELK SIGHTING

Paul Basile, singer and primary songwriter of New York-based indie rockers Great Elk, is spending the winter playing solo shows. Great Elk's 2012 release *Autogeography* is a sweeping, tuneful and epic work of American indie music. There's a little Death Cab For Cutie-style romantic sadness in the soaring chorus of "The Weight Of The Sea," and in the refrain from the song "Give Up," Basile sings, "Let's give up trying to be magnificent."

Now and then Basile's voice has a touch of Ryan Adams and Paul Westerberg's everyman drawl. In "I'm Going to Bend," he sings over mournful acoustic strumming and atmospheric piano: "When the wind blows/ When the heart shakes/ I know, I know, I know/ I'm going to bend/ I know I'm going to break." Elsewhere, in the ballad "Two Weeks," a gentle Hammond organ hums, and in the triumphant anthem "In Our Tunnel Under Water," electric guitars walk a tightrope between contemporary country music and straight-ahead rock 'n' roll.

On the Great Elk website, *Autogeography* producer James Goodwin (Norah Jones, The Bravery) says: "Quite frankly, this is one of the great records I've worked on. Paul is a fantastic songwriter." Catch Basile play stripped-down acoustic versions of songs from *Autogeography* and more.

Paul Basile plays 8:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 19, at Axe & Fiddle in Cottage Grove; \$3. — *William Kennedy*



BB BACK BEAT

MUSIC NEWS & NOTES FROM DOWN IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Eugene-Springfield experienced a brutal domestic abuse tragedy last month with the loss of 26-year old **Casey Lynn Wright**, a devoted equestrian, at the hands of her ex-boyfriend Robert Cromwell. Domestic abuse remains a grave but silent problem; **Womenspace** reports that one in four women in the U.S. will be a victim of intimate partner violence. In honor of Wright, Womenspace is hosting a benefit, "**Sing Through The Blues**," featuring Savanna Coen, Bajuana Blues, Deb Cleveland as well as a silent auction 6 to 9 pm Thursday, Dec. 19, at Cozmic; \$10-\$15 suggested donation.

Double the holiday fun: **Halie Loren** is at home for the holidays at **The Jazz Station** 7 and 9 pm Friday, Dec. 20; \$10-\$15. Joined by her band, including Matt Treder on piano, Mark Schneider on bass and Brian West on drums, Loren revisits holiday favorites as well as multilingual holiday ditties, all with a jazzy spin.

Don't miss: an **Electropop Christmas** with Albany's **Little Rascalz** and Eugene's **Pluto the Planet** 7 pm Dec. 20 at WOW Hall; the "tipsy American gypsy blues" of **Hot Damn Scandal** (who, according to their website, have been reviewed by Jesus and Ronald Reagan) 8:30 pm Dec. 22 at Axe & Fiddle.

Local rock-ska band **Wetsock** is releasing a new album, **Puddle Gazer**, Saturday, Dec. 21, at Luckey's, joined by other local bands The Soothersayers and Bad Luck Blackouts (see Music); \$5. Eugene needs more horn-heavy music, and Wetsock has the perfect trombone-trumpet remedy. Can't catch them on the solstice? See them at the band's service industry appreciation show Sunday Dec. 22 at Black Forest.



WETSOCK

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Production, Little French School, Lost Red Cross, Luv-A-Bull, Majesty Theater Management, March of Dimes Oregon Chapter, Meisner High School, McKenzie Watershed Alliance, MECCA, MEMA / Food For Lane County, Mt Valley Habitat for Humanity, Molly's Fund and Fighting Library, Mt. 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