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news Briefs

Drivingvotes.com provides voter registration packets for all the swing states, and provides the energetic road-tripper with information on where to go to find Democrats, local organizations one can partner with, and answers to frequently asked questions.

The Driving Votes team will be coming down from Seattle to get the word out and to register voters sometime in the upcoming months. — *Ben Fogelson*

SWIFTS TAKE PLUNGE TO AWAITING CLAWS

What's new with the vaux's swifts at Agate Hall? Well, for one, there's a flock of bird watchers. This may or may not be new. Loads upon loads of binocular-toting, Patagonia-wearing bird watchers fill Agate Hall's parking lot nightly to watch thousands of little black swifts swarm together before bedtime.

At dusk, at one critical moment known only to the feathered, the swarm takes the shape of a tornado and uncannily plummets down Agate Hall's chimney to roost. Bird watchers "ooh" and "ahh" and use their Birkenstocks, bikes and BMWs to go home, snuggle up with a movie and digest ice-cream from Prince Pucklers (next to Agate Hall.)

A recent arrival, however, has the bird-watchers flapping their wings. Just as the swifts begin to gather from all corners of the

neighborhood, a smart little hawk — maybe a kestrel — flies up to the tip of the chimney, ties a little napkin around its feathery neck, and waits with baited breath for the swifts to become so adorned with the idea of rest that they overcome the daunting image of predator on their doorstep.

The swifts invariably descend (night is drawing nigh and tomorrow's a big day) and woe unto one of the first few swifts to reach the chimney, 'cause the kestrel's not to be denied. It doesn't sit there to give bird watchers a show. Well, maybe it does, but that's not the point. What's important is that the hawk easily snatches a swift; the swarm scatters to the four winds, and slowly gathers anew.

The swifts all (except for the first sacrifice) make it down into the chimney eventually, but occasionally the hawk finishes its meal and regains its take-out window for seconds, before the swifts sufficiently regroup and try their descent again. — *Ben Fogelson*

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• Last week's viewpoint by Spruce Houser stated in the fifth paragraph that "Modern day zealots are another dangerous weapon. Here in Eugene, the issue is real and palpable." Houser's original version simply stated: "Modern Day Zealots — Here in Eugene, the issue is real and palpable."

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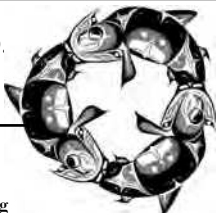
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Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

NANCY WEISEL

As a kid growing up in tiny Burlington, Wisc., Nancy Weisel was inspired by her father, a minister and penitentiary chaplain. "I've never considered anything else except social service work," says Weisel, now clinical director of the Center for Community Counseling. Located in an old farmhouse on the grounds of St Thomas Episcopal Church, CCC was founded by Jan Moursund in 1978 to provide affordable counseling services to low-income adults. "We believe that mental-health services should be available to everyone," Weisel says. "We have three part-time staff and 70 volunteer mental-health professionals. Our average fee is \$5." After graduation from college, Weisel worked and studied in Chicago for 12 years. "I started as an adolescent counselor at a psychiatric hospital," she notes. "I got a masters in social work from Illinois-Chicago Circle." On the way west, she worked in an employee mental-health resources program in Spokane for four years before landing in Eugene in 1991. She began at CCC a year later. "I've never stayed at any job this long," she observes. "It's an exciting place — I'm honored to be part of it."



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