

# Dissonant Times



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Letter to the Editors:

In the Eye of a Hurricane

A young man is in custody for an assassination and a hurricane of speculation, conspiracy theories, false flag accusations, and propaganda spinners on both sides are hard at work. The right pushing for a pretext for crackdowns that were already happening, and the left put on the defensive as usual, trying desperately to disavow the assassin in a terrified attempt to keep the noose from slipping higher on its neck.

Now have I just described the recent Charlie Kirk assassination at the (alleged) hands of Tyler Robinson, or the assassination of two Israeli diplomats by Elias Rodriguez? Trick question. I'm actually describing a secret third option, the assassination of President William McKinley by the anarchist Leon Czolgosz. And the acts of the Weather Underground. And the Irish Republican Army and the Angry Brigade and the Earth Liberation Front and many others.

Meanwhile, Ken Klippenstein's recent leaks of Tyler Robinson's discord reveal that most of the speculation on both sides of the public sphere has been false. Robinson is not a trans radical leftist terrorist (a designation which means nothing these days). Nor is he a niche far right Groyper, but a secret third option none of the talking heads or terminally online attention seekers ever considered: a gamer. Robinson just enjoys playing video games, camping, shooting guns, and dating his trans girlfriend.

Are we so cowardly that we can only support people when it's popular and safe to do so? I implore you dear reader, and all of us, to do better. To be courageous, to stand by our convictions when it stops being easy, and to stop publicly posting every detail of our lives to feed to Palantir. Some things are best saved for real life.

– Bella Ciao

Six Months of Many

By: Joy Sanitago

Happy 6 month anniversary! September marks half a year of monthly publication from your friends (or maybe enemies, I don't know) at Dissonant Times. Whether this is your sixth or your first issue checking out what we've got to say, we want to say THANK YOU for joining us and dedicating your time and attention to our scrappy publication.

This issue might have been the easiest one to pull together yet thanks to the volume of thoughtful, informative, and engaging submissions we received– thank you so much and keep it up! This month we're featuring Willamette Valley Crisis Care, a follow-up on the Thousand Acres encampment, an antifascist analysis of the 9/13 march for Charlie Kirk, and a community alert on the proposed Amazon fulfillment center in West Eugene. Our regular columnists Eric King, Darling Tonia, Strawberry, and Praise continue to share their wisdom, and we've compiled a bunch of upcoming events that y'all can attend and share in communities of resistance against injustice & fascism.

All of these topics tell a broader story of ever-growing economic disenfranchisement and fascism here in late stage capitalism. Within that, they are testaments to community-led efforts to resist and persevere through this broader web of injustice folks are experiencing both locally and around the world. And at risk of sounding overly utopian, *it doesn't have to be this way*. One of our primary motivations in starting Dissonant Times was -and continues to be- to publish regular reminders of alternatives to the death march of the current socioeconomic system. It'll take more than a small number of journalists, poets, and artists to change course. It'll take more than the various grassroots groups we feature and it'll definitely take more than just reading monthly editions of DT.

This is why we push this concept of "participatory journalism" so hard– it is not just journalism written by folks who have firsthand experience of the issues central to any given piece, it is also journalism that inspires readers to do more than just close the tab on their computer when they're done reading. It is the type of reporting that grows movements. It's the stories that moved me, Joy, to become a fighter and an advocate and it's writing that I know can encourage others to do the same.

That alone makes DT and other

movement journalism platforms different from more mainstream outlets. And if you haven't noticed by now, we write from a pretty clear perspective with a clear goal in mind: we write because we believe that justice and liberation from oppression isn't an impossible future. We believe that this "myth of objectivity" that's rampant in major news companies does more harm than good. As independent journalists, we think it's important you know who your news is coming from and what outlets have at stake in platforming it.

We write because we urgently believe that environmental destruction, gender and racial inequality, war, and poverty –and those in power that enforce these conditions– is bad, actually. We write from a perspective that we believe more journalists ought to: those who hold power should be subject to the upmost criticism, not the least.

The old adage goes that history is written by the victors, so that's why we write the stories we do. Because despite losses along the way, we believe that truth and justice are on the winning side.

And while one day we hope that money won't dictate every aspect of our lives, today we confront the reality that in order to have printed newspapers and solid, consistent reporting we need to have money to pay for that.

If our work speaks to you, and you haven't already, consider becoming a monthly or one time donor. Even \$1 a month can help us reach our goal of a raising \$20,000 for print operations. Check out more fundraising information on our Instagram @dissonant\_times or donate at [dissonanttimes.org/support](https://dissonanttimes.org/support).

Thanks for reading,  
Joy

# Where's CAHOOTS? Willamette Valley Crisis Care Soars While White Bird Withers

By: Gene T. Snell

As of October 5th, Eugene will have survived six months without the universally-beloved CAHOOTS mobile crisis service that it had depended on for the prior 35 years. The closure of Eugene CAHOOTS is failure that neither the City of Eugene nor White Bird leadership has taken ownership of. And yet, this closure has caused an uproar that reverberated through every city council meeting, adjacent community discussion space, and local news outlet. Now where did that all leave us?

In the months following the closure, a coalition of CAHOOTS workers – some who continued working in Springfield and some who had been recently laid off – maintained pressure on city council to redirect city funds into a CAHOOTS-like service as quickly as possible. The CAHOOTS workers' campaign quickly developed into a non-profit, Willamette Valley Crisis Care (WVCC). While the White Bird Clinic administration (CAHOOTS' parent organization) repeatedly failed to make an appearance at City Council Meetings that determined the fate of CAHOOTS, or give satisfactory answers as to how they planned to bring back CAHOOTS, WVCC began preparing to be a viable home for Eugene's next mobile crisis service. Now, WVCC has a board of directors, a fiscal sponsorship from the Trauma Healing Project, and has begun offering education and consultation to the community to share their expertise accumulated from many years of crisis response.

