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# SUNDAY - TWO NYPD OFFICERS SLAIN IN AMBUSH TIED TO POLICE KILLINGS, NATION, A3



**Putting oomph in holiday cheer**  
CITY REGION, D1



**Ducks shake it up in third straight win**  
SPORTS, C1



**Food carts feed growing demand**  
BUSINESS, D1



**Giving back to help ease mighty burden**  
LIFESTYLE, E1



**Christmas has a universal meaning**  
COMMENTARY, G4

# The Register-Guard

EUGENE, OREGON

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2014 IN REVIEW

## All eyes on UO

Turmoil and athletic glory keep the university in the spotlight



CHRIS FRETSCU/The Register-Guard

University of Oregon students and staff protest in May after three basketball players were accused of rape but not charged.

By JEFF WRIGHT  
The Register-Guard

It's an open secret that the University of Oregon is often the straw that stirs the drink in a certain city nestled along the banks of the Willamette River.

More years than most, perhaps, that seemed the case in 2014, when the UO dominated much of The Register-Guard's news column.

The bad news for the university, however, is that

much of that news was not the kind that burnished the UO brand.

The year's top local story, in fact — as voted upon by a newsroom of earnest but fallible journalists — was a troubling scandal involving the alleged rape of a UO student; the subsequent dismissal of three UO basketball players from both their team and the school; and plenty of finger-pointing as to whether the university was taking the right steps, and enough steps, to address the scourge of



Michael Gottfredson

sexual assault on campus. Mirroring statistics at other campuses across the country, a survey conducted by a UO psychology professor found that nearly 1 in 5 UO female students have been a victim of rape or attempted rape. Two campus task forces urged the university to make multiple changes, including creating a Sexual

Violence Office.

Comings and goings in the university's administration, meanwhile, was voted the year's No. 5 local story. Less than one month into its formal existence, the UO's independent Board of Trustees accepted the unexpected and orchestrated resignation of President Michael Gottfredson — with a cash severance payment of \$940,000 that the board was under no legal obligation to give him.

Turn to 2014, Page A8

Firefighters continued to douse hotspots the day after a fire destroyed the Springfield Plywood and Veneer plant on July 17. At the time of the fire, the mill employed 250 people.



ANVY NELSON/The Register-Guard

### TOP 10 LOCAL STORIES OF 2014

1. UO sexual-abuse scandal
2. Marijuana ballot measure
3. Springfield mill fire
4. Gay marriage ruling
5. UO administration changes
6. City of Eugene passes sick leave law
7. Heisman-winning Marcus Mariota leads Ducks
8. City Hall demolition begins
9. (tie). Civic Stadium's fate
9. (tie). Cover Oregon's demise
10. Economy/retail improves

## N. Korea defiantly denies hacking

The nation proposes to join an investigation and issues a warning to the U.S. if it is rebuffed

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea proposed a joint investigation with the United States into the hacking attack against Sony Pictures Entertainment, warning of "serious" consequences if Washington rejects a probe that it believes would prove Pyongyang had nothing to do with the cyberattack.

The proposal was seen by analysts as a typical ploy by the North to try to show that it is sincere, even though it knows the United States would never accept its offer for a joint investigation.

U.S. officials blame North Korea for the hacking, citing the tools used in the Sony attack and previous hacks linked to the North, and have vowed to respond. The break-in resulted in the disclosure of tens of thousands of confidential Sony emails and business files, and escalated to threats of terror attacks against U.S. movie theaters that caused Sony to cancel the Christmas Day release of "The Interview," a comedy about a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

On Saturday, an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman in Pyongyang proposed the joint

Turn to HACKING, Page A9

## Eugene Library hit by bedbug infestation

By EDWARD RUSSO  
The Register-Guard

A bedbug infestation at the Eugene Public Library has been contained, but a pair of bug sniffing beagles were to check the building on Saturday evening to see if more insects or their eggs remain.

Library officials were alerted to the outbreak in early December when a library patron discovered a bedbug on an upholstered chair on the third floor.

Bedbugs, which are about the size of an apple seed, were then found in seven other chairs on the third and second floors, library director Connie Bennett said.

