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OUR VIEW

Rein in loose dogs

Eastern Oregon has a problem with domesticated animals on the loose. They pose a danger to residents and tie up emergency personnel who have better things to do.

Just last month, a Hermiston woman was attacked by two dogs near the Diagonal Road walking trail, outside of city limits in the jurisdiction of Umatilla County. The dogs left her with wounds on her hands and shoulder that required more than 20 stitches.

In the last five years, there have been serious to minor attacks everywhere from Boardman to Milton-Freewater. Interspersed are innumerable animal neglect calls, which arise when a resident believes a pet is being mistreated with lack of water, shade or health care.

Umatilla County has no animal control division, which means that deputies must deal with animal problems that crop up — everything from corralling escaped dogs or livestock, deciding if a pet left outside on a hot day is a criminal matter and whether a wandering animal is a public nuisance or a threat.

It's a difficult job for anyone, and an impossible one for many area police departments who are already overworked and stretched thin on both bodies and budgets.

As we've argued before, we think carving out room from police or public works budgets to hire an animal control officer is a good use of funds.

It protects residents, increases livability and helps reduce one of the age-old stresses that pits neighbors

against neighbors.

Animal control divisions are very common across the country, and in similar-sized counties near us, such as Union. Pendleton police have a full-time code enforcement officer who handles most of the non-criminal animal complaints, but Hermiston has no such officer specifically tasked.

More city and county employees specially trained, educated and outfitted for encounters with animals would be helpful. We have some local nonprofits who can offer places to keep and care for animals. (Those same nonprofits can always benefit from additional resources to help them do so).

Sergeant Joshua Roberts with the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office told our reporter earlier this week that his department handles an average of seven to 10 calls a week involving dogs. Many more issues must go unreported.

Eastern Oregon is a place that loves its animals — from the beefy variety that graze our pastures to the smaller, furrrier ones that curl up at our feet.

But if we value those relationships, voters and residents must require someone be tasked with keeping those animals safe when they escape, and other people around them safe, too.

Remember the old political cliché: Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value.

Although we have improved, there are still places in this county where there are no local laws when it comes to pets, and no one to enforce them anyway.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

OTHER VIEWS

Strong, clear laws needed on drones

The Bend Bulletin

Adding to the ways neighbors can irritate neighbors, technology has delivered hobby drones. Fantastic and inventive ways to make use of drones have and will be found. But what about when somebody is buzzing over your home with a camera and directional microphone?

The laws for drones in Oregon are not particularly clear, and the Legislature needs to continue to refine them to protect privacy.

Hobby drones may not be a serious issue yet, but the intrusions into privacy have begun. The Redmond City Council has struggled over what to do with complaints about drones over homes. Bend Police Chief Jim Porter told us he was trying to have a peaceful walk in Shevlin Park with his wife. They were followed overhead by a drone.

Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel had his staff research the question of when a drone is trespassing when it is flying over a person's property. Staff found a gray area.

If a drone is flying below the tallest tree or structure on a property, Hummel believes that is criminal trespass in the second degree under Oregon law. If a drone is flying above 500 feet, it would not be trespassing. But below 500 feet and above the tallest tree or structure, there's a gray area.

Things like intent, how often, how long and so on would have to be weighed.

Even the gray area is a gray area. Other attorneys believe the boundaries of 500 feet or the tallest tree or structure will not necessarily hold. Courts may consider what is reasonably required for the enjoyment of private property. There may well be exceptions for drones flying swiftly overhead en route to some other location or to make a delivery.

Trespassing is not the only legal issue with drones. A hobby drone flying over someone's property collecting data without the person's consent is likely an actionable public nuisance.

But is the law good enough to protect the privacy of Oregonians? Is it clear enough for law enforcement?

We agree with Hummel. No, it is not.

Hobby drones are different than planes and helicopters. They give almost anyone the ability to "lurk, harass, annoy, and/or record video and audio of activities inside people's homes," Hummel wrote in an email. The law has not kept up.