Lest the city so quickly forget the necessity of integrated, trauma-informed crisis response care, this spring a new study on the impact of CAHOOTS reveals that when CAHOOTS was sent to a call instead of EPD, the likelihood that the interaction would end in arrest dropped about 80%. The study also shows that neighborhoods that received a CAHOOTS response saw a reduction in 911 calls in the weeks following the CAHOOTS intervention, indicating CAHOOTS' presence increased the overall community safety and well-being. All while using just 3% of the Eugene Police Department's budget.

But Eugenians knew long before these numbers were published that CAHOOTS is an essential service. Under their pressure, on June 23rd, the City Council approved a 2025-2027 budget that included a half a million dollars towards a transition into a new alternative response and a motion for city manager Sarah Medary to investigate how CAHOOTS-like services could be provided by identifying funding sources of \$2.2m, potentially drawn from the Community Safety Payroll Tax funds.

The city council directed Medary to develop a Request for Proposals before the end of October. The floor is open to any program – whether it be a familiar

name like White Bird or a fresh and upcoming one like Willamette Valley Crisis Care – that can make a decent pitch for how it would fulfill the city's needs for a mobile crisis service. While WVCC has been diligently attending City Council meetings, organizing forums and community conversations, and meeting with stakeholders, White Bird Clinic has been losing the confidence of its employees and the public.

In the last 10 months, there have been layoffs of more than 80% of staff in four of the five White Bird departments that are unionized, which also happen to be the primary departments that are non-billable (meaning their programs were largely grant- or contract-funded, allowing for prioritization on minimal barrier care over profits). One of these four programs, Front Rooms, was shut down completely. The most recent reduction was in August, when five union workers were laid off from their jobs in NEST, White Bird's case management program. At the Board Meeting that very same month, the Board announced that the clinic currently has \$5.7m in the bank. This was a shock to all the current and former workers who had been advocating for their programs to remain open while White Bird administration cited a severe financial deficit as the reason they needed to reduce and abort these programs.

If the reveal of so much readily accessible cash is salt in the wounds of all the community members who had to suffer through the closures of Front Rooms and Eugene CAHOOTS and reduced access to the White Bird Crisis line and NEST resources, it was a gut-punch to the many unionized workers laid off in April with no more than a \$750 severance package (before taxes), for some who had worked at White Bird Clinic for more than ten years. This latest reveal gives fuel to the argument that White Bird has been operating with targeted animus against unionized programs. Former White Bird workers even question whether the clinic has used the funds dedicated to CAHOOTS appropriately, or if it has re-allocated those to administrative costs that bolster the billable, profitable White Bird programs such as medical and dental.

The clinic's concentration on its already-billable services and efforts to transition the little-remaining CAHOOTS and NEST services to billable programs is a strong deviation from the previous prioritization of accessible care and services. This deviation is especially dystopian in light of the Pacific Source announcements this month that warn of an uncertain future for 80% of the Medicaid recipients in Lane County for whom Pacific Source is a provider. In an open community letter, the Lane Community Health Council announced

“serious financial viability concerns” for Pacific Source because of insufficient funding offered by Oregon Health Authority. The Council warns this could lead to less services being covered by Pacific Source and fewer people being eligible for Medicaid. According to an OPB article, that could mean up to 90,000 low-income people in Lane County could lose insurance coverage on January 1, 2026.

The mistreatment of workers and the apparent lack of investment in some of its most treasured programs are impacting the viability of White Bird's existing programs, especially the CAHOOTS vans still operating in Springfield. Despite having a contract for 12hr/day in Springfield, in the month of July White Bird was only able to fulfill that obligation for about 2/3 of the time, due to staffing problems. For many of its current and former employees, WBC has lost the last shreds of confidence that it will be able to or is even incentivized to maintain a CAHOOTS-like service for the city of Eugene.

***“The people of Eugene have deeply & repeatedly expressed their want to have these services back. White Bird is not capable of doing that. Willamette Valley Crisis Care is ready to do that and get back to work as soon as the City releases the Request For Proposal.” – Robert, co-chair of WVCC and recent retiree from the CAHOOTS vans after 21 years of service.***

In its latest post, WVCC asks the community to contact their City Councilors to encourage them to release the RFP funds by October, which will move the city closer to instating WVCC as the next CAHOOTS-like crisis response service. As soon as the Council and City Manager Sarah Medary (before her upcoming retirement) follow through on their commitments, WVCC is ready and able to step into the chasm left by CAHOOTS' closure and offer the care that the community needs and deserves.





# 9-13 Eugene Charlie Kirk Vigil: An Analysis by Corvallis Antifascists

This article was originally published on [cvantifa.noblogs.org](https://cvantifa.noblogs.org) on September 16<sup>th</sup> and has been shared with their permission



discussion regarding the killing has completely dominated social media and news channels. Grifters and talking-heads from all corners of the political compass have been constantly espousing a competing set of theories.

We are not interested in contributing to this discourse. This piece intends to look at the fallout of this event, its effect on the right, and how Antifascists might respond to its effects. Within hours of the shooting, right-wing groups across the country have issued statements and have called for vigils in Kirk's honor. These vigils are the largest street-protests we have seen from the American right-wing since the Stop the Steal rallies in 2020. They are also occurring following large, violent anti-immigrant protests in the UK and Australia. We think that this makes them extremely worth paying attention to.

On a national level, Kirk's killing has done much to galvanize and unify America's right-wing. While it's already being memory-holed, Kirk was never a very popular figure. During the initial boom of the alt-right, TPUSA was routinely mocked by both leftists and rightists for their cringey astro-turfed lack of substance. Kirk was viewed as a toothless "hello fellow kids" representative of the old-money republican establishment. The far-right's distaste for Kirk has been most epitomized by Nick Fuentes', "Groyper Wars" in which Fuentes' white nationalist followers would attend TPUSA debate events and use their time on the mic to espouse antisemitic and neo-Nazi talking points. The far-right's hatred of Kirk has been quickly forgotten as nearly every white nationalist and neo-Nazi group has jumped to eulogize him on telegram. It is apparent that this far-right rehabilitation of Kirk is primarily opportunistic. They want to capitalize on the moment to feed off the energy of the dominant MAGA political bloc.

