

# WOMEN

## MARCH INTO POLITICAL ARENA

*Local candidates speak up about sexism in politics*

**MCKENZY GAUSNELL**  
REPORTER

According to the New York Times, the nation is seeing a surge of women campaigning for office, including 354 women running for the U.S. House of Representatives, four times as many as in 2015. Oregon Women Action for New Direction, a Democratic organization that is engaged in increasing women's political involvement, has hosted multiple events to encourage women to join the effort.

Three local women running for office spoke at the Eugene chapter of WAND event about their experience campaigning on Thursday, April 26. Kimberly Koops, running for state representative in District 11, Heather Buch, running for East Lane County Commissioner, and Mindy Schlossberg, running for Eugene Water and Electric Board were the keynote speakers. Collectively, there are 35 women campaigning with Emerge Oregon, a program that trains and encourages progressive women to run for government positions.

"When women see that other women can do it, it encourages them," WAND event coordinator Janice Zagorin said. "It's hard being the only woman in a sea of men."

WAND's purpose was to have women give the community insight into their experiences with politics.

"I think it's important for young women and other women to see women running for office because you can't be what you can't see," Koops said. "I've learned young women can, and should, lead."

A common motivator for the campaigners was the 2016 election. After seeing Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton campaign for the presidency, many women started to get more involved in local, state and federal government seats.

"After the 2016 election, I realized that I had been a little too complacent for too long in terms of American politics," Schlossberg said. "There was plenty of things I wanted to complain about, but I hadn't been active enough in part of the solution."

After getting involved with MoveOn's efforts to meet in their communities, Schlossberg created Take Action Eugene. Her experience in politics motivated Schlossberg to run for office. Several local elected officials urged Schlossberg to run for EWEB.

"As an aside, EWEB board has five members and only one is a woman," Schlossberg said. "I think we need more women in all levels of elected leadership."

The speakers gave the audience an insight into the challenges they face every day on the campaign trail. WAND focuses on sharing women's personal experiences in politics to promote activism towards their goal of getting more women elected to office. Many of the struggles were similar. Even in 2018, the women running for office were dealing with different ideologies along their campaign.

"Things like ageism and sexism are definitely still alive and those are things that I have experienced on the campaign trail," Koops said. "I think ageism and sexism are still a huge determinant for women running for office in general, but there are also things that we can overcome and work through and use to our advantage."

Many Americans are taking their shot at office and trying to find new ways to run government.

"What I see happening in the 2018 election is that women are ready for their time to shake up the status quo in politics," Buch said. "They are finally encouraged and feel that their skills, even as mothers, are actually an asset to running where before many people felt they were detriments."

As many candidates start their campaign, the issues that women face are becoming more public during elections. Elections can bring a plethora of challenges that can be difficult to face because a majority of the government is controlled by men. Organizations like WAND serve as additional support for women running for office on top of the candidates' personal support system.

"Because we still are in the culture we are at with a majority of elected being men, there are going to be days when you are running a campaign that are going to be down days. It's imperative that you draw upon the support of your friends, your family and supporters to get you through those down days because you are going to have up days too," Buch said. "You'll get through it and there are going to be people backing you and supporting you all along the way; it is critical that women know that they have that support when that happens."

As more women venture into campaigns, the rest of the community gets to experience the new surge of female representation. For young people, the movement can be empowering. Buch mentioned that her daughter has learned a big lesson from her mother's campaign.

"The best feeling in the world to know that she knows already, at four, that she can do something bigger," Buch said.

Illustration by Cat Frink / production director

## 'People unite, Take Back the Night'



**Eugene's 40th annual  
protest against  
sexual assault**

**FIONA W. CORRIGAN**  
REPORTER

Eugene's Sexual Assault Support Services and the University of Oregon Women's Center hosted Eugene's 40th Take Back the Night rally on Thursday, April 26. The rally was a survivor-centered protest against sexual assault and domestic violence, with an emphasis on decolonization and the increased difficulties faced by Native American and Indigenous assault survivors.

Take Back the Night is an event that is held on the third Thursday of every April. The event is nondiscriminatory, so all members of the community are welcome.