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## Online, Mariota's misstep was big hit

Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota can do no wrong — so when he does, even just a little bit, it's of great interest to The Register-Guard's online readers.

An 11-paragraph story, posted on registerguard.com on Nov. 19, drew more than 46,000 visitors to the newspaper's website.

The headline: "Mariota ticked for speeding."

It was by far the most-visited online story in the first 11½ months of 2014 at the newspaper's website.

The newspaper's website analytics offer a glimpse into what readers — at least those who prefer digital to newspaper —

deemed to be the biggest local stories of the year.

Mariota, and the University of Oregon football team he leads, appear to be the top digital dogs. The newspaper's online readers devoured a piece by Register-Guard sports columnist



Marcus Mariota

Turn to ONLINE, Page A8

10 Sections, 68 Pages  
168th Year, Number 54  
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www.registerguard.com

TODAY'S WEATHER  
Rain, tapering off  
tonight  
Details, A2

HIGH 58  
LOW 47

Business . . . . . D1  
Classified . . . . . F1  
Commentary . . . . . G1  
Crosswords . . . . . F3, F5  
Editorials . . . . . G2  
Obituaries . . . . . B4-5  
Theaters . . . . . D5  
TV Schedule . . . . . E6

Circulation . . . . . 541-485-3311  
Classified Ads . . . . . 541-342-2112  
News Tips . . . . . 541-338-2727



# 2014: Marijuana vote is a milestone

Continued from Page A1

The university also weathered an 8-day strike by the union representing graduate student teachers, and faculty anxieties about a perceived power grab by the trustees in campus governance. There was also that mini-controversy about the UO ending an artists' workshop featuring nude models.

On a more positive note, the university announced a \$2 billion fundraising campaign and identified 10 "clusters of excellence" it wants to fund.

There was also the celebration of a renowned student-athlete by the name of Marcus Mariota — perhaps you've heard of him — who won a piece of trophy hardware called the Heisman, designating him as this year's best college football player in the nation. He is the first Duck to receive the coveted award.

Mariota's leadership, carrying the UO football team to a No. 2 national ranking and a berth in the inaugural College Football Playoff, was deemed the year's No. 7 local story.

## Legal marijuana comes to Oregon

In an election year in which incumbent Lane County commissioners had to fend off tough challengers, and in which Democrats prevailed locally despite GOP gains in most of the rest of the country, the biggest political story of 2014 could be summarized in a single word: marijuana.

Voters in Lane County and Oregon approved making the state the third in the country to legalize recreational use of marijuana. In anticipation of voters' approval of the November ballot measure, several cities in Lane County tried to get ahead of the curve by seeking to add a local tax to the eventual legal sale of the drug.

Earlier in the year, meanwhile, several cities in the area debated whether to impose a one-year hiatus before licensing medical marijuana dispensaries.

Register-Guard reporters and editors identified the "marijuana wars" as the year's No. 2 story.

A journalistic staple — a massive multialarm industrial fire — was voted the year's No. 3 story.

One of the most spectacular fires in Lane County history destroyed the Springfield Plywood and Veneer mill in July, displacing 250 workers.

No one died in the fire, but it had plenty of fallout. Runoff



BRIAN DAVIES/The Register-Guard

**Matthew Yook, a field organizer for Measure 91, celebrates early returns that favored the Oregon Legalized Marijuana Initiative with supporter Elvy Musikka at the campaign's headquarters in Eugene on Nov. 4.**

lesbian couples across the state to tie the knot.

## Sick leave divides leaders

Also in Eugene, city government figured into two of the year's top stories.

Despite strong objections from Lane County commissioners and others, the Eugene City Council in July approved an ordinance that soon will require employers to provide workers within the city a prescribed amount of paid sick leave. County commissioners passed three ordinances to limit or block Eugene's law, and many expect the dispute to wind up in court. Eugene joins Portland as the only Oregon cities requiring paid sick leave, though the issue is also expected to enter the legislative arena in early 2015.

Newsroom reporters, editors and photographers voted the sick leave law the year's No. 6 story.

