

OPINION

letters

In Case You're in Bend

Groceries in Bend:
Locavore! Tumalo Produce Market. (Farmers markets, Wednesday downtown upper Drake Park, Saturdays NW Crossing). Market of Choice. Natural Grocers.
Recent Springfield transplant after 22-plus years in Bend.
Carolyn Carry
Springfield

Voices Matter

The May 22 issue seemed to point to a growing trend that citizens' voices don't matter. Letters expressing frustration that city officials "are not listening to us," letters expressing exasperation that offensive protest groups with "loud blaring megaphones" are being ignored by police and security. The opinion article from the University of Oregon that journalism is under attack and "silence is not neutrality." The "All A-Board" piece highlights the 80 percent dormant no-show in the Lane County May elections. Why vote, no one listens?

A healthy list of upcoming activist alerts around Lane County so people feel their voices are heard on issues of importance, such as cutting Oregon's national forests, with no prior input from the people about that mandate.
If Eugene Weekly isn't making it clear to you that decisions are being made by the officials in positions of power to silence you, censor your opposition, dismiss your efforts to stand up and stop government from destroying your constitutional rights, and just down right not care about what you have to say, then you are not listening. Speaking out to uphold citizens rights isn't the job of someone else, it's a job for each and every one of us. As the government slogan encourages — if you see something, say something.

Bea James
Springfield

A Closer Look at CAHOOTS

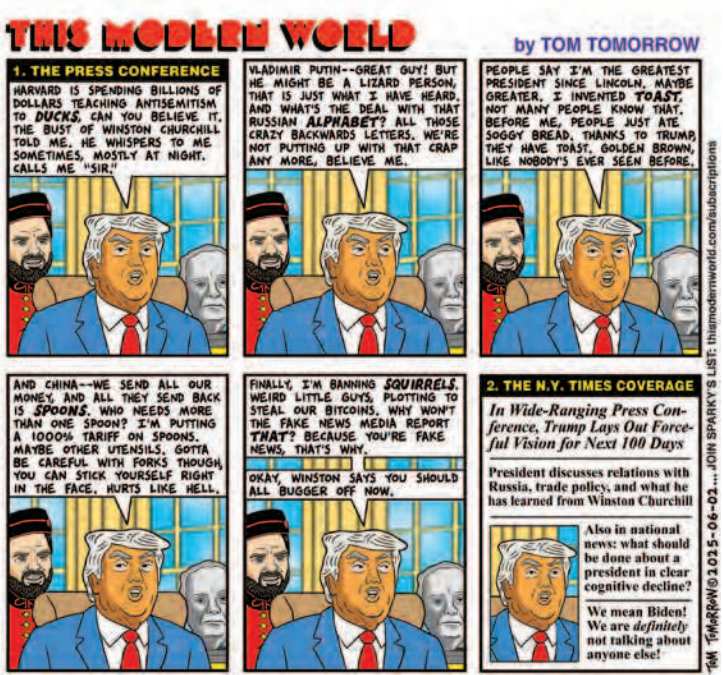
Regarding the financial cuts being made to the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, our city leaders would be wise to take a second look at what that means. Yes, Eugene joins the country in a national financial pinch, but if you take a closer look, it's clear these funding cuts are short-

sighted and will likely result in higher costs for all.
I realized that on a recent trip to the Eugene Airport. Approaching a stoplight, I watched as two police cars and a fire engine, all with lights flashing, interacted with three young men who appeared modestly impaired. Despite one of the men sitting on a stretcher, they showed no sense of urgency.
My first thought upon seeing this was that this should absolutely be a CAHOOTS call. With a price tag for fire and ambulance calls averaging around \$2,000 per

call nationwide, the situation was both unnecessary and expensive as there was no need for such a high level of response.
Sure, CAHOOTS may be an expense for Eugene, but the cost of their response to a similar situation surely pales in comparison. And the community loves them! When it comes to what they offer in return compared to other services, including those the city is talking about implementing, there is no questioning the value of keeping them around.
Sara Montigney
Eugene

Wake Up to No Lights
"Turn Out the Lights" (EW, 5/29) reminded me of a story.
Author Richard Louv, in his book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*, told a touching story about a Girl Scout field trip. Girls with AIDS from Los Angeles were taken to a camp in the mountains. One night, a nine-year-old girl woke up and had to go to the bathroom. Stepping outside, she looked up and gasped. Growing up in a sprawling megalopolis, she had never seen stars before. "That night, I saw the power of nature on a child. She was a changed person. From that moment on, she saw everything. She used her senses. She was awake."
Richard Reese
Eugene

Eugene's Streets and Castles
If you voyaged in a time machine back to the mid 1950s through the '60s and landed your craft in the center of Los Angeles or the San Fernando Valley, you would experience not only a crowded metropolis, but the stench of pollution-filled air and dirty streets (It is much better now).
That was the arena for my first



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