The event began at the UO's Erb Memorial Union, where speakers educated the audience on preventative measures and statistics regarding sexual assault. Others shared personal assault stories.

UO's Sexual Wellness Advocacy Team performed an original skit centered around the need for constant action against sexual assault.

"It's time to take back our lives, take back our bodies, and take back the night," the eight SWAT members said in unison as they marched off the stage.

"It's really important, I think, to come together in a really public space and to say 'sexual violence is not normal, it's not okay,'" SWAT member and UO senior, Molly Zaninovich, said. "Sexual violence is so tolerated and so normalized."

Other presenters included the Women of Color Coalition, Mujeres, LGBTQA3, the Muslim Student Association and the Veterans and Family Student Association.

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## NEWS

## theTorch

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LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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photo by Fiona W. Corrigan / reporter

**Mujeres, centered around being a place of support** for Latinx and Chicanx students on campus, hold up a banner at the annual "Take Back the Night" University of Oregon rally and march. Mujeres is one of the advocacy groups that participated in the nationwide event on Thursday, April 26.

continued from front page

The final speaker, Cholena Wright, is the UO Coordinator of Native American Recruitment. Wright spoke of the abnormally large levels of sexual violence in Native American and other marginalized communities.

"Having a group of people just sit there and listen to people share their truth and share their stories of survival is so impactful," Wright said. "It's something that's often so hard to talk about that we kind of avoid it."

After Wright spoke, the event transitioned into an organized march, escorted by the Eugene Police Department. Speakers and audience members merged and took over the streets, making their way downtown to the Atrium on the corner of West 10th Avenue and Olive Street.

"People unite, take back the night," they shouted as they marched. Similar chants circulated through the crowd, initiated

by crowd members with megaphones.

"We have an overwhelming culture that blames survivors for their assaults—doesn't believe survivors," Zaninovich said. "Look at all these people who are taking a stand against it."

After the arrival at the Atrium, survivors were given the chance to tell their story. The building was hushed as people spoke, some for the first time, of their assault.

"People who experience sexual violence are afraid to be seen, or to be visible," Women's Center member and UO grad student, Nicole Francisco, said. "In this particular environment, it's a place to be supported, and held, and acknowledged."

The UO women's center offers education and preventative resources against sexual assault at 541-346-SAFE or SAFE. uoregon.edu. Eugene's Sexual Assault Support Services provides outreach, advocacy and support at 1395 University Street, Eugene and 541-346-7433, extension 2.

## Eugene opens door for Uber and Lyft

Council votes to allow  
ridesharing business to  
return to citySABRINA PICCOLO  
REPORTER

Following a 7-1 vote on April 23, the Eugene City Council updated its transportation law to include Uber, Lyft and other rideshare companies. Rideshare companies hire drivers who use their cars to provide customers with transportation on short-notice.

According to Rachelle Nicholas, Eugene's inspections services manager for planning and developing, the transportation law requires that all public passenger vehicle drivers obtain a licence and driver certification cards in order to drive. After receiving approval from the company they work for, the drivers will need to receive approval from the city.

Approval from the EPD will likely include background checks from the Eugene Police Department as well as proof of vehicle inspection and insurance. The entire certification process, which is

similar to that for Eugene taxi drivers, must be renewed annually.

"I think this is going to be great addition to our transportation model," Councilor Jennifer Yeh said during the meeting, adding that the updated ordinance will open doors for more transportation options for the community.

Councilor Greg Evans said that it is time that Eugene, the largest city in Oregon without a rideshare service, joins "the rest of the state of Oregon and most of the rest of the United States" by providing the rideshare services desired by the community.

Councilor Claire Syrett, who voted against the updated law, said that she does not believe the time gap between when the EPD conducts its background checks and when drivers are allowed to pick up passengers is sufficient. She added that she believes that large rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft do not have the safety and health of the community as a priority and will not likely uphold the revised driver requirements.

"I do not trust the companies that are currently operating in this industry to conduct themselves with the due diligence I feel this community expects," Syrett said.

