

microcosm of a larger issue we all need to face, sooner the better. The human species is in deepening stress from the beginning effects of climate change, from economic disparity, famine and drought, to first world consumption gone amuck, expressed with increasing desperate violence.

We all know there is a divide in the Northwest between the culture of business and consumption vs. sustainability and global health. Most of my life, I've existed somewhere in the middle — like most Americans — but I've come to realize that those of us straddling the fence, with head in the sand, need to get off on one side or another. To quote that cliché, you're either part of the problem or part of the solution. It's never been more true. The stakes are too great. The timber and business interests here are deeply ensconced, but here is a local issue we can decisively settle, on the side of sanity and hope.

Dennis Hartley
Eugene

ON THE WATERFRONT

Your comment in Slant last week that EWEB headquarters "remain a public building": Yes, but *no* office building should be allowed on the waterfront — public, private or nonprofit. Because the building is already there perhaps meeting rooms for all of the above — charging rent — with the money going into the same pot as property taxes.

Frank Skipton
Springfield

WETLAND CAMPING

Last weekend I went for a walk through the wetlands just off West 11th Avenue. To my dismay, I passed nearly a dozen encampments set up by homeless people right in the middle of these protected natural areas. I understand why they are there — that's probably where I'd set up too, if I had no roof over my head — but their presence creates several significant problems. There is a drastic impact on the environment (unfortunately many had strewn trash all over the place), as well as a safety concern for the other people who walk those paths (I realize that not all homeless people are a threat, of course, but there's enough drug and alcohol use in the population to make it a legitimate concern). I've been seeing more of this in recent years, from the river to the parks to hiking trails, and the problem isn't going away anytime soon.

My wish is not for the cops to just go in and roust all the people living in the woods — although I do think the natural areas need to be protected — but instead to see an appropriate area set aside by the city for free tent and car camping, which would benefit the environment, hikers and the homeless all at once. I realize there are legal, political and economic issues complicating such an idea, but clearly something needs to be done. Just hoping the problem will go away (or move to a different city) is not a viable option for anyone.

Kate Winter
Eugene

LEAF-BLOWERS SUCK

I hate leaf-blowers! Let's ban them in Eugene. Who's with me?

Ron Ramsey
Eugene

TIP YOUR TREE SERVICE

To the many Eugeneans with fallen or damaged trees: The men who you call to remove these dangerous trees work extremely hard and put their lives at risk to help you get your power back, fix your roof or use your driveway.

You might think since the charge for this service is not cheap that these men get paid well. The reality is a lot of that cost goes to insurance, fuel, and tool maintenance, and less of it goes into the actual pockets of the men climbing your trees and removing the brush.

So, please, if you appreciate the service provided, appreciate a job well done, appreciate that it is now safe for you to live in your home and for your kids to play in the yard, then show your tree service this appreciation. When the tree service comes to your home to help you in a time of need, tip them as you would a waiter whom you wished to reward for a "job well done."

Johnathan Helling
aka Stamper
Eugene

INSTANTLY PISSED

Walking around the Willamette River pedestrian path in Eugene is a favorite activity for many locals. For the purpose of exercise or a gentle stroll adjacent to the river, it is always a treat to experience the movement, fresh air, people, dogs, rose

The Magical Moombah!
Rumbles City Hop!
Saturday, April 7 at 10 am & 1 pm
Free Music Box Playshop included at 11:15 am

Keola Beamer
Raiatea Helm
Sat, April 28
Dr. James J. Knackstedt

The Shedd Institute
04.07 Moombah! Rumbles' City Hop
04.14 Spring Soirée 2012
04.21 Adrenaline Film Project 2012
04.27 Miguel Dehoyos & Alex Depue
04.28 Keola Beamer & Raiatea Helm
05.04-13 The Jazz Kings: On The Road
05.05 Moombah! No Manners Manor
05.05 Zoë Keating
05.09 DeJohnette, Corea & Clarke
05.12 Carrie Rodriguez
Tickets/more info: 541-434-7000 - theshedd.org
868 High Street (E Broadway & High), Eugene

Zoë Keating
Sat, May 5

Inn at the 5th
DeJohnette, Corea, Clarke
7 p/9:15 p

Welcomes Back Saturday Market

BIRKENSTOCK
Made in Germany • Tradition since 1774

FOOTWISE
FOLLOW YOUR FEET TO COMFORT

Downtown Eugene
181 E Broadway • 541.342.6107
Facebook.com/footwiseeugene
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 11-5

Downtown Corvallis
301 SW Madison • 541.757.0875
Facebook.com/footwisecorvallis
Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 11-5

 *see what we're pinning*
pinterest.com/eugeneweekly

Re-Elect

ROB HANDY County Commissioner
Leadership for a Change

We Endorse Rob Handy !

Artistic Arborist
Briggs Hill Vineyard
Firefighters – IAFF 851
Lane Labor Council
Mountain Rose Herbs
Sandpiper Import Services
Sperry Tree Care
AFSCME 2831
AFSCME 3267
AFSCME Council 75
UFCW 555
Basic Rights Oregon – Green Light

More than 500 of your friends and neighbors endorse Rob Handy – See for yourself at ReElectRobHandy.com

Join us!

Re-elect Rob Handy County Commissioner
PO Box 41449 Eugene, OR 97404