The neo-Nazi rehabilitation of Kirk hasn't solely existed in telegram or online. In Huntington Beach, neo-Nazi Ryan Sanchez has been organizing vigils drawing mainstream conservative support. In Utah, California, Texas and North Carolina Patriot Front has marched alongside conservatives in memorials. We are certain that there are other instances of neo-Nazi involvement in these protests are occurring, but this piece is being written on 9/15, and we are awaiting more reports from across the country.

We aren't able to monitor all far-right activity across the US, but we can keep eyes on what's happening in our back yard. On 9/13 in Eugene, Oregon, approximately 800 people assembled at Alton-Baker park for a vigil led by Chris Tough. Attendees were primarily evangelical upper-middle-class normies, many of whom brought their children and elderly family members. At the vigil, the group gathered to some corny patriot music and bad bro country, a few prayers were led, someone was passing out vigil candles, and Chris Tough and his cadre spoke, adorned in white t-shirts printed with the words "WE ARE CHARLIE KIRK" on the front and a



picture of a cross made of nails on the back. The organizers themselves seemed surprised at the size of the group as more came in, delaying their planned march. The group then marched a short distance to Hayward Field at the University of Oregon. Along the way, bike cops blocked off roads, causing a

huge traffic jam, to allow the march to pass without delay. Once at the stadium, Joey Gibson, the founder of Patriot Prayer, led a speech in front of the crowd. The crowd briefly blocked off the road to unfurl the "Flag Called Freedom" owned by Cresswell's Paul Veluscek.



After a few moments of flag time, the march rapidly disbanded. While this was by far the largest far-right rally we've monitored since 2021, the energy was remarkably low. There were no calls for violence, hateful chants, or attacks on passers by, all of which are extremely common at events like this.

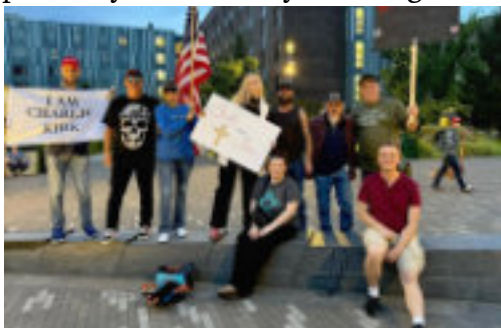
This event was far tamer than we expected it to be, but it isn't completely innocuous. This rally turned out numerous far-right figures who haven't been active in Oregon for several years. Two close associates of neo-Nazi spree-killer David "Joey" Pedersen were in attendance. Corey "Agnar" Wyatt who provided the murder weapon and Jeremy Roberts, a prison-confidant of the killer. Both of these men have been extremely violent at protests in 2020 and 2021, and Roberts is responsible for kicking in the door of the Oregon State Capitol on December 21st, 2020. Wyatt is currently in a wheelchair after becoming paralyzed during an ATV accident. Tim Edward Davis, a known Springfield white supremacist and J6er, was also in attendance.



Jeremy Roberts



Haley Lewis' (née Adams) sad crew of PDX rejects was in attendance: David Willis, Skylor Jernigan, and Kerry Hudson were all there. This group has existed largely as a laughingstock, but members have engaged in violence in the past. Skylor famously discharged a firearm during a protest in downtown Portland in 2020.



Left: Haley Lewis and her "PDX Crew"

While this particular protest was somewhat low-energy, this political moment is worth consideration and engagement by Antifascists. We are seeing neo-Nazi street movements work to enter the MAGA fold at the same time as the right engages in its largest series of actions in years. This is particularly concerning within a global context where violent anti-immigrant street mobilizations are sweeping the anglosphere. More vigils are being announced for next weekend, and we believe it is possible that this momentum may carry into future street actions.

Addressing mobilizations like these requires careful consideration. The most similar rallies we have seen in the PNW have been those following homophobic evangelical preacher Sean Feucht, where followers of a similar non-combatant, mall-church-family demographic have shown up in great numbers. Antifascists have attempted to counter several of these rallies in Portland and Seattle, but these counters have been unequivocal optical and tactical failures.



Simply put, **black-bloc counters of what appear to be normie worship events with children in attendance is a decidedly bad look and contributes to the American conservative persecution narrative**, galvanizing otherwise politically inactive conservatives. This is particularly relevant as many apolitical businesses and institutions (including UO itself) have expressed public sympathy to Kirk and his cause.

As such, Antifascists must work to find more creative ways to counter this political moment. One option may be working to drive wedges between different segments of the right. We have already seen physical conflict between neo-Nazis and conservatives at these events when a group of bruisers associated with SoCal Active Club jumped a rockabilly guy at an event in Huntington Beach. One possibly useful wedge issue in this context is Israel. Conspiracy theorists have already jumped to blame Kirk's assassination on Mossad, claiming the lifelong zionist was on the verge of becoming j-pilled.

While the reactivation of a far-right street movement, and the presence of neo-Nazis within mass protests may be unpleasant, we want to end this article with a **moment of hope**. At the same time as 800 right-wingers marched in Eugene, across town an equal number of fired up punks were gathered for Radical Alternative Development's mental health benefit, an annual Anarchist crust festival. At the fest, hundreds of queers, punks, and freaks decked out in radical pins and patches reveled, pitted, and celebrated life without needing a national political moment to bring them together. ARA veterans, middle-aged crusties, and teenage mosh warriors danced together in unity to explicitly antifascist anthems, all to benefit local grassroots mental health, mutual aid, and street outreach programs. We aren't so naive as to believe that punk rock is praxis in and of itself, but it is important to acknowledge that even in these dark times, resistant culture is alive and burning brightly. It is the role of us as Antifascists to channel it into social change.