David Bowden, the owner of Eugene Hybrid Taxi Cabs, does not think rideshare services will threaten Eugene Hybrid Taxi Cabs because his company often relies on customers who make appointments, such as airport pickups. Rideshare services may even be beneficial for taxi companies during busy Friday nights and weekends, Bowden said.

Bowden, however, is concerned that bringing rideshare services to Eugene will be detrimental to the community by congesting traffic. In New York City and Portland, Bowden said, traffic flow has decreased by five to seven miles.

Bowden added that unlike taxi companies, rideshare companies do not decide how many of their drivers work everyday. Uber and Lyft drivers are likely going to struggle to have customers on days that aren't busy, Bowden said.

"There's going to be a bunch of people who are upset that they don't get any customers, and they won't want to keep doing their jobs," Bowden said.

Although it has not been officially stated when Uber or Lyft will bring their businesses to Eugene, the current updated law allows rideshare businesses to start immediately in the city.



## NEWS

# Nazi allegations take center stage



## Antifa activists claim local actor is White nationalist

MAREK BELKA  
REPORTER

An actor in the Eugene theater scene has been accused of moonlighting as a neo-Nazi folk singer and alt-right propagandist by anti-fascist groups.

Evan James McCarty has appeared in numerous stage plays since receiving his degree in theater arts from the University of Oregon at both the Shedd Institute and the Very Little Theater in Eugene. According to Rose City Antifa, a Portland-based anti-fascist collective, McCarty is also the self-described “fascist-folk” singer Byron de la Vandal. Since the accusations first surfaced on April 20, McCarty’s professional relationship with The Shedd has been severed, according to executive director James Ralph.

McCarty has not publicly confirmed or denied whether he is the folk singer and declined to comment on the matter.

In addition to a growing catalog of music, de la Vandal’s social media accounts are filled with anti-Semitic, racist and misogynistic posts, as well as posts attempting to recruit new members for White supremacist organizations like Vanguard America and True Cascadia. The posts frequently express

admiration for leaders of the emergent alt-right movement, and de la Vandal even recorded a song honoring the White supremacist that drove a car into a crowd of protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia last year. Even the musician’s name has White nationalist connotations, as it references Byron de la Beckwith, the Ku Klux Klansman who assassinated civil rights leader Medgar Wiley Evers in 1963.

For some who knew McCarty in the past, the accusations are troubling, but not without merit. A classmate of McCarty’s at South Eugene High School, who asked to remain anonymous due to prior incidents of harassment, claimed that McCarty often made derogatory and harassing statements toward women and minorities.

“He would say some mean stuff, call some girls ‘sluts,’ drop the n-word frequently,” the classmate said. “But, I mean, I never thought he would’ve become a neo-Nazi. I thought he was too timid for that.”

RCA makes the case that McCarty is Byron de la Vandal by comparing photos of the musician — typically clad in a black balaclava and smoking Marlboro cigarettes in online video interviews — with McCarty’s acting headshots and selfies taken from his social media accounts. They also compare a clip of a song McCarty performed on an acoustic guitar during his college years with a de la Vandal recording, which features a very similar melody and lyrics changed to reflect a White supremacist ideology. Rose City Antifa did not respond to request for comment.

In attempting to expose the identity of Byron de la Vandal, RCA used a technique known as “doxxing,” in which a person has their personal information — like street addresses and phone numbers — posted on a public forum. The technique has been used by both White nationalist groups and anti-fascist groups to expose and intimidate each other’s often anonymous memberships. The practice has garnered increased scrutiny in recent months as anti-fascist groups continue to clash with White supremacist groups.

Late last year, transcripts from an online chat server used by White nationalist groups in Oregon were leaked to the public, which led to the accusations against McCarty, as well as revelations against Oregon State University graduate student Andrew Oswalt (Oswalt is currently facing hate crime charges in Benton County). Those transcripts also revealed an elaborate and thorough attempt by White nationalists across the U.S. to catalog and reveal the identities of anti-fascist activists across the country.

To date, Byron de la Vandal has never performed music in a live setting, nor is there any indication that the musician will perform anywhere in the future, though he did release an album online early this year. Since the allegations surfaced, de la Vandal’s social media accounts have not been updated, and none of the organizations that he claims to be a member of have spoken publicly about the musician.

