

safety within much of Eugene's social activist community while protesting.

I see a lot of finger pointing at the EPD for "excessive use of force" on protesters when many, if not all, the incidents could have been avoided by the protesters themselves.

Just as you can't trust your judgment under the influence of alcohol, you often can't trust your judgment under the influence of adrenaline.

Ultimately, we are each responsible for our own safety in this life. This doesn't change when attending a protest. A lot of trouble can be avoided with a little pre-planning and forethought.

If you fear being unjustly arrested or if you fear becoming a victim of police harassment or excessive use of force, think about what you can do, regardless of a police presence, to avoid interacting with the police entirely.

If my observations are accurate, the police do not respond to people protesting but rather to people who are breaking state and/or city ordinances while protesting.

The trick is to decide beforehand what your cause is, stick to it and not confuse the issues. The last time I checked, pesticide use has nothing to do with the use of excessive force by police. Choose your protesting methodologies carefully and avoid "cutting off your nose to spite your face."

Remember the immortal words of Pogo, "We have met the enemy and they are us."

David Pirie
Eugene

IN SUPPORT OF MIDWIVES

We are writing in response to the disappointing news of PeaceHealth's decision to temporarily close their independent out-of-hospital birthing center run by certified nurse midwives (News Briefs, 5/28). We are in full support of these midwives and the community of women and families they serve. We hope the transition to their new birth center is quick and smooth.

While it may seem that out-of-hospital birth options will no longer be available, we would like to let our community know that there are safe and legal alternative maternity options in Lane County.

There are many homebirth midwives who currently practice in out-of-hospital settings and are trained in normal, healthy pregnancy, birth, postpartum and newborn care. As homebirth midwives we offer regular prenatal visits, continuity of care, childbirth education, complete labor and birth services. We have lab privileges and can order ultrasounds. Our specialties include individualized care, VBAC and waterbirth.

If you would like to learn more about homebirth midwifery and our statewide organization or to contact a local homebirth midwife, please visit www.oregonmidwiferycouncil.org

Amanda Moore, midwife
Eugene Area Region of OMC
Midwives

SINKING SHIPS

Peter DeFazio thinks the county commissioners should spend our Secure Rural Schools money. DeFazio wants to be able to tell his fellow Congressmen that we're broke and need more money a few years down the line. Apparently, Lane County needs to look as destitute and helpless as possible so we're more likely to get another handout — kind of like the homeless guy who rips up his only shirt to look more pathetic.

One of the commissioners asked DeFazio how likely it is that those payments will be renewed. DeFazio hemmed and hawed and said he didn't know because "the crystal ball is hazy." Maybe DeFazio should look a little closer. Congress has been busy bankrupting this nation with deficit spending, our economy is in a shambles and Moody's is close to downgrading our debt rating. To rely on the fiscally reckless feds to bail us out is the height of naïveté.

DeFazio also said that any renewal would likely be a fraction of what we're getting now: from \$43 million a year to only \$14 million. Wow, that's really reassuring. Guess we better hurry up and spend it all right now.

DeFazio's advice is akin to trying to convince somebody in a life raft to jump out and start flailing to better attract attention. But of course there'll be no guarantees that the rescuers will ever come. Our county commissioners deserve our thanks for realizing that we're probably on our own and need to keep the life raft inflated.

Mia Nelson
Eugene

DEADLY SPRAY

The Btk spraying in the Dillard road area likely killed off most if not all butterfly and moth species within the spray area. It will likely take years for these species to recover. Birds and other wildlife that depended on these moths and butterflies for food will struggle to feed new chicks as well as to find for food their own survival.

Now, the best things people and the city could do help these affected wildlife is to plant and protect native host plant species for the butterflies and moths and native fruit producing shrubs for birds. The host plants for butterflies are the specific plant species that the caterpillar or larval stage has evolved to accept as food. This plant could be one specific species and no other. "A Guide to Butterflies of Oregon and Washington" by William Neill describes in detail the host plant species for each butterfly species. For feathered wildlife people can plant and protect native fruit producing shrubs (currants, huckleberry, elderberry, blackcap, salmonberry, etc.) that birds of all sizes can forage upon.

Shannon Wilson
Co-director Ecosystem Advocates
Eugene

COP OUT

In response to Mary Mainenti's letter "Hard to be a Cop" (5/28), I would only offer a couple of comments and a question. When comparing grocery store clerks to



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Wet Tofu Burrito	Chile Rellenó Wet Burrito	Potato Hard Taco
Bean & Cheese Burrito	Veggie Taco Salad	Bean & Cheese Taco
Wet Bean & Cheese	Cheese Enchilada	Veggie Tamalé

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St. Mary Catholic Church | 1062 Charnelton, Eugene

Participate in a community conversation about transportation choices for the future with hosts:

**Mayor Kitty Piercy
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Free and open to everyone. Snacks provided.
www.BikeLaneCoalition.org/html/townhall.html

