

SLANT

• **Wishes for 2019:** That Republican leadership will find the courage to offer Donald Trump the options of resignation or impeachment in this year. Michael Pence could not be as bad. (Right?) That the kids' climate case will have its day in court. That we will find homes for our huddled masses, both the unhoused who live here and the immigrants who need safety. That Oregon will find a way to decently fund education at all levels.

• **What we're reading:** Suggested to us as a break from the depressing nonfiction we've been perusing about the decline of democracy in America is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. The novel is not for everybody. One friend says he could not care less about Count Rostov's confinement in the Metropol Hotel across the street from the Kremlin in Moscow, but the pace, style and character development certainly take the reader away from modern America. Maybe that's enough.

• **As the New Year begins, we bid a fond farewell** and "hear you later" to our reporter, podcaster and web editor Meerah Powell as she heads to Portland to break news for Oregon Public Broadcasting. Powell started at *Eugene Weekly* as an intern and has been impressing readers ever since. Speaking of interns, Michael "Mitch" Tobin has wrapped up his time at *EW* and is heading off to the *Wall Street Journal* as this year's F. James Pensiero intern. (Longtime readers may know that former *WSJ* editor Fred Taylor was an *EW* owner until his death in 2015, and his family members are still owners of the paper.) And since we're feeling proud, former intern Kenny Jacoby, currently a Scripps Washington Bureau investigative reporting fellow, recently had his work featured on Newsy, the podcast *Reveal* and ProPublica. Former *EW* interns have landed jobs at *The New York Times*, CNN, *The Register-Guard*, *The (Bend) Bulletin* and *High Country News*, to name a few. We're always sad to see them go, but blown away by all they go on to achieve. Good luck Meerah!

• **What readers were reading online in *EW* last year:** Check EugeneWeekly.com for a list of *Eugene Weekly's Most-Read Stories of 2018*. Without giving the whole thing away, let's just say the stories that got the most attention from readers last year were about neo-Nazis, public officials with legal issues and, no kidding, Ethiopian cuisine.

SLANT INCLUDES SHORT OPINION PIECES, OBSERVATIONS AND RUMOR-CHASING NOTES COMPILED BY THE EW EDITORIAL BOARD. HEARD ANY GOOD RUMORS LATELY? CONTACT EDITOR@EUGENEWEEKLY.COM

HAPPENING PEOPLE BY PAUL NEEVEL



CONNOR GABOR

When Connor Gabor was four, his parents were divorced in Reno, and he moved to Eugene with his mother. "My dad was physically abusive," he explains, "and Mom has struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder. My job was taking care of her." They have lived in north Eugene, but Gabor has attended schools farther south; Camas Ridge Elementary, Roosevelt Middle School and South Eugene High School, where he is now a senior. "I've always been involved with school activities: student government and affinity groups like the Gender and Sexuality Alliance," he says. "I'm gay and I have a boyfriend. I got involved because, at South, people think that nothing bad happens because it's a liberal school. But there are silences and marginalized groups." As a junior, Gabor was one of 19 high schoolers in the local Planned Parenthood's REV

Youth Leadership Program. "We went to middle schools to talk with kids about sex education," he says. "It's easier for them to digest from a peer." He got started in politics in January of 2018 as a campaign volunteer in support of Measure 101, raising taxes to support healthcare coverage. Afterward he served an internship with the Democratic Party of Lane County. "I learned the importance of grassroots organizing," says Gabor, who launched a club at school, the Young Democrats Union. "We had 40 people showing up to take action." He enlisted Eugene's other high schools to found Young Democrats of Lane County. "We plan to reach out to rural areas," he adds. "We have four different caucuses working on ideas for legislation to introduce to the Oregon Legislature." A monthly column by Connor Gabor is coming soon to *The Register-Guard*. "The first thing I'll write about," he says, "is young people being tried as adults under Measure 11."

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- 1.31 Jake Shimabukuro
- 2.2 Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt (**sold out**)
- 2.6 Chico Schwall's American Roots
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Tonight You Belong To Me: Morse & Bailey
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