# Community takes on child hunger



## Volunteers package meals for food-insecure children in Lane County

SABRINA PICCOLO  
REPORTER

On Saturday, April 29, approximately 300 volunteers packaged 12,500 meals at Bertha Holt Elementary School. The meals, mixtures of beans, rice and other dry ingredients, were then to be sent to four elementary schools in Lane County.

Volunteers, from toddlers to adults, worked at rows of tables in a room that serves as two separate cafeteria and gym rooms during school days at Holt Elementary. Individuals at each row of tables worked as a part of an assembly line packaging pouches of dry ingredients. Within two hours, 12,500 individual packets were placed in cardboard boxes.

The event was hosted by Generosity Feeds, a seven-year-old organization that strives to bring an end to child hunger in the U.S. Generosity Feeds works with various businesses, such as the restaurant chain MOD Pizza, to fund and carry out meal-packing events across the country. This year, Generosity Feeds has provided food for about 1.2 million children in the U.S., Events Manager Ami Oldenburg said.

Food insecurity is a national issue, with one in five children nationwide facing hunger, according to Generosity Feeds’ website. However, it is also a local issue. The website adds that in Lane County alone, 53 percent of children suffer from food insecurity. Of the 575 students currently enrolled at Holt Elementary, 60 percent rely on the school’s free lunches and weekend meal packages handed out on Fridays, Principal Joyce Smith-Johnson said.

“We don’t realize [child food insecurity] is right here in our backyards,” Oldenburg said.

Kinni Rae Vasquez, a first-time volunteer with Generosity Feeds and Lane Community College transfer degree recipient, said that when she was a child, her parents paid for her school lunches but did not always have the money to pay for them. Now, Vasquez has a nine-month-old son and this event hits even closer to home for her.



photo by Daniel Martinez / photojournalist

**From left: President and CEO of Generosity Feeds Ron Klubunde, Media Director Jon Crowe, Events Manager Ami Oldenburg, Event Organizer Aaron Box and Sol Revolt CEO Dave Villalobos smile in front of boxes of freshly packaged meals. Generosity Feeds Eugene brought together a diverse group of 300 people, to help end child hunger in Lane County during one of the national organization’s events on Saturday, April 28.**

“I know it would devastate me if I could not feed my son,” Vasquez said.

Generosity Feeds founder and CEO Ron Klubunde was inspired to start the organization when a businessman — after Klubunde had led an event in which food was packaged and sent to children overseas — asked him what he would do for children in his own country. Originally focused on feeding children in Washington, D.C., the organization began working cross-country. Its first event held outside the D.C. metro area was in Eugene in 2013, according to Klubunde.

Jon Crowe, the lead facilitator of Generosity Feeds, added that the organization’s progress is due to the grassroots movement that supports it.

“Change happens when a community recognizes a problem, and we then give them to tools to solve that problem,” Crowe said.

The “shared value and united cause” between volunteers from various backgrounds are what cause change in

communities, Klubunde said, noting that there were people from a wide range of ethnic, religious, cultural and financial backgrounds in the room that day.

“We have a few multimillionaires in this room packaging food for children in our community,” he said.

Oldenburg made a similar comment when she said that although feeding thousands of children is powerful, what truly causes impact is the teamwork and relationships formed between community members of vastly different walks of life. These individuals will then continue to make changes beyond the events.

“We want to inspire others to be great by doing good,” Oldenburg said.

With the support of volunteers, Generosity Feeds strives to reach every American county in the near future to feed children who struggle with food insecurity. Individuals, businesses and organizations can make donations and offer to host meal-packaging events via Generosity Feeds’ website as well.



## NEWS



# HIGHWAY TO THE DEMOLITION ZONE

photos by Nathan S. Calkins / photojournalist

**Shannon Kohler obliterates a mason jar** inside the largest room at Demolition Zone. The new Eugene business seeks to capitalize on the growing popularity of so-called “rage rooms” in the United States and worldwide.



## Eugene business aims to crush the stress relief market

MAREK BELKA  
REPORTER

As midterms rapidly approach, many college students seek ways to cope with the rigorous and ever-present feeling of stress. Some students go out drinking, others take long and grueling hikes, still others find solace in yoga and meditation. A new Eugene business adds one more option for students looking to blow off steam by letting customers smash a copier with a baseball bat.