State Rep. John Huffman, R-The Dalles, who has become the de facto leader on drone legislation, told us in an email he believes judges will side with people being harassed by drones. We hope so, too. It would help if the Legislature did its best to provide greater clarity to protect privacy.

YOUR VIEWS

Don't complain — take action to improve world

Instead of social media posting about our sadness and disappointment for the state of our nation over and over again, why don't we take charge? Make the time to contact your elected officials and tell them we want action.

It is we the people, are who make up this wonderful country we live in. And I love America, warts, short-sightedness and all.

I don't care what you are for or against. I know that until we each take the time to contact our elected officials who we elected to make laws, change laws, work for us, expect discussion and change, nothing will change.

So please contact your lawmakers. Tell them what you think needs to happen. It is we the people, not the invisible someone else. It is our responsibility.

Deb Brumley
Prosser, Washington

"POKÉMON GO" CREATURES AROUND OREGON...

<p>SKOOLTAX</p>  <p>Will do anything, even support a regressive tax, if it might improve education. Common in urban areas.</p>	<p>PERSANOIAC</p>  <p>Thinks all Oregon tax revenue goes to fund PERS. Found on political blogs and under bridges.</p>	<p>FIXIT</p>  <p>Uses political leadership to bring opposing constituencies together to solve complex problems. Extremely rare. Can't be found in the Salem area.</p>
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SPRINGSTEEN 2016
springsteencreative.com

OTHER VIEWS

We take care of our own

A few years ago, Bruce Springsteen came out with a song called "We Take Care of Our Own." The chorus' theme seemed upbeat and proud: We take care of the people closest to us. But like in a lot of Springsteen songs (including "Born in the U.S.A."), the lyrics in the verses sit in tension with the lyrics in the chorus.

In the verses, it's clear that taking care of our own also means not taking care of people who are not our own, like the victims of Katrina. Suddenly the phrase "We Take Care of Our Own" has an exclusivist, menacing and even racist tinge.

That phrase and the two different meanings it can have sit at the center of election 2016.

Donald Trump's supporters stand for the first meaning. America's first loyalty is to its own workers, its own culture, its own citizens.

This worldview is not just selfishness. For most of human history most people have prized coherent communities above all. They've built moral systems on loyalty and support for their own kin and fellow citizens. These bonds are not based on some abstract social contract. They are intimate bonds, born out of shared kinship, history, geography and common understandings of right and wrong.

People committed to coherent communities will fight to defend the norms that hold communities together. They accept immigrants who assimilate to existing culture, but they'll be suspicious of those who they feel bring in incompatible customs and tear at the social fabric.

For eons, this was more or less the traditional moral system for most of the human race. But as the NYU social psychologist Jonathan Haidt points out in an outstanding essay in The American Interest, over the past several decades a different mindset has emerged.

People with this mindset value the emancipated individual above the cohesive community. They value, or at least try to value, self-expression, social freedom and diversity. Their morality is not based on loyalty to people close to them; it's based on a universal equality for all humans everywhere.

People with this mindset disdain the political or religious walls that divide people. In his essay, Haidt cites John Lennon's song "Imagine" as an expression of this worldview:

Imagine there's no countries; isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace
You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one.

People with this mindset bridle at the exclusivist implications of the line "We Take



DAVID BROOKS
Comment

Care of Our Own." It's fine to value Americans, but we should also take in the immigrant and be multilateral in our foreign relations.

Haidt argues that the division between these two camps is a division between the nationalists and the globalists. It's also between the moral particularists and the moral universalists, between those who believe that blood and historic ties take precedence and those who, like the philosopher Peter Singer, argue that

you have the same moral obligation to a boy starving to death in South Sudan as to a boy drowning in the lake in front of you.

For decades the globalist/

universalist mindset — pro-immigration, pro-globalization — has been on the march. Now, with Trump, the particularists are striking back. Immigration is the subject that fuels their ire.