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## Amazon is trying to build a massive fulfillment center in Eugene

By: Lars and Sam Anderson

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Amazon is trying to build a massive fulfillment center in Eugene. In all public communication surrounding permitting and construction, the facility's owner is obscured, but the nature of the planned facility leaves little doubt that owner is Amazon. There are local concerns that the construction of this giant warehouse in west Eugene will destroy wetlands and pollute the air, worsening the city's environmental inequities. Based on the examples set by existing Amazon facilities across the world, it can be expected that this project will also exacerbate wealth inequality and further enable unsafe and exploitative labor practices.



Plans for this distribution center have been submitted to the city of Eugene by BL Companies, an architecture and engineering firm based on the East coast that has a history of constructing Amazon facilities. According to these plans, construction for this project is due to begin in December of this year, and is expected to be completed in January 2027. The proposed construction would cost \$24 million dollars and result in a 320,000 square foot building and parking for around 1000 trucks and 400 worker vehicles. Eighteen permits are required to begin construction, including permits from state agencies like the Oregon Department of State Lands, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Lane Regional Air Production Agency (LRAPA). The majority of these permits are anticipated to be rubber-stamps, with Amazon easily being allowed to construct this facility.

Amazon already has 19 facilities in Oregon, including the largest in the Pacific Northwest. This facility, located in Woodburn, is a staggering 3.8 million square feet. Similarly to what it seems is happening in Eugene, the City of Woodburn welcomed the facility on the basis of "economic growth." Amazon made millions of dollars of "financial contributions" to the city, including bus lines, road expansion, and even a million dollar soccer field. It appears this multi-trillion dollar corporation is able to bribe small towns and cities with promises of economic development, paving over farmland, forests, and wetlands with no consideration of the environment nor the people's health and well-being.

This project would cause immediate environmental harm during construction and continued environmental harm throughout its operation. The facility is sited on an 84 acre lot just west of Highway 99, 36 acres of which are government designated wetlands. Construction plans included filling and paving over at least 9 acres of these wetlands. According to the Eugene Weekly, the fulfillment center would result in an average of one vehicle trip every 28 seconds during the 20 hours of operation each day, totaling nearly 2,600 trips per day. This increase in vehicle traffic will emit harmful pollutants

such as nitrous oxide and carbon monoxide. The increased air pollution would be concentrated in west Eugene, a neighborhood that already experiences the worst air pollution in the city. Statistics from Beyond Toxics reveal that annually pollution in west Eugene already accounts for 96% of toxic emissions in Eugene as a whole. West Eugene is home to proportionately more low-income and BIPOC residents than the rest of the city, and the continued siting of polluting facilities in these neighborhoods is a blatant example of environmental racism.

Amazon's exploitive labor practices would bring further harm to our communities. While decision makers have argued that this facility will help small businesses and boost the local economy through job growth, these

jobs are low-paying, fast-paced, dangerous warehouse positions with long hours and exceptionally high turnover. Corporate greed is at the forefront of Amazon's motivation, with a CEO-to-worker pay ration of 43:1, increasing annually. In 2024 alone, the CEO of Amazon made \$40 million.

Worker testimonies reveal that Amazon pressures workers to work quickly, prioritizing speed over physical and mental health. Workers are highly surveilled and punished for taking bathroom breaks, to the point that some workers pee in bottles at their work station. Amazon uses a "point system" to discipline workers for working "slowly" or taking sick days. If a worker receives 6 points, they're fired. One employee compared their workplace to a "prison in a totalitarian state." Warehouse employees have been injured, and even killed, working in fulfillment centers. In December of 2021, an Amazon warehouse in Illinois collapsed after a tornado, killing 6 employees. Multiple lawsuits were brought against Amazon as a result, claiming Amazon was negligent in alerting employees of the risk even though the company knew the worker's were in harm's way and that the building was poorly constructed.

Despite the pushback that the construction of this facility has already met, public officials appear unable, or unwilling, to stop it. In the face of this inaction, there's a need for more people to track the project and stand up against it. While there's no clear roadmap for how to stop a behemoth like Amazon, effective resistance will likely require a diversity of tactics. As the project moves through permitting, there may be intervention points within the legal process and opportunities to put pressure on public officials. Resistance doesn't need to stop there— research, creativity, and determination can keep up a fight against Amazon beyond the legal process, uneven as permitting is ongoing and especially if construction is permitted.



# The Impending Sweep of Thousand Acres

By: Azria Raventhorn



*"Spiritually, there's a lot of purgatory in this forest. Lot of spirits that haven't made a decision yet... it's not for the faint of heart."*  
- Tish, Thousand Acres resident since 2019

Cold seeps into the rushing water of the Sandy River Delta where it stirs and mixes with the greater Columbia River. The cottonwood trees begin to yellow and turn, a picturesque canopy draped over labyrinthine trenches carving earthwork obstacles alongside eclectic sculptures, elaborately established dispersed campsites and makeshift barricades. Each of these projects bears testament to those who call this land home and their battle to stop a sweep organized in part by the office of Governor Tina Kotek. A sweep that now looms over the heads of every occupant of this decades old community.

Previous coverage compiled interviews with residents of the encampment and their stories, as well as documented the initial June sweep of the Thousand Acres Encampment and the details of contracts with various companies and local government entities. This included Springfield, Oregon based Northwest Hazmat which bear maced a protestor unprovoked on video- which lead to a pause on the sweep and the re-examination of contracts. Kotek's office and the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) announced they would "be halting and reevaluating the project for now, citing "the safety and security of our staff, contractors, and the public, including those currently in the area." According to the Portland Mercury, Kotek's State Resiliency Officer, Jonna Papaefthimiou, has been tasked with "work[ing] closely with the agency (DSL) to bring together the necessary NGO, local, and state partners that can help accomplish a successful outcome." Residents argue that the NGO groups in question, which is really just the

Salvation Army, is insufficient; referencing resources which are unavailable do to demand and barriers to entry.