Demolition Zone is the brainchild of Helen and Jeremy Urban, Lane Community College graduates and long-time Eugeniens who quit their jobs to open the no-holds-barred rage room on Franklin Boulevard in the Glenwood area. For a base price of \$20, customers can select a variety of breakable objects — ranging from coffee mugs and VHS tapes to wide-screen televisions and archaic copy machines — with a variety of weapons, including hammers, baseball bats, golf clubs and crowbars.

Jeremy Urban first became inspired after viewing a video of a rage room in Japan.

“I couldn’t tell you exactly where it came from,” Urban said. “I just knew a business like this could be unique and successful, so we went with it.”

Jeremy found the inspiration, but he credits his wife Helen for bringing the inspiration into reality.

“I just got tired of working a desk job, though I guess I’m still technically sitting at desk right now,” Helen Urban said. “But we want to give people something new and different to do. There’s nothing else like this around here.”

After signing a release form and donning a safety outfit consisting of a one-piece chemical suit, chest plate and paintball mask, customers are led into a room piled high with shelves of fragile objects organized by size. Customers then customize their demolition experience based on what they find to be most satisfying. One patron, Shannon Kohler, chose a few small dishes, some VHS tapes, a Guitar Hero video game controller, a full-length dressing room mirror and a solid wood nutcracker wearing an Oregon State football jersey.

“You know, we’re in Eugene, so I thought it would be appropriate to destroy a Beaver mascot,” Kohler said, adding “Go Ducks!”

After filling a bin with breakables, customers are then walked into one of three rooms designated for destruction. The rooms are unsurprisingly bare, with plain wood floors and white walls, one of which has Demolition Zone’s safety rules spray painted on it. Against the rear wall is a rack of melee weapons: baseball bats, golf clubs, crowbars, cast-iron pans and the granddaddy of them all, a ten-pound sledgehammer. After getting settled, Jeremy Urban asks the customers if they would like a specific music playlist put on during their session — Kohler asked for a Pandora station built around rapper Tech N9ne — then sets them loose to purge their rage.

Within moments of smashing her first coffee mug with an aluminum bat, Kohler was cackling with joy and eagerly setting up another dish to break. She repeatedly went back to the wall of weapons to test all of her options in order to settle on a favorite.

“I like all of them, honestly,” Kohler said after her session. “But I really liked using the hammer, and definitely the steel pipe.”

According to Jeremy Urban, Kohler’s reaction is typical of most of Demolition Zone’s customers.

