

dollars and remain compliant, WVCC must secure a responsible nonprofit partner to oversee and administer the operation.

I applaud the perseverance of dedicated WVCC leaders and Friends of CAHOOTS. Through WVCC’s dogged determination, the city of Eugene’s budget committee and city council recently approved \$500,000 one-time funds to support the restoration of a new CAHOOTS-like program. We also directed the city manager to explore options to fund upward of \$2.2 million in support of a mental health crisis response team.

Meanwhile, our local legislative delegation has approved \$14.5 million for the erection of a desperately needed Lane County Behavioral Health Stabilization Center. Further, state law mandates Oregon counties deliver Mobile Crisis Services (modeled after CAHOOTS). These critical investments offer trauma informed, person-centered services such as deescalation and response to persons in a crisis throughout Lane County.

Residents can call or text 988 for MCS to respond to a mental health crisis.

And in an effort to be most accessible, you’re always welcome to contact me directly to share your perspective at 541-515-3819.

Matt Keating,
City Councilor (Ward 2)
Eugene

Help the Birds

My neighborhood in Harlow is great. But there have been changes.

One reason it’s such a great ’hood is

all the big, old trees providing cooling and habitat for other creatures. These trees keep coming down, some by storm, some by EWEB, but most often it’s the homeowner. And the results are now showing in the deteriorating bird populations.

Chickadee chirps used to fill the air. It’s become rare as with flickers. I haven’t heard a varied thrush, let alone seen one, in three years. Currently I’m watching a crow family desperately trying to find food for their clutch. As trees come down birds lose habitat and food source. Birds eat bugs and bugs live in the trees. Our extra dry, warm spring, and the sudden temperature change in February, did not help the bugs either. Nor do the pesticide companies that descend on the hood each spring, on their hover boards, convincing my neighbors they need pest control.

They don’t unless there is a pest problem inside their home. Gardens are supposed to have bugs. Without them, we won’t have birds. While here, please keep your cats indoors. The statistics of bird deaths by house cats is nauseating.

Tim Gardner
Eugene

Trash, Trash, Trash

Thank you, Bob Boender, for your letter in the June 19 issue, “It’s the Trash.” Thank you, Eugene Weekly, for publishing it. This messy topic has gone too long without it being addressed.

It’s like an elephant in the living room.

He (Boender) couldn’t have been any clearer when he said there’s a “reluctance” to even mention it (unhoused leaving

their trash behind them) for fear of being thought of as hard-hearted. Well, I am very soft hearted for Mother Earth. To see how her beautiful surfaces are degraded with garbage and trash makes me sick and angry.

Nine out of 10 times I’ve witnessed folks that have laid down for a while on sidewalks, or the median grassy areas, and leave behind their trash.

Or, they’ve emptied garbage cans or dumpsters, and never put back what they couldn’t use.

This is so not right. Just because they are temporarily unhoused does not mean they don’t get to use trash cans.

I don’t mind folks sleeping on sidewalks. I very much mind what they leave.

Couldn’t everyone be a little kinder and clean up after themselves?

Nadine Powell
Eugene

On the Other Hand

I live downtown, seemingly a mecca for homeless camping. Instead of gnashing my teeth as the tents pop up, I greet the campers with a smile, exchange pleasantries, and then ask if a garbage bag or two would be helpful? If all goes well, I advise them of the trash bins at the park a half a block west. This has worked beyond all expectations in more than one instance.

A little humanity and good will goes a long way.

Susan Brenner
Eugene

Protesting Matters

Regarding Doyle Srader’s 6/26 opinion

column in the Weekly, I think he fails to realize that by coming to protests, we let others know that there is a significant number of people who object to the Trump agenda. This encourages some or many of those who feel isolated or confused in their dissent from that agenda: they are not alone in their alienation from his administration and its acts.

The plans that he offers as an alternative to protests are so vague as to be unworkable. And what about his own plan: to whom is he sending money? For whom is he knocking on voters’ doors or making phone calls? Where is he using his vaunted communications skills to make positive change? I didn’t read any of this in his column.

All I get from his column is a condescending effort to discourage people who are embracing a kind of activism from doing anything at all. I have to wonder: since he works at a school “committed to preparing students for purpose-driven lives within a Christ-centered environment,” is his own purpose to sabotage Trump’s opposition? After all, many nominal Christians believe that they have a religion-driven mission to support Trump. Perhaps Srader is one of them.

Marilyn Robert
Eugene



Illustration by
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