

discussing CAHOOTS to focus mostly on the extreme and bizarre aspects of the work, and this article was no exception. CAHOOTS specialty is working with the addicted and mentally ill, but CAHOOTS does help people from all walks of life in many situations.

Again, this is the personal perspective of one CAHOOTS worker, and does not reflect the entire team.

*Brenton Gicker  
Eugene*

**EPUD A DUD**

The July 12 Emerald People's Utility District Board meeting agenda contains some disturbing actions directed against the board Vice President Schacht and appears to be just another divergent tactic by General Manager Frank Lambe to take the heat off himself. After observing him for several months, this appears to be his management style.

As a former board member of Emerald for over a decade, and having been in a leadership role on the board, I now have some serious concerns. When I left in 1994 Emerald was seen as an outstanding utility, for its customer service and rated as one of the best companies to work for in Oregon.

The problems that Emerald is facing with our current GM is his apparent inability to document \$2.4 million owed by a former partner. This was paid to develop the Dorena Dam Project. This money was paid to the partner, no power produced and the amount was to be paid back to Emerald on July 1, as per reliable sources.

The GM has spent thousands of ratepayers' dollars attempting to annex Patti Chappel's property into the Emerald district. This appears to assure a yes vote on the GM's chosen policy issues. This issue is profoundly important and should be called in to question.

He has also spent thousands of dollars to improve board relationships. As I understand, this was a no-bid contact. The final results are that the GM is still the problem.

I believe that the people of Emerald must act now to replace this mismanagement with something like we had before. If we don't act soon I fear that the damage may not be repairable.

*Ron Davis  
Cottage Grove*

**COLLECTIVE YAWN**

Wait, wait, a moment. What's happening here? Where is the outrage, the moral indignation? Our Sheriff Tom Turner rather suddenly and unexpectedly declares, unilaterally, his budget inadequate to support 84 jail beds, and that he will close down that facility — along with cutting some 52 personnel involved with that facility with 24-hour coverage and more. His announcement blindsided even his bosses, the county commissioners!

Already, 911 calls have been affected in the city of Springfield!

So, perhaps someone can help me out here. One has only to check records of KVAL, R-G and the *Weekly* to find, circa June 2009, page one outrage and indignation from the media and the

public for weeks over the reticence of the commissioners to allocate money for (the very same?) 84 jail beds, due to the uncertainty over future funding (made clear later).

Apparently, the then-commission's newly liberal makeup after Rob Handy's election replacing Bobby Green so angered some in the community that a virtual vendetta went forth to discredit Handy AND Sorenson (with a later specious lawsuit against them that firmed up that notion).

Now, with the majority of the commission politically conservative, the demise of those once "gravely needed" beds is met with a collective community yawn. How strange.

*R. L. Thompson  
Eugene*

**PALIN? NO WAY**

Jim Weaver's hypothetical path (Viewpoint, 7/14) by which Sarah Palin might become president makes no sense. A third-party run by Palin will galvanize Democrats, well-acquainted with supporting the lesser of two evils, and fracture the Republican base.

If Palin runs as an independent, Obama wins in a landslide. Sarah Palin is not Ron Paul, whose coherent and timely philosophy might attract supporters from either left or right. She's a vapid and unprincipled facade whose popularity only diminishes with exposure. I think, though, that she might be smart enough to understand that in achieving celebrity she has found her place in American society. Money, influence and a complete lack of responsibility suit her far better than the trials of politics.

*Timothy Shaw  
Eugene*

**PLEDGE IT OR LEAVE IT**

Just wondering why Mr. George Brown chose to stand by and watch while the other Eugene council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. This is highly concerning, as Mr. Brown is a public official of the United States of America. Does he like his position as city councilor? Obviously not, as he is not respecting the views of the people who elected him. If you are not in tune with the values and ideals of the United States of America, I suggest Mr. Brown find residence outside of this great country.

The radical views of the city of Eugene are not in line with some residents, and the next election we will band together and show just how conservative and patriotic the citizens of Eugene actually are.

*Stephanie Golubski-Stark  
Eugene*

**DIY PLEDGE**

The pledge debate is not over yet. I have a most American of ideas to suggest. Everyone should write their own pledge with roughly the same number of syllables and the same cadence as the current pledge, version two. Then we could all chant in harmony and with conviction! Here's mine:

I pledge allegiance to the Tribes of the Native Peoples of America, and to