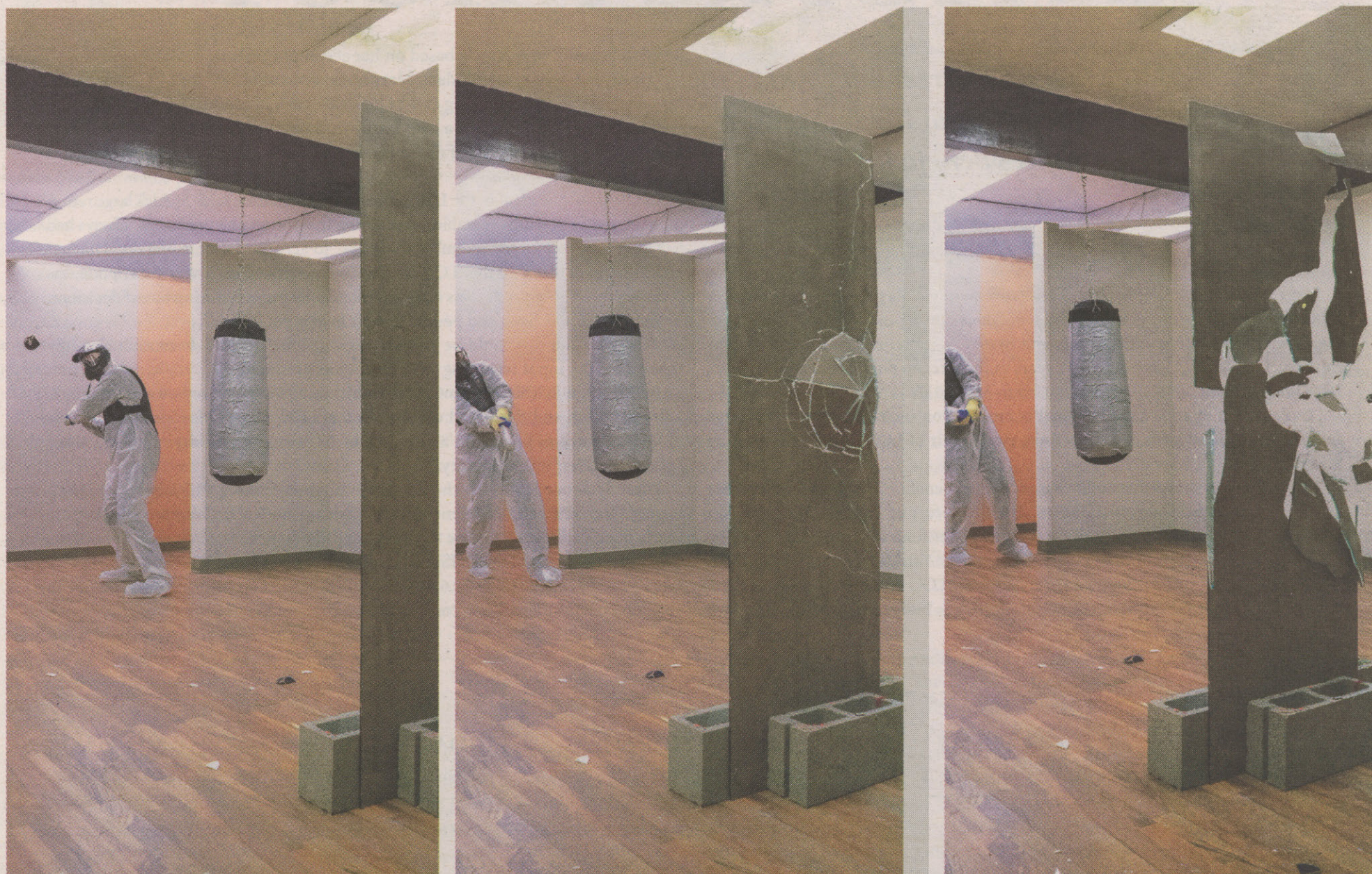
“Everybody’s stoked on it,” Urban said. “Everyone leaves here with a smile on their face and they’re always excited.”



## NEWS



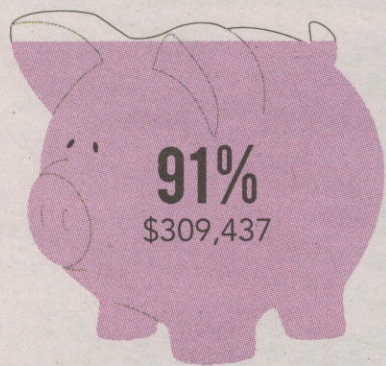
**Shannon Kohler swings** a Guitar Hero video game controller at a VHS tape as aggressive rap music blares over loudspeakers. Demolition Zone aims to provide a safe space to release stress through controlled rage.



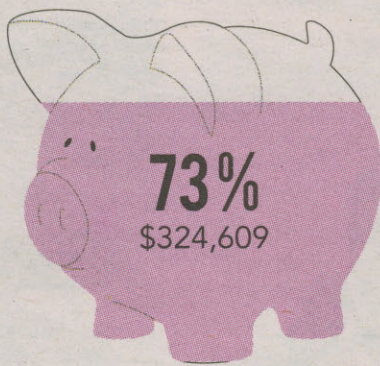
**Avid Duck fan Shannon** Kohler drives a wooden Oregon State University nutcracker head through a dressing room mirror. Kohler said she uses the space to work through her anger. Demolition Zone, located on Franklin Boulevard in the Glenwood area, allows patrons to customize their demolition experience with a variety of electronics and fragile objects.



