



The number is up from the previous year's sustained rate of 31 percent. Gissiner says he hopes the number goes down in the future. The auditor's office sees more incidents now that EPD officers use Blue Team, software that reports all uses of force, he says.

**'I can't imagine that there's very many agencies around the nation that see every use of force.'**

— MARK GISSINER, POLICE AUDITOR

## EPD'S 'SUSTAINED' RATE OF MISCONDUCT GROWS

The Eugene Police Department (EPD) finds that in approximately 44 percent of the cases investigated for serious misconduct, the officer investigated has committed serious misconduct. That is a rate higher than many other cities, according to the city of Eugene Police Auditor's 2013 Annual Report. The report, released May 31, shows four other cities with "sustained" rates ranging from 2 to 20 percent.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the whole investigative process — what the expectations are, willingness to make decisions, having the resources to manage the kind of load that we have," Police Auditor Mark Gissiner says.

Eugene Police Commission Chair Bob Walker says he thinks the number is high because of Eugene's comprehensive oversight process. Cases are reviewed independently by the police auditor and the Civilian Review Board — a seven-member volunteer citizen body that evaluates certain allegations of misconduct. Cases are also reviewed at EPD by Internal Affairs, and the police chief receives feedback from all three groups. Walker says he thinks EPD holds police to a high standard.

The oversight bodies see more uses of force with Blue Team, Gissiner says, because the software leads to all uses of force being reported by a supervisor and sent to the auditor. "I can't imagine that there's very many agencies around the nation that see every use of force," Gissiner says.

The annual report shows the most common allegation of misconduct is regarding use of force; in 17 of 19 cases reported, the use of force was found to be within policy or the allegations were proven to be unsubstantiated. Twenty-nine percent of complaints alleging serious misconduct are about use of force, down from the previous year's 35 percent. Gissiner says use of force is commonly the most prevalent allegation in other cities.

The year 2013 brought the most complaints — nearly 400 — against EPD since the auditor's office has been open.

The report also states that the office has seen an increase in complainants who are affected by mental illness. In the last year or two, Gissiner says, the office has received more walk-ins by those he believes are affected by mental illness. He says people come in the office three to five times each week experiencing delusions — some say officers are "following them around or devices from the sky are controlling their behavior."

The annual report can be found at [wkly.ws/1sf](http://wkly.ws/1sf).  
— Missy Corr

The local **real estate market** appears to be doing well with residential sale prices improving in all areas, many by double digits, according to a flyer sent out last week by broker Sally Nunn. Nunn's numbers compare June 2013 with June 2014 and show the biggest gains in the McKenzie Valley (16.9 percent) and Springfield (13.4 percent). West Eugene home sales went up 10 percent with other parts of Eugene showing single-digit growth. The number of closed sales in the metro area increased 3.7 percent and the number of new listings grew by 6.5 percent.

Several Oregon **health insurance rate hikes** are unjustified, according to an analysis by the OSPIRG Foundation. Moda, PacificSource, United and Health Net have proposed premium rate increases but OSPIRG concludes that cost savings are not being passed down to customers, medical cost trends are overestimated and waste within the companies is not being adequately addressed. See [ospirgfoundation.org](http://ospirgfoundation.org).

**World-class track and field athletes** are in town, giving local businesses a nice boost. Thousands are here for the 2014 IAAF World Junior Championships this week, a big invitational track and field meet Saturday, July 26, at Hayward Field, and the Eugene Marathon and Half Marathon Sunday, July 27.

**Wholesome Café** is a new business that celebrates its official grand opening Thursday, July 31, with free food tasting from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm that day. The café is located downstairs in the Lane County Public Service Building, 125 E. 8th Ave., and offers a breakfast menu, house-made soups and sandwiches and daily specials. The business was previously called Wholesome Meals Delivered.

