

mental health care, more robust community outreach, and policies that prioritize early intervention over reactive punishment. Understanding the reason this happened, untreated mental illness compounded by systemic barriers, doesn't absolve Kahn, but it should compel us to demand change so that others don't follow the same path.

Mike Weber
Lane County Mugshots Uncensored

Quitting KWAX

OK, KWAX, you're asking me to support the station, in your recent fundraising letter, that fired the best announcer it ever had. The alternative story that he left to care for an ailing father, while credible, is simply not factual. A man who probably knows more about classical music than anyone alive, who can pronounce all the composer's names correctly because he speaks six languages and whose speaking voice is mesmerizing, a smooth bass well-articulated, is gone and never coming back. Whoever let Peter Van de Graaff go did the station and all of its listeners an enormous disservice. It was noticed the station manager retired shortly after. We enjoyed eight years of classical perfection and now have to tolerate one announcer who says, "that music there by..." after every selection, and another, fresh hire, we can barely hear and, when they are audible, tells us the time every four minutes during an otherwise disappointing delivery. Very annoying. Stressful to listen to, so I quit. I'm not the only one; several of my acquaintances share the same, sad short-

comings with which the station has saddled itself. I'm not listening to KWAX anymore. I was spoiled by the best announcer playing the best sets of the best music ever written. Sally Nunn
Eugene

Shrinking the Newspaper

First, *The Register-Guard* reduced news content by widening the blank space at the top and bottom of each page. The bottom is now 1.75 inches of blank — no news, just blank! I fully expect yet another shrink in the size of the paper pages. Second, on Thursday, July 31, the RG Section A has wide splotches of black ink top and bottom (within those widened blank borders) and a full page of black ink on page 10A. There is a QR code if I want to let them have my information and want to see what they are advertising. Thank you, *Eugene Weekly*, for having dependable news and event information without wasting paper and our time! Alice Kaseberg
Eugene

Shop Local Arts

Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to see a wonderful new play called *Shermer*, presented by Capital T Theatre and performed at Eugene's well-loved Oregon Contemporary Theatre. Truly an amazing experience, and one that shines a light on the breadth of artistic talent in our community. It's a shame that our local alternative newspaper seemingly did not feel it was worthy of coverage. While I understand that you have limited resources and

space, I found it odd in retrospect that you published no fewer than four theatre-related articles in print or online: two pieces on the Michael Jackson musical, one offering reviews of OSF productions and one about an original play festival in Salem. Much like journalism, the arts are frequently struggling to find an audience. It was therefore disappointing that *Eugene Weekly* decided to focus on touring and out-of-town performances instead of an exciting, truly homegrown work from an emerging company. I urge you to remember the first word in your name and consider prioritizing and elevating the artists who are within this community over the latest big thing to swing through town for a week. After all, which group would benefit more from your platform? Many of us speak often of "shopping local" these days — the *Weekly* included. Shouldn't that apply to the local arts scene? Emily Patella
Eugene

Editors Note: Thanks for writing! We love local arts and we prioritize all of Lane County, not just Eugene, when it comes to local coverage! We would have loved to review *Shermer*. Also, go to [EugeneWeekly.com/category/whats-happening](https://eugeneweekly.com/category/whats-happening) to see the fantastic local events we previewed and reviewed from *Desi Fest* at the Farmers Market to THEM at Lane Community College and more!

Colluding, not Competing

"Bricks \$ Mortar" repeated some stories about housing that our corporate-friendly politicians have been promoting (*EW*, 7/31). It's not true that "there's little doubt more supply is good news for students and non-student renters." Today, every investment-grade, market-rate apartment

complex built in Eugene will raise rents. Instead, we need permanently affordable public housing to put downward pressure on rents. This should be long-lasting, beautiful, protective of the environment and managed by neighborhood groups. Private market-rate rentals cannot lower rents — they only get built when rents are rising. Otherwise, investors would put their money elsewhere. Nearly 14,000 investment-grade rentals in Eugene are in a price-fixing scheme, known as Real-Page, being sued by the DOJ and the state of Oregon. The scheme fixes vacancies (now close to 1,000 empty units) to maintain scarcity and drive up rents in a coordinated fashion. There's no "competition" among these buildings. They are openly colluding. The units in this scheme are responsible for \$20 million per month leaving Eugene's economy, sending it to Wall Street.

Meanwhile, during an affordability crisis, the University of Oregon is criminally tearing down 400 permanently affordable units at Hamilton Hall, which could be given to student workers, freeing their current housing. Doubling the crime at Hamilton: the UO is killing mature trees on the site (and elsewhere on campus) in the midst of heat waves and a climate crisis. Please protest every market-rate private rental project, from middle-housing to giant towers, if you want an affordable, livable city.

Illustration by Jade Wilkerson
Greg Bryant
Eugene

slant
Squeaky Wheels

BY EW EDITORIAL STAFF

>> In case you missed the memo last week — **Friday, August 8, is the annual SLUG queen pageant and coronation.** If you haven't been, the coronation of the queen of the Society for the Legitimization of the Ubiquitous Gastropod is about as Eugene an event as it gets! Head downtown to the Park Blocks Saturday Market Stage about 6 pm and let the fun begin!

>> You know what else is on the horizon? **Best of Eugene!** Nominations start next

week! Is there a category we have not had in the past you really, really, really think we should have had? Send it now or hold your peace until next year! Drop us a note at Editor@EugeneWeekly.com.

>> **Hey quilters!** For all of you who were saddened by Joann's closing per our Slant back in March, we were wandering around downtown Eugene, as one does, and saw Quilt Creative has opened at 62 West 13th Avenue. Check out its fabrics, classes and more, and maybe make a protest quilt and send us a photo? Got a little local business *Weekly* readers should know about? Send it to the same email you just sent your Best of suggestion to!

>> **Embezzlement update:** The next court appearance for Elisha Young, *Eugene Weekly's* former office manager indicted on five felony counts, was pushed back from August 7 to August 27, a fairly standard part of the judicial

process. She is still out on monitored pretrial release post a lengthy extradition process from Ohio where she had been living.

>> **Speaking of crime,** the folks of Reddit in Eugene have given two thumbs down to the Eugene Police Department's new digital sign at its Country Club Road headquarters. The police station, like the hospital, is across the river from downtown Eugene and at flood risk, making for an interesting scenario if we get hit by the Cascadia quake and dams come down. For a good time, check out the FEMA flood maps on the city of Eugene website.

>> **This week is one of our periodical Local and Vocal viewpoint roundups.** What does it take to get an opinion piece in the *Weekly*? Write about a topic our local audience cares about and send it in! Be patient — sometimes it takes us time to squeak it in print — and keep it

to 500 to 800 words, supply your name, a one-line bio, and be open to edits. Send it to Editor@EugeneWeekly.com. In a hurry to get it in print? Write 250 words and send it to Letters@EugeneWeekly.com. We're the *Weekly*, we have issues and opinions and so do you! Just want to tell someone you saw them and wished you had said hello? Damn kids, we have a spot for that, too! Take out an I Saw You ad! Email Classy@EugeneWeekly.com.

>> **Are you tired?** Not just of politics, war and Donald Trump, but straight up tired. We are (the collective we that is *EW* spelled backwards). But sometimes, between the stress, anxiety and too much caffeine and whiskey, we can't sleep. Got a remedy for how to fall back asleep? A fav gummy? A cool app or trick? Send it to Editor@EugeneWeekly.com and we just might stick it in the paper next week.

BEST of
EUGENE
2025 Readers Poll

Think you know the best in Eugene?
Best of Eugene Nominations start next week