In the meantime, the residents of the Thousand Acres Encampment penned a **Cooperative Stewardship Proposal** which offers a peaceful path forward. This proposal would allow the residents of the encampment to remain on the land while remedying environmental concerns raised by various parties. The Proposal pushes for a self governed village, modeled after Hazelnut Grove, Dignity Village, and Right 2 Dream Too (R2D2), three other long lasting self organized houseless communities that have grown into permitted and supported endeavors within Portland. The goal of the residents is to build their community into a similar project within the 1,400 acre park at the confluence of the Sandy and Columbia rivers.

On September 4th, advocates and residents of the Thousand Acres encampment were finally able to present the Cooperative Stewardship Proposal to Papaefthimiou, as well as a DSL representative and Sara Manning, who represents Rapid Response Bio Clean (the Portland based company that stepped into the space left by Northwest Hazmat). Shortly thereafter, the DSL released an update on its website regarding the Sandy River Delta Restoration. They summarize the events of the first sweep from the State's perspective and explain that since the ill fated sweep they have, "Listened and Learned," and have "engaged with partners, advocates, and service providers to understand what went wrong," and that they want to "resume restoration work with a renewed focus on safety, dignity and environmental stewardship." An advocate who was present for the meeting paints a different picture.

*"Thousand Acres folks did an amazing job presenting the Cooperative Stewardship Proposal and the reasons it would be a deeply inhumane act for the state to move forward with the sweep, especially since the DSL has continued to lie about connecting people with alternative housing. Overall, Jonna's response was pretty infuriating. We kept asking 'why now', after people have lived here for decades. Jonna wouldn't give a straight answer... but she did admit that Kotek's plans to expand housing resources aren't actually providing any solutions for where Thousand Acres folks are supposed to go within the timeline of the sweep, while in the same breath saying DSL and Kotek aren't willing to budge on that timeline."*  
-Bantam, Thousand Acres Advocate

No specific timeline was given when pressed, nor when I reached out to Rapid Response for comment, a request which has gone unacknowledged at time of writing. But, Bantam says that they expect the sweep to be underway again in the next month or two.

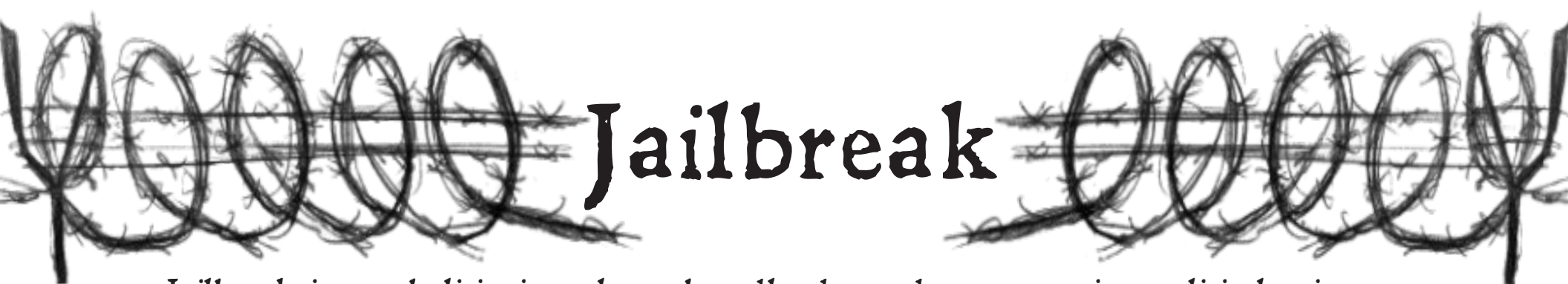
The resident's argument didn't only make moral appeals, their proposal estimates that the cost of implementing a permanent solution in building a village in the Thousand Acres Dog Park would be less than \$15,000 per unit on the high end. Comparatively, according to KATU news NW Enforcement was contracted for up to \$200,000 and Northwest Hazmat for up to \$139,000 in the initial sweep, the cost of the first sweep is sunk now. The details of the new contract with Rapid Response have not come to light as of yet.

For its part, Rapid Response positions itself as a morally enlightened alternative to Northwest Hazmat. Bantam says that, "[Rapid Response] presents itself as the best case scenario for sweeps that are 'inevitably' going to happen." Part of this image is upheld by Rapid Response claiming that they actually hire impoverished and sometimes formerly unhoused people to do the work of clearing urban camps. According to the Willamette Weekly, former Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler once cited a statistic that nearly 75% of Rapid Response staff "have similar lived experience to those at the campsites." Despite these assertions of moral authority and of approaching those on the streets with a sympathetic touch, the company is in fact embroiled in controversies regarding its documented mistreatment of the people they interact with, including violations and poor training, improperly disposing of peoples personal property on numerous occasions including when a lawyer used apple air tags to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the company was violating state and local law to improperly discard of people's property.