# NEWS



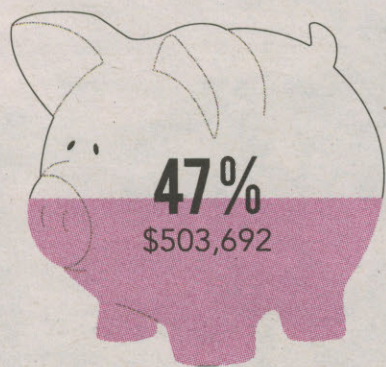
**Mary Spilde**  
Former Lane Community College president



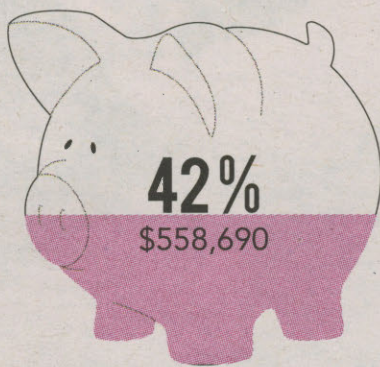
**Lesley Hallick**  
Former OHSU administrator



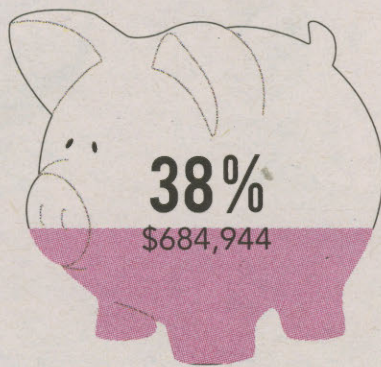
**Joseph Robertson**  
Former president of the Oregon Health & Science University



**Neil Swanson**  
Former OHSU oncologist



**Robert Bellotti**  
Former University of Oregon football coach



**Johnny Delashaw**  
Former OHSU neurosurgeon

**\*PERCENTAGES BASED ON FINAL AVERAGE SALARY**

Infographic by Anna C.K. Smith / photojournalist

## SPILDE SCORES SIX-FIGURE PAYOUT



**Former LCC President Mary Spilde is one of the top-ten PERS beneficiaries**

SABRINA PICCOLO  
REPORTER

Mary Spilde, former President of Lane Community College, will be making over \$300,000 per year in pension payments. Spilde is among the top ten recipients of the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System, a retirement fund for the state's employees. Spilde had served over 36 years in the Oregon public education system, 16 as the president of LCC, before retiring in May 2017.

"In President Spilde's case, her final compensation included payouts for large amounts of accrued leave, vacation time, etc.," Chair of LCC Board of Education Rosie Pryor said in an email.

The Oregonian shows that Spilde has an annual benefit of \$309,437 – 91 percent of her final average salary of \$338,630. The PERS formula that Spilde's pension is based on is intended to give her 50 percent of her final salary, which would be \$169,315. This final payout is an inflation of Spilde's initial final salary of \$227,551.

Pryor said that pension compensations for all LCC employees are based "on achievement, market comparables and the college's budgetary position." Spilde's

pension benefits were largely based on her accomplishments.

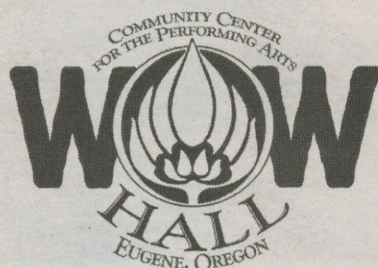
"During her tenure as president, Mary worked virtually 24/7 for LCC," Pryor said, "Even when in Scotland taking care of her 100-year-old mother, Mary participated telephonically in meetings on a daily basis. The commitment of the board to ensure this dedicated employee was fully compensated for all time and benefits earned is a mark of integrity."

Jim Salt, the president of the LCC Education Association, finds Spilde's large retirement benefits to be unacceptable, considering that the faculty union has "always had to fight to protect faculty members' salaries" to account for cost of living changes and inflation. He added that LCC faced a "budget crisis" each year that Spilde was president, and because she was often not physically present during board decisions, "problems weren't fixed and people weren't held accountable."

"The idea that this could be justified is ridiculous," he said, because it blatantly ignores faculty input regarding Spilde's work as president.

