

rhetoric have no place in a school board meeting. For a board member to suggest that “if the teachers don’t like it, they can move,” is an embarrassment to the board, our district and an affront our community.

Superintendent Sally Storm’s bloated salary is an assault on the educational opportunities of children from our largely low-income community. Outrageously, too much of our district finances is being directed at disproportionately funding (Storm’s) wages and benefits package, rather than offering our elementary students full-day access to licensed educators, or offering our middle school and high school students access to classes they may need to attend college! This cannot stand. For the administration and school board to regurgitate the hardships of budget cuts while available funds are mismanaged is offensive and disingenuous!

Parents and community members have been outspoken at board meetings and in private meetings with administration; we have compiled signed petitions against laying off teachers and combining grades; we have contacted the media. Our efforts will continue to strengthen and grow until our children’s education and their educators are given what they deserve.

*Christopher Mayes
Emily Withalm
Heather Corona
Jennie Hawthorn Mayes
McKenzie Community Coalition for
Quality Education*

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Men and women of all ages come to Planned Parenthood for an array of low-cost, preventive health services in a supportive and nonjudgmental setting. Fortunately, a brand new Planned Parenthood health center is being built in Glenwood so an increasing number of patients can keep getting the high-quality care they have counted on for years.

This major construction project will boost the local economy and help the environment with a LEED certification that exceeds Oregon state standards. The health center’s location on the EmX bus line makes it convenient for women from all over the area and will encourage rejuvenation of the Glenwood area.

It’s a win-win for everyone in the community and will continue to be a positive and trusted resource, not only of clinic services but also of education for parents and youth. People in Oregon are lucky to have Planned Parenthood at a time when other states are taking away funding for birth control services. Please stand with Planned Parenthood to make sure people can get what they need to keep themselves healthy and safe.

*Kristen Brandt
Eugene*

A MORE SERENE EUGENE

The other morning I opened my windows to listen to the sounds of the neighborhood slowly waking up: the chatter of birds and squirrels, the first joggers racing up and down the hill and neighbors working on their gardens. All too quickly I closed them, as a host of mechanical devices —

leaf blowers, edgers, trimmers and such — roared into deafening life.

All too often the serenity of Eugene neighborhoods and the quality of their air is ruined by the choice to use such devices, and at all hours. Leaf blowers, for example, create both noise and air pollution and pose a serious danger to pedestrians and, in particular, bicyclists when thoughtless leaf blower operators blow a spray of dirt, leaves and who knows what else into people’s faces, choking and even blinding them.

While many of these gas-operated, mechanical tools can be helpful at times, older tools such as rakes and brooms can be just as, if not more, effective, with none of the pollution and danger. How often have I seen someone using a leaf blower to chase a few leaves down a street for endless minutes, disturbing the peace and polluting the environment for little or no good reason?

As fall approaches, consider using other tools in the garden, and if you employ people to do your gardening for you ask them if they could do the same. Your neighbors will heartily thank you for it.

*Brenna Wardell
Eugene*

JOBS OR WARS

Mitt Romney’s recent speech at the Citadel in South Carolina struck the wrong tone for the challenges we are facing in America today. Promises for a century of American “dominance” and “supremacy” seem sorely out of date, as well as out of place, in our present environment. They also smack of a jingoistic call to arms that overlooks the really pressing concerns of the day — financial security and the vast disparity between the very rich and the rest of America.

Of course, financial security is about more than money. It’s about the opportunity to not only survive, but to advance and prosper. It’s about evening the playing field and giving the rest of us a fighting chance. With a nation on the brink of another recession, it’s more important to look at strengthening from within rather than how we can solidify our position as a global leader in defense.

And, frankly, America’s position of dominance in terms of military might hasn’t really changed. We are still the strongest nation in the world, although we continue to dissipate that power through the long, drawn-out wars that we are fighting, with questionable results.

I believe strongly in a strong national defense. I support the troops who are serving in harm’s way. But I believe we need to find solutions to solve our nation’s internal security before we worry about the “supremacy” and “dominance” that Romney promises.

*Jake Gariepy
Eugene*

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.

THE KIVA
GROCERS,
WINE
MERCHANTS
& BOOKSELLERS

Nature's Life
Sun Food Energy

20% OFF
Entire Line of
NATURE'S LIFE
Nutritional
Supplements
September 29th
thru
October 31st

20% OFF
Our selection of Solaray, Kal & VegLife

UNIQUE EUGENE | SOLARAY | KAL | VegLife

(Excludes Discounted Items and Liquid Formulas)

SUN - SAT 9am - 8pm • www.kivagrocery.com
125 W. 11th Ave. DOWNTOWN EUGENE • 541-342-8666

WARREN MILLER'S
LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW

EUGENE
McDONALD THEATRE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27
6:00 & 9:00 PM

Alaska Airlines | Weekly | ROCK STAR | K-EL

ALL TICKET HOLDERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

McBachelor | ALYESKA RESORT ALASKA | Berg's Ski & Snowboard Shop

FOR COMPLETE OFFER DETAILS GO TO WARRENMILLER.COM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

Tickets available at Berg's Ski & Snowboard Shop, Ticketswest.com and mcdonaldtheatre.com. McDonald Theatre Box Office open night of show only.

TicketsWest
First in Line All the Time!

TICKET DISCOUNTS!
CITIES FRIENDS/FAMILY 4-PACKS & GROUP RATES AVAILABLE
GO TO WARRENMILLER.COM FOR MORE INFO

1.800.523.7117
SAVE UP TO 15%

Corona Extra | PENTAX | Guites | SKI