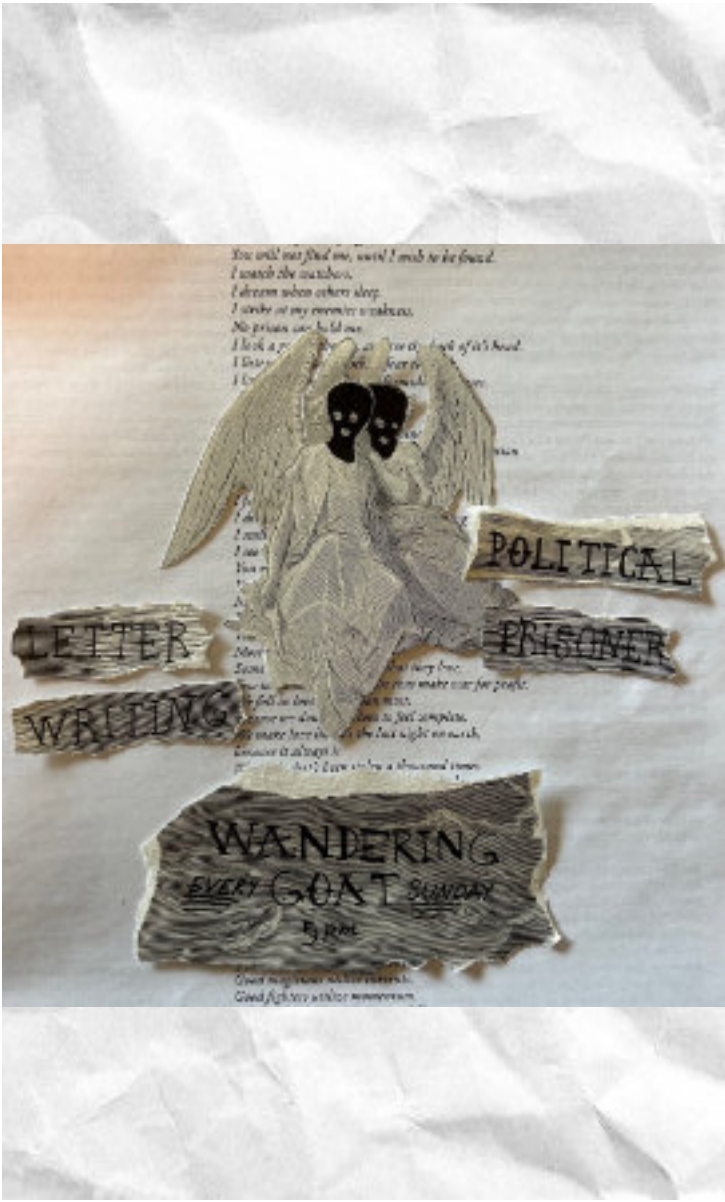
Perhaps most damning of all, in 2022 Rapid Response Bio Clean lost a wrongful death lawsuit after the theft and disposal of an unhoused woman's medication led directly to her death only

*Continues on page 12*





Jailbreak is an abolitionist column broadly devoted to supporting political prisoners & all who resist the prison world. No revolutionary movement will ever succeed that doesn't fight state repression & support all who face it. We have so much to learn from our imprisoned comrades inside & so much support to give in our collective struggle for liberation that will be stopped by no prison wall. None are free until all are free! Write to a prisoner today!



## Write to Homeless Advocate Amber Fitts

By: dime reid

Amber Fitts, longtime resident of Eugene Oregon, is being held in Idaho at Blaine County Detention Center. She was arrested in June and will be held without sentencing until at least October and is seeking support. Amber would love to receive letters to help her get through the next few months, and funds for commissary and legal fees.

Amber Fitts is a wonderful friend, a dedicated advocate, and a hilarious companion. She has also been essential to the work of serving and distributing food weekly to the unhoused. In the words of one of her friends and co-organizers: "Together we gave food and supplies to the unhoused and housing insecure people in West Eugene every week. She has shown unshakable commitment to our community and our work. I look up to her, and while I have often struggled under the weight of our schedule and our responsibilities, even though she has been unhoused the entire time we've known one another, she works harder and faster and without complaint. She is a total inspiration to me and many people who live without a whole lot of kindness."

Amber is also a board member of a new organization, Project Stability, that will establish housing for homeless folks. We are asking the Eugene community to show Amber that her care and commitment to us is reciprocated. Through sending her letters and funds, lets keep her spirits lifted and ease the path for her return home.

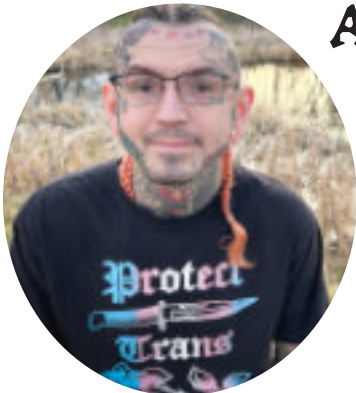
Amber's friends want us to remind her that she can get through this and finish probation, and to stay focused on Project Stability and the people she cares about.

### Send letters to:

Blaine County Detention Center ID  
Amber Fitts 20250032  
PO Box 247  
Poenix MD 21131

Funds can be venmoed to her friend, with "Amber" in the caption: @steven-kimes-2





# Ask An Abolitionist

What is abolition? What does it look like in practice? Ask our friend, author, and former political prisoner **Eric King** your most burning questions about setting fire to the prisons and what we'll make out of the ashes.

Write to Eric and explore questions relating to harm and accountability, prisons and the prison industrial complex, and how you can practice abolition every day.

Fill out the form at <https://dissonanttimes.org/columns/jailbreak/>

to submit your question!

hello eric!

*i wanted to ask you this question when you were in oregon in may, but i was too shy, so seeing that you were accepting questions for this column gladdened me. essentially, i've fallen in love with a political prisoner. it is that future-altering, liberating love. but i'm out here, and they're in there. i resonate a lot with your & rochelle's story, so i'm curious--what advice would you give someone like me, someone like yourself ten or so years ago? if you could tell yourself from then anything, what would it be? what are the biggest lessons you've learned about transformative love that transcends prison bars, and how it's maintained once you're out? thank you in advance for any words, i really appreciate it!!*

Hey M,

I think your question is important because it is something that is still a bit taboo. People love to support prisoners and abolition and all that, but many still hold a deep down judgment of love inside. I don't know if that is misogynist or what, but it's fucking annoying.

Rochelle and I have been together for 11 years now. She is still my best friend, my soul mate, my everything. There have been a number of things that have helped with that and still help with it every single day, and I'll break them down.