As Haidt writes, "By the summer of 2015 (when the Syrian refugee crisis hit) the nationalist side was already at the boiling point, shouting 'enough is enough, close the tap,' when the globalists proclaimed, 'let us open the floodgates, it's the compassionate thing

to do, and if you oppose us you are a racist.' Might that not provoke even fairly reasonable people to rage?"

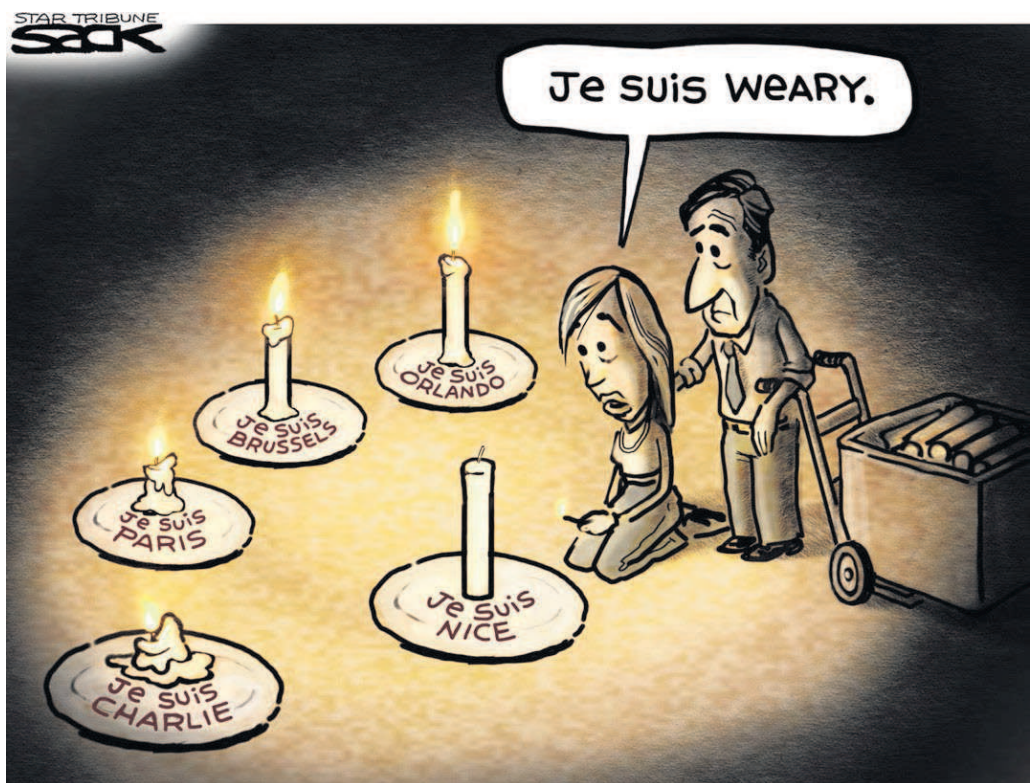
The fact is that both mindsets have their virtues. The particularists emphasize the intimate love and loyalty that is the stuff of real community. The universalists are moved by injustices anywhere, and morally repulsed by inaction and indifference in the face of that suffering.

The tragedy of this election is that America already solved this problem. Unlike France and China, we were founded as a universalist nation. You can be fiercely patriotic and relatively open because America was founded to take in people from around the globe and unite them around something new.

Unfortunately, the forces of multiculturalism destroyed that commitment to cultural union. That has led to Trump, who has upended universalistic American nationalism and replaced it with European blood and soil nationalism in a stars and stripes disguise.

The way out of this debate is not to go nationalist or globalist. It's to return to American nationalism — espoused by people like Walt Whitman — which combines an inclusive definition of who is Our Own with a fervent commitment to assimilate and Take Care of them.

David Brooks became a New York Times Op-Ed columnist in 2003.



LETTERS POLICY

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