

Letters

Help the Ferals

Lane County has a terrible cat overpopulation problem. Rescues and shelters are full and struggling to do all they can. Yes, the price of spay/neuter has skyrocketed, just as everything else has. Vet clinics have their expenses — wages, supplies, overhead, etc.

We can do many things:

1. Landlords and property managers require that pets of tenants are spayed, neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.
2. When a stray shows up, if it is rescued then, instead of waiting until one turns into a dozen, spay/neuter.
3. If you have an overpopulation problem in your area, neighbors have a garage sale, and those funds go to spay/neuter your feral population.
4. The Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon is in Portland (FeralCats.com). They will take 15 to 20 cats from a caretaker at one time by appointment. Yes, it means a long trip, someone with a cargo van or pickup/canopy and borrowing lots of live traps. But it is being done. Their suggested donation cost is \$50 per cat., but they work with folks.
5. Eugene and Springfield are certainly large enough to have a shelter. Eugene does contract with Greenhill. What is available for Springfield residents? Rescues are limited in finances, fosters, time and volunteers.
6. How many vet clinics are in the Eugene/Springfield area and all of Lane County? If each clinic, once a year, were to donate 10 low-cost spay/neuter procedures to rescues, it would make a huge impact.

How are you helping?
*Jenetta Overholser
Cottage Grove*

More on Wild Horses

I want to thank *Eugene Weekly* for its story on wild horses (August 8). Many people are unaware of what is happening to them. Wild horses live freely in herd management areas in remote areas of Eastern Oregon where they contribute to the ecosystems as a native, keystone species.

However, there are special interests that want them removed so the land can be used for livestock grazing or other types of industry. These special interests will call the horses feral or invasive and say they are overpopulated, but this is purely propaganda to get the public's support in eradicating the horses. Unfortunately, the government caters to industry instead of following the science resulting in dire consequences like extreme wildfires.

The government, specifically the Bureau of Land Management, insists on using arbitrary numbers to determine how many horses the land can sustain called AML (Appropriate Management Levels). These numbers are not derived by any scientific means but are used more out of convenience and to justify horrific treatment like the round ups. You can help by telling your representatives you want the round ups to

stop, we need more voices speaking up. You can also find more information on social media: Advocates for Wild Equines, Oregon Wild Horse Organization and Wild Horse Education.

*Tenaya Jewell
Dexter*

Peace and Clean Air

If you haven't been up to the south overlook on Skinner Butte lately, I highly recommend checking it out — by bike or a short walk up from the gate. Due to fire risk, the top is now closed to cars, and the result is incredible. I never thought I would see the place without the heat, noise and exhaust of 20 or so cars that seem to idle their engines up there no matter the weather or time of day.

The closure has utterly transformed it into a pleasant urban overlook. With the loss of the College Hill Reservoir, I bet a lot of skaters and other folks could even put that empty parking lot to good use.

City of Eugene, can we please keep it this way?

*Billy Epting
Eugene*

A Libertarian Stand

My name is Dan Bahlen. I am on the ballot for the 2024 election as the Libertarian for federal office in Oregon's 4th District. I am running to be the next U.S. representative and plan to challenge both the Democratic incumbent, Val Hoyle, and her Republican opponent, Monique DeSpain.

I believe the 4th Congressional District deserves a debate between myself, DeSpain and Hoyle. I challenge both to a debate. I am eager to coordinate the details of where, when and how this debate will take place. I propose holding the debate in the Eugene area after the Donald Trump-Kamala Harris debate on Sept. 10.

As a Libertarian, my goal is to unify Oregon's 4th Congressional District. I am campaigning on two main themes. First, I aim to unify the district as we confront global threats such as war, economic instability and climate change. I believe I can bring together Republican, Democrat and unaffiliated/third party voters to support my candidacy.

Coming from an Apache reservation in Arizona, where I faced retaliation as a federal whistleblower, I am aware of the challenges of racial barriers. Oregon has yet to send a Black person to the U.S. Congress, and, as an Apache man, I recognize the need to break through these social barriers.

*Dan Bahlen
Eugene*

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics for print and online with print priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 250 words and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to letters@eugeneweekly.com or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



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Lane County Crisis Line Has Launched!

The Lane County Crisis Line provides:

- Behavioral health crisis support and de-escalation
- Collaboration with emergency service providers
- Care coordination and support with accessing needed services

Lane County's Crisis Line is now active:

(541) 682-1001