## Radical Vulnerability:

A relationship inside (or once they're outside) cannot exist with walls placed up between you. There cannot be things that are held back, there cannot be "I didn't want to bother them with my problems when they have so much going on" bullshit. Your life is just as important and just as meaningful. Your feelings are just as important. Your day to day is just as important. One of the most beautiful things Rochelle did was include me in HER life. She also offered a safe place to talk about mine (what I could say without getting myself or others in heat with the prison), and because I had that it gave me hope for life outside. Now I was apart of the world, now I was seen as a human. Not a tokenized prisoner, not an Inmate number, but a human who is loved. When I got out there were a lot of things I had never spoken about, and she gave me the space and trust to have those discussions as well.

## Radical Trust:

I am not talking about 'She better not cheat!' trust. I am talking about; I trust you when you tell me things. I trust you when you talk about the future. I trust that you are putting me first no matter how hard things get. I trust that you will tell me if I hurt you. I trust that you will not hold back. I trust that if you hang out with some dude and I got jealous, that I can have that conversation and we can work on the 'why' of it all. Also though, I trust you to call me out. I trust that if I am acting crazy or wild, out of character, putting OUR future on the line, that you will be honest with me. So many supporters will ignore

it and say things like "I don't understand their life, we just HAVE TO SUPPORT their choices". No you don't. If this is a relationship, then our decisions both matter. If things are happening that can prevent us being together or talking, then a call out and honest discussion is desperately needed no matter how hard it is. I trust you to trust me. I trust you to love me enough to hold me accountable. We went through this a lot. I went way too hard for way too long, and it hurt her deeply, and I owed it to my future and my love to tighten the fuck up. Fight to Win, and the victory is the relationship you have.

## Grow Together:

-m Rochelle and I are not the same people from when we first met. She has been through life and hurt and joy and wins and losses that have affected and changed her. I have been through my own brutality and suffered my own deep trauma that has changed me. We are not our younger selves. The love is though. The love has grown and adapted to who we are NOW, not who we were. I do not expect her to be 30 year old Rochelle, and she doesn't with me. We work on our trauma together, we work on our hurtful behavior together, we celebrate so much together. We have grown and I love her more now than ever, because we have developed together. The lack of growth is death, and if your relationship isn't moving forward, then it is stagnating and you do not want that.

These are the things that worked for us. I cannot promise they will work for you or anyone else. I put in A LOT of work because Rochelle deserved it. I read books on trauma and jealousy. I did a lot of internal work to see how I can be a better partner for the person I love. Your partner needs to do the same. No matter how good things are, the work cannot stop. You deserve that. He deserves that. But never put yourself on the back burner, never forget your worth and value.

I wish you all the love and all the success. I wish you both happiness and victories and growth and joy. The world sucks, but we can always find love and once you have it, be willing to fight for it. Love is a revolutionary act.

-Please write prisoners, it can change their life and it can change yours.

## Towards Liberation

EK



# Dear Darling,

*Darling's outlook on life, relationships, conflict, and crime can best be described as whimsical. She values care for self and community, feeling good, looking good, and fucking s@!\* up. There are no questions too bold, topics too old, and anything you're thinking is conversation gold.*

*Send your ponderings, your questions, and your deepest darkest fears and desires to our dear Darling ;)*

*For social relationships, organizing and tactical tips. Poly-drama? Poly-saturation? Ask darling.*

## Dear Darling,

Okay, darling. I like to date my co-workers (that's not the problem) and always struggle with gauging when it's a good time to bring them to community events. You know the kind - when everyone you know is tabling for something, and the whole event is spent seeing your friends give speeches and tagging homies out to table for various projects. It feels like the heteronormative "meet the family trope", with all of the same stressors: what if they don't get along? What if they take the wrong zines? What if their chosen alias is something cringe? But in all seriousness, I'm curious if you have advice for how to best navigate and build up to those moments. I usually date people who I'm politically aligned with (and are not new to anarchism despite not organizing locally) should I do an opsec check? Should I quiz them on their familiarity with local struggles and issues? And how do I make sure that they're not dating me because of all of the cool hot people doing cool hot shit that I happen to know?

## Dear UCHP,

Boy howdy, this sounds like quite the quandary you're in, you Untitled Cool Hot Person, you. It sounds to me like you've gotten yourself all amped up and excited (and maybe even a little scared or overwhelmed) by all of

these possibilities. Introducing your new boo-thing to your community can be a really intimidating thing, and you may be feeling a ton of pressure from both inside and out. It might be worthwhile to start by parsing out what all of the things you're feeling are, and where each of those feelings are coming from. For example, are you feeling urgency around this? And if so, is that because somebody else is encouraging (or pressuring) you to feel that urgency, or is the call coming from inside the house? And then, if it is an internal thing, what's lying underneath that? What part of you is crying out for things to move along and what sort of action or attention is that part of you really asking for? You could even start a spreadsheet to track all of these things, if you're an autistic Virgo like myself, but I digress. The point is, organize your thoughts and your feelings, and figure out which of these are actually your responsibility to tackle (hint, it's the internal ones).

Also, don't be surprised if things don't all fit into neat little boxes. You may find that you're feeling urgency (again, as an example) and that the source of that feeling is both internal and external. That's okay, none of us were meant to fit into neat little boxes anyways, burn all the prisons, etc. etc. I believe that this exercise can still be helpful, even if it gets messy."OK Darling, I have a neat little color-coded cryptpad spreadsheet, but now what? How does that get me any closer to introducing my sweetie to all my Cool Hot friends?" Great question. Now that you've figured out which of these feelings are yours to have and to hold and to be accountable for, it's time to dig in. Essentially, the key to your success will be your ability to find security in both your new exciting situationship AND in your long-standing community relationships with your Cool Hot friends. The short answer to all of the stressors you asked about in your inquiry, and I really truly mean this with love, is: "So what?" So what if your sweetie doesn't get along with all of your friends? So what if they take the wrong zines? Are your relationships with all of your people truly

contingent on these things? Do all of your friends get along with all of your other friends and nobody disagrees ever (and if the answer to that is yes, let's talk about how you've managed to discover a social utopia)? My point here is, it's okay if the universe doesn't align perfectly and your sweetie doesn't turn out to be the missing puzzle piece that fits perfectly into the puzzle of relationships you've built for yourself. They probably won't and that says more about the universe than it does about your boo, your friends, or yourself.