In 2015, the LCCEA presented the results of a faculty survey on the president, administration and the Board of Education at LCC. In regards to various aspects of Spilde's work as president, an average of 42 percent of faculty members voted Spilde's work as "unsatisfactory."

Directly above Spilde on the list of the highest-ranking PERS beneficiaries is former Oregon Health & Science University surgeon Robert Norton, who earns a yearly benefit of \$321,316. The top-ranking PERS beneficiary is Joseph Robertson, the former president of the OHSU, who brings in 58 percent of his final average salary every year: \$913,335. Only 17.6 percent of PERS beneficiaries earn over \$50,000 in pension benefits annually, according to The Oregonian.



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**May 15th**





## SPORTS

## Lane comeback falls short



**Titan catcher Thomas Rudinsky**, who played high school baseball at Lincoln High in Portland, Oregon, beats the tag to first base for his second hit of the game in a loss at Titan Field against the Clark Penguins.

photos by Nathan S. Calkins / photojournalist



**Lane pitcher Donovan Baldocchi** winds up to hurl a pitch. A Beaverton native, Baldocchi struck out two Clark batters in a 6-5 loss on April 18 at Titan Field.



### ***Titans win four straight after dropping first game at home***

NOAH NOTEBOOM  
REPORTER

The Southwestern Oregon Lakers edged by the Lane Titans 6-5 on April 18 at Titan Field to hand Lane just their fourth conference loss of the season. The Titans fell to third in the Northwest Athletic Conference, but only a game and a half behind Clackamas.

Late in the second inning, the Lakers opened the scoring off of a double from Chandler Kochan. The Lakers led 1-0, heading into the bottom of the second. The Titans were unable to answer and Lane gave up four more runs in the third inning to give SWOCC a comfortable 5-0 lead.

With things looking bleak, Lane head coach Josh Blunt decided to bring in right-handed pitcher Harrison Grow for Dillon Larsen. Grow gave up one run in the top of the fourth inning.

The Titans failed to cross home plate until the bottom of the fifth inning when they scored three runs to cut the deficit in half.

Back-to-back doubles by Cade Kissell and Hank Forrest opened the scoring for Lane. After Matt Aguilar was walked to first base, Jayden Hanna hit to outfield a deep fly ball that was caught by a Laker outfielder but helped Forrest and Aguilar advance to second and third base.

Lane outfielder Colton Sakomoto recorded his only RBI of the afternoon when he hit a single past the infield line, which allowed Forrest to score. The scoreboard read 6-2 after Forrest scored Lane's second run. Titan Tielar Murray hit another deep ball to outfield and provided

Aguilar an opportunity to score, bringing the Titans back into striking distance for a comeback.

Hanna hit his first triple of the season to put himself in scoring position with only one out in the bottom of the seventh inning. Unfortunately, the Titans were unable to record a hit after Hanna, as he was left on third base heading into the top of the eighth inning with the score standing at 4-6. The time for a comeback was running out.

Lane's defense stood steady and allowed no hits after the fourth inning, putting the pressure on the offense to get on base.

With their last chance at a comeback in the ninth inning, Aguilar hit his first and only single. A couple batters later gave Hanna, who was earlier walked to first base, a chance to score and make it a one-run game. As he safely scored, Lane was just two runs away from taking down the Lakers.

Their efforts fell short as catcher Jimmy McDonald hit a ball to outfield that was ultimately caught. This secured the Lakers their fourth conference win of the season, winning by a thin margin, 6-5.

Despite losing the first game, Lane bounced back and won the remaining four games of the series to bring their overall record to above .500 for the first time this season. Their four wins boosted them into second-place ahead of Clark and Clackamas. The Titans split a pair of games with Clark on Sunday, April 22 to keep themselves ahead of the Penguins in the NWAC South standings.

After beating Clackamas in back-to-back games on April 30, the Titans are scheduled to continue their series against the Cougars on May 3.

In a May 1 matchup with the Chemeketa Storm, the Titans lost 5-6. With the loss, the Titans remain locked in second place on the Southern Region behind Linn-Benton who has won 20 straight games.