



At least **three new hotels** are popping up on the drawing boards for Eugene and some might actually get built. One hotel is included in proposals for redevelopment of the EWEB surplus property, a seven-story hotel is back on the expansion plans at Oakway Center and a third hotel was revealed in tentative plans for the Civic Stadium property.

How great is the need for hotel rooms in Eugene and Springfield? “The indicators are very strong right now,” says Kari Westlund of Eugene, Cascades & Coast, the local tourism agency. Occupancy so far this year is 67.4 percent and overall room revenues are up more than 13 percent, breaking records four years in a row. “Typically when average annual occupancies get into the mid-60s, you’ll see a new hotel built,” Westlund says. “Indicators would be very positive for prospective developers.” One indicator is the increasing number of times hotels are booked solid for Duck games and other events.

The Organic Cannabis Growers Society is a new enterprise that serves its members with information and support regarding certification of organically grown marijuana. “We are striving to unite and promote growers using organic methods and the businesses that support them in the cannabis industry,” says Clark Tippin, who helped open a medical marijuana dispensary in Eugene. “Many people think they are growing ‘organic’ but can easily be misled by labeling and sales persons in grow stores. A Buddha or dragon on the label will not make it organic.” The website is orcannabisgrowers.com.

Lane County is going digital to get feedback from county residents who can’t make it to those 9 am Tuesday morning County Commission meetings. County spokesman Trevor Steele says engagelanecounty.org has launched in the spirit of continuing to make the county more transparent. Steele calls Engage with Lane County “a site to ask questions and get input” and says county commissioners, County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky and staff will be listening to the feedback. Steele says issues that will be discussed include the county’s strategic plan and how to pay for county road maintenance — including a proposed local vehicle registration fee.

The nonprofit **Community Alliance of Lane County** (CALC) is close to reaching a \$10,000 fundraising goal that will kick in a matching \$10,000. Find out more about CALC and how to contribute at calclane.org or call 485-1755.

The city of Florence is gearing up for **Octoberfest** Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Florence Events Center on Quince Street. Numerous local businesses and nonprofits are sponsoring the fourth annual event, held this year in a new venue. \$5 for adults, kids 12 and under are free. Call 997-3128 or email cal@florencechamber.com for more information.

NEWS

UO SURVEY SHOWS 10% OF FEMALE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN RAPED

Thirty-five percent of female and 14 percent of male participants in a UO campus survey had at least one non-consensual sexual experience during college, and 10 percent of female and 0.3 percent of male participants were raped.

UO professor Jennifer Freyd released these preliminary results of the “Sexual Violence and Institutional Behavior Campus Survey” at a meeting of the UO Faculty Senate Task Force to Address Sexual Violence and Survivor Support Sept. 30. Also released this week were public records showing that UO Athletics paid \$4,000 in 2013 to Adam Ritz, a man convicted of the sexual battery of his babysitter, to give a talk to the football team about “alcohol and drug awareness and the consequences of poor decisions.”

According to Freyd’s campus survey of almost 1,000 students, which was funded by UO’s Center for the Study of Women in Society and private donations but not by the UO itself, “41 percent of students experienced institutional betrayal related to a nonconsensual sexual experience,” meaning the institution fostered an environment where the experience seemed common or was more likely, and it failed to prevent the experience or made it difficult to report.

Freyd is a nationally known scholar on institutional betrayal who has repeatedly offered the UO her expertise. UO Interim President Scott Coltrane did not attend Freyd’s presentation of the preliminary results to the task force but said in an email statement, “We look forward to working with professor Freyd and other universities across the country on an assessment tool that is being developed, and we hope to share the results of Dr. Freyd’s research with the other universities.”

In addition to paying a registered sex offender to come to campus, UO Athletics also paid \$3,000 to the media relations firms 180 Communications to talk to student-athletes on how to brand themselves and about the pitfalls of Twitter. The records were obtained by professor Bill Harbaugh of the UO Matters blog.

UO professor Carole Stabile says she questions the wis-

dom of bringing in someone who was a media personality before he was convicted of sexual battery, who “has no experience teaching and now makes his living by speaking to athletes and fraternities about how this could happen to them, too.” She adds, “as if these things just ‘happened’ — he raped his babysitter.”

Stabile co-chairs the Senate Task Force, which has already given Coltrane several recommendations for preventing and dealing with sexual assault on campus. This unpaid, open-to-the-public task force is a separate entity from the Review Panel on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response appointed by former UO president Michael Gottfredson. Those panelists were offered honorariums of \$10,000.

Cheyney Ryan, UO professor emeritus and longtime critic of the UO’s handling of sexual harassment and assault issues, points out that it appears people are not told ahead of time that Ritz is a sex offender. “I wonder if this is permissible?” Ryan asks.

Craig Pintens, UO’s senior associate athletic director of marketing and public relations, says via email that Ritz’s “personal experience is a critical component of his message,” but Pintens did not respond to questions of whether students were warned Ritz would be on campus or if any extra security measures were brought in to prevent him from

raping or fondling anyone during his stay on campus.

Ritz was initially charged with rape, but the charge was reduced to sexual battery after the babysitter agreed to the lesser charge and to Ritz being registered as a sex offender, according to media reports at the time. Ritz was sentenced to six months in prison and to alcohol counseling.

Stabile says, “Ritz’s popularity on the athletics/Greek system speaker circuit at universities around the country suggests to me real problems around what these at-risk subcultures consider to be appropriate education around sexual assault and alcohol prevention.” She points

out that “the fact that these programs are bringing in people like Ritz, and not scholars and teachers whose expertise is grounded in research and not their own criminal acts, suggests to me that they really don’t want to have any outside eyes on the problems that exist within the programs.”

Freyd and graduate student Carly Smith will speak to the City Club of Eugene on “Addressing Sexual Assault — From Institutional Betrayal to Institutional Courage,” noon Friday, Oct. 3, at the Downtown Athletic Club, 3rd floor ballroom. — *Camilla Mortensen*



PHOTO: INDIANA SEX AND VIOLENT OFFENDER REGISTRY

ROBERT ADAM RITZ



BY PAUL NEEVEL

PETER OGURA

The son of a doctor and a nurse, Peter Ogura grew up in suburban St. Louis, Missouri. “It was a *Leave it to Beaver* kind of childhood,” he says. “We were big patrons of the St. Louis County Library.” After high school, he headed west to Colorado College, where he changed his major from English to political science. “I came out to Eugene for a couple of weeks in 1975,” he says, “to visit friends from home.” He continued westward to San Francisco for law school at USF. “It was there that I got into reading fiction,” he says. “The Bay Area had so many great independent book stores.”

Ogura finished law school, worked three years for legal publisher Bancroft-Whitney, then left the big city behind in favor of a move to Eugene. Two years later, in November of 1992, he opened his own tiny 900-square-foot independent bookstore, Black Sun Books, named for the novel by Edward Abbey. “It was his own personal favorite,” says Ogura, who built the shelves and assembled a start-up inventory of used books mostly, “but the only one that’s no longer in print.” After 22 years, the store’s stock now tends towards half and half, new and used. “It has evolved organically,” he says. “This is a literate neighborhood. European and Eastern philosophy, poetry and foreign lit in translation are well represented. In a bookstore, you’ll encounter the book you didn’t know you wanted to read.” You’ll encounter Black Sun at 2467 Hilyard St. in Eugene.