In labor news, we hear that **Sacred Heart** nurses and the Oregon Nurses Association are voting this week on an informational picket due to unsuccessful negotiations with management. Most of the negotiated items are around safe staffing for patient care, according to one source, and the only remaining scheduled negotiation with a federal mediator was this week, July 23. The contract with the nurses expired June 30. Meanwhile, **Lane Transit District** and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 reached an agreement on a new three-year contract earlier this month. See [ltd.org](http://ltd.org).

We introduced **RAIN** (Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network) in this column May 29 and the public/private partnership designed to grow local innovation officially launched July 14 with an inaugural class of eight startup companies. The first class of the program will receive 12 weeks of focused mentoring and development. RAIN inaugural startup companies include ADASA, Black Lodge Design Lab, BT Biotech, Dune Sciences, Heads of State, LawyerBoom, Manage My Co-op and SCAPE. "Being an entrepreneur requires adaptability and thick skin," says Joe Maruschak, chief startup officer and director of the program that promises to "challenge founders' perceptions of their companies and provide them with the vital skills they need to adapt quickly to feedback in a competitive marketplace." See [raineugene.org](http://raineugene.org).

Falling Sky Brewing in Eugene is now **loaning customers a free bicycle** for up to 24 hours, including lock, lights and helmet. "We have tried to encourage biking from the beginning, so when the idea of a bike share came up, we thought — wow, that would be awesome," says co-owner Jason Carriere in a press release. Falling Sky purchased seven underused bikes from UO and partnered with Arriving by Bike, a local shop, for equipment and maintenance. See [fallingskybrewing.com](http://fallingskybrewing.com) or call 520-8012.

**Mudra Yoga Eugene** is planning to open Aug. 4 at Station Square, 199 E. 5th Ave. Owner is Heather Nelson and she's trying through crowd-funding to raise at least \$6,500 for eco-friendly renovations to the space. Find Mudra Yoga on Facebook, call 543-9121 or email [heather@eugenemudra.com](mailto:heather@eugenemudra.com).

The **Springfield TNR Project** (Trap/Neuter/Return of cats) is a successful collaboration among Springfield mayor, City Council, Police Department, Willamette Animal Guild and 50 volunteers. The project began in February and has spayed/neutered 600 cats and transferred 114 to adopting agencies. Adoption fees range from \$40 to \$90. Ages start at 1 year. For more information or to donate or volunteer, call 607-4271.

A free **small business clinic** "Ask the Experts" will be from 5 to 7 pm Thursday, July 31, at the Eugene Public Library downtown. Sponsored by LCC Small Business Development Center and SCORE. Pre-registration required by calling 682-5450.



## HAPPENING PEOPLE

BY PAUL NEEVEL

### NANCY-DIANE MANNELLI BREWER

"New York didn't resonate with me," says Nancy-Diane Mannelli Brewer, who grew up in Northport, on Long Island. "It's too fast-paced and competitive. I left when I was 18." Mannelli studied for a year at West Virginia University in Morgantown, where she discovered Transcendental Meditation, and spent three years of quiet spiritual practice at an ashram in the Catskills, where she met her husband-to-be Bill Brewer, an artist. She taught TM for a while in Annapolis and in Bermuda, until she and Brewer got married, moved to Seattle and had a daughter, Rhice. "When Rhice was 4 I thought, 'I need a career,'" says Mannelli, who went to nursing school and got a job in the oncology unit at the Seattle Children's Medical Center. "The kids had incredible stories. They taught me a lesson about living and dying." When the Brewers moved to Eugene in 1992, Mannelli found work at Sacred Heart Hospital. "I've been on the hospice team since '94 or '95," she says. "It has a similar thread to the work I had been doing with children." After attending a training in pediatric palliative care in 2004, Mannelli joined with her colleague, LCSW Dora Parys, to launch the Little Stars program, offering in-home hospice care to seriously ill children. "She and I have worked closely together since then," says Mannelli. "Little Stars has served many families in Lane County."