The second big story coming out of City Hall was literally about City Hall. The City Council endorsed plans for a new four-story City Hall, over vocal objections by some who protested the razing of the existing City Hall at the same downtown site, citing its architectural significance. The debate about City Hall was ranked the year's No. 8 local story.

Two stories that made the top 10 list in 2013 reappeared on the 2014 roster — in fact, they tied for the No. 9 spot.

One was the ongoing debate about Civic Stadium. Amid keen community interest, the Eugene School Board opted to sell the property to the city of Eugene for

## Economy remains front and center

The economy — for so many years a source of depressing news — emerged as the year's No. 10 local story, but mostly for positive reasons. Jobs and construction projects picked up as Lane County continued to distance itself from the Great Recession.

In the world of retail, new businesses kept sprouting in downtown Eugene; Swedish fashion retailer H&M opened at Valley River Center; tech firms continued to thrive; and Natural Grocers debuted its store on Coburg Road. But the biggest retail news may be of what's to come in 2015: Whole Foods announced it will open a long-awaited store in downtown Eugene; Oakway Mall revealed expansion plans that include a Hyatt Hotel; and national crafts retailing giant Hobby Lobby said it will open an outlet at the makeover-bound Gateway Mall.

In utility news in 2014, the nonprofit UO Foundation beat three other contenders to win the right to redevelop the Eugene Water & Electric Board riverfront property; and the Emerald People's Utility District Board accepted the resignation of General Manager Scott Coe — despite the objections of many EPUD employees — after controversial taped phone conversations between Coe and a board member became public.

Finally, the year's news included examples of civic-mindedness and community pride.

In Eugene, many were shocked when Kesey Enterprises in June said it was canceling the 31-year-

# Online: UO football is consistent draw

Continued from Page A1

nist Austin Meek about Mariota's image ("no joke") after the star quarterback adorned the cover of Sports Illustrated magazine, making it the No. 3 story.

Two sports stories about the football team's offensive line each garnered more than 12,000 online visits. So did this month's story about Mariota winning the Heisman.

Even a story about singer-songwriter Mat Kearney's newest music video — titled "Coming Home, Oregon" — placed 12th among digital readers in 2014, with more than 14,400 views. The video just happened to feature multiple clips of Duck football heroics over the years, and was shown on Autzen Stadium's jumbotron at the UO-Michigan State game.

But football is hardly the only topic of keen interest to Register-Guard readers in cyberspace.

There's also the weather ("Storm puts region on ice"); health concerns ("Boy's flu death is a warning to parents"); tragedy ("Fire destroys mill, idles 250 workers") and crime ("Police arrest suspect in hit and run").

Online readers also are drawn to close calls with happy endings: Reporter Josephine Woolington's account of a local teen spared from possible sex trafficking because of a quick-thinking police officer ("A great escape") engaged more than 20,000 Web readers.

The account of an Autzen Stadium sniper victim 30 years after the crime, and stories about the resignation of UO President Michael Gottfredson, UO graduate students going on strike, summertime wildfires and tenants' woes at the

## ONLINE READERS' TOP 10 STORIES FOR 2014

1. Marcus Mariota ticketed for speeding (46,255 hits)
2. Fire destroys Springfield mill (38,729)
3. Mariota's image is no joke (Austin Meek column) (37,730)
4. Springfield police arrest suspect in December fatal hit and run (36,469)
5. Eugene restaurateur takes own life, police report (32,748)
6. Eugene teacher put on leave amid porn investigation (21,405)
7. A great escape (teen avoids possible sex trafficking) (20,660)
8. Storm puts region on ice (16,428)
9. Eugene man killed by rolling beach log (16,197)
10. Boy's flu death is warning to parents (15,634)

new downtown Capstone student apartment complex each pulled in more than 10,000 online views.

What else do readers of Web news care about in these parts? Hamburgers and hummingbirds, of course.

More than 7,000 online readers wanted the juicy details of Killer Burger's plans to locate in downtown Eugene. And more than 8,700 Web readers couldn't resist taking a look when the newspaper pointed a videocamera at an Anna's hummingbird tending her chicks in a nest at the newspaper's Chad Drive offices.

— Jeff Wright