If you're still really worried about how your sweetie is going to be received, the last piece of advice I'd offer is to try adjusting your expectations. Universal appeal is a big thing to ask and expect, but what would it look like if you introduced your flame to just a few of your friends? Or if your goal was to do a surface-level introduction and create intentional space for a more intimate getting-to-know-each-other hangout after the big cool event is over? There's so many ways to adjust expectations, I encourage you to get creative! Bottom line is, we want to set ourselves up for success. Aiming too high and being too ambitious in our goals from the get-go frequently leads to disappointment and frustration, and the expectations we set on our social relationships are no different. That's not to say that you can't get to that point of universal appeal farther down the road (and if you do, again, please let me know!), but in the meantime, it can be helpful to focus on cultivating one or two relationships at a time among your networks.

Anyways, I hope this was all helpful. From my very-professional and not-at-all-amateur perspective, I think that you, your sugar pie honey bunch, and your friends all sound really really cool, and I wish each of you all the best in thinking each other are really really cool too.

Stay frosty,

Darling Tonia

## EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF ICE

the 4<sup>th</sup> ammendment means law enforcement of any kind needs a judicial warrant to enter private spaces

**PRIVATE  
AREA**

**differentiate "private" from  
public space - put up signs!  
install doors with locks! you're  
allowed.**



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**  
but if you're a federal agent, to enter  
past this point we'll need to see a  
warrant signed by a judge

**A real, official warrant contains:**

- **name of a district court**
- **signature of a judge**
- **specifies where they can search**

**They may have official-looking papers, but  
if it is issued only from the Department of  
Homeland Security and NOT a judge who  
has signed off, it is not a warrant.**

**Full Workplace Guide [HERE](#)**



# Medics for Action Collective Eugene: Protest Medics and Community Care

By: dime reid

A new collective of volunteer medical care providers has assembled in Eugene and quickly burst into action. I spoke with Marten and Sy, two members of Medics for Action Collective Eugene (MACE), about what this project is and why they choose to volunteer.

Made up of a broad spectrum of medical professionals including RNs, EMTs, CNAs, PAs, and folks with wilderness and protest response training, MACE originally formed in March of 2025 to offer medical presence and care at protests.

"I want people to get care. And during protests, its important to demonstrate that we can care for each other." - Marten

In the six months since their inception, MACE has also begun offering free pop-up clinics in partnership with other community organizations to offer wound care, medical assessments, and basic first aid supplies. There are no barriers to entry; these clinics are available to anyone.

MACE volunteers know that the need for quality, accessible medical care is increasing by the day.

"A lot of us have worked in this medical system that has barriers, and is now crumbling. With the closures of CAHOOTS and the ER downtown, the lowest barrier medical care our community had, its obvious that many people with medical expertise need other channels to offer medical care." - Sy

As of now(September 2025), MACE can be found every Sunday from 1-3pm at First Christian Church partnering with Raven, and at Washington-Jefferson Park the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9-10:30am partnering with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors. MACE is expanding its scope even further this October, by offering a free First Aid for Protests training. The training will be held October 4th and 5th, and you can register now on their LinkTree.



A training by Medics-for-Action Collective Eugene:

## First Aid for Protests

Interested in providing medical support for direct actions?  
Join us for two days of presentations and hands-on scenarios to build your skills!

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**  
12:00-4:00

**October 5<sup>th</sup>**  
12:00-4:00

Location  
TBD

Location  
TBD



<https://linktr.ee/medicsforaction>



Masking required, RSVP encouraged

Most heroes don't wear capes or badges, but some of them flash a cross on their sleeve.

### FAQs:

**Can I join MACE as a volunteer to offer medical care?** YES absolutely; reach out via email: mace.eugene@proton.me

**Is MACE available to offer medical care at an event or organization that I'm a part of?** YES, MACE is eager to offer more pop-up clinics in partnership with other organizations; reach out via email: mace.eugene@proton.me

**Does MACE accept donations?** MACE does not yet have a way to accept monetary donations, but they are in need of more basic first aid and medical supplies; fill out this form below...

[ <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSenfhwrs1CqJstAFc-r2skf9YQPRmyEDEopurc4J3FGHWGqlg/viewform>]

DOCUMENTARY  
FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION  
2 SHOWINGS

Oct 5 Sunday

4:30pm  
&  
6:30pm

doors open at 4:00

First Congregational Church  
1050 E 23rd Ave, Eugene

SPONSORED BY PPJP  
PEOPLE FOR PEACE AND  
JUSTICE IN PALESTINE



GAZA  
DOCTORS UNDER  
ATTACK

(Contains scenes of traumatic injuries)

**PALESTINE  
WILL  
WIN!**

JOIN US ON  
OCTOBER 7TH  
TO RALLY IN  
SUPPORT OF THE  
CONTINUED FIGHT  
OF THE PALESTINIAN  
PEOPLE AGAINST  
THE ONGOING  
GENOCIDE AND  
OCCUPATION.

WHEN: OCTOBER 7TH.  
5:30PM  
WHERE: THE PARK  
BLOCKS DOWNTOWN.  
1015 PARK ST.

PRACTICE SAFETY. MASK UP.  
LEAVE PHONES AT HOME. BUDDY  
UP







# living creatively

## Poetry for Collective Awakening, for water to our collective soil

By: Stardust

*How do we diffuse the binaries  
between right and wrong , good  
and bad,*

*And create clouds which hold each  
and every one of us, in our unique  
time and place within our body-  
minds*

*How do we extinguish the flames of  
voices of past trauma*

*And spark fires of rebirth growth  
and expansion*

*How do we compost the soil of isms,  
of patriarchy and white supremacy,  
of forces calling for mistrust of our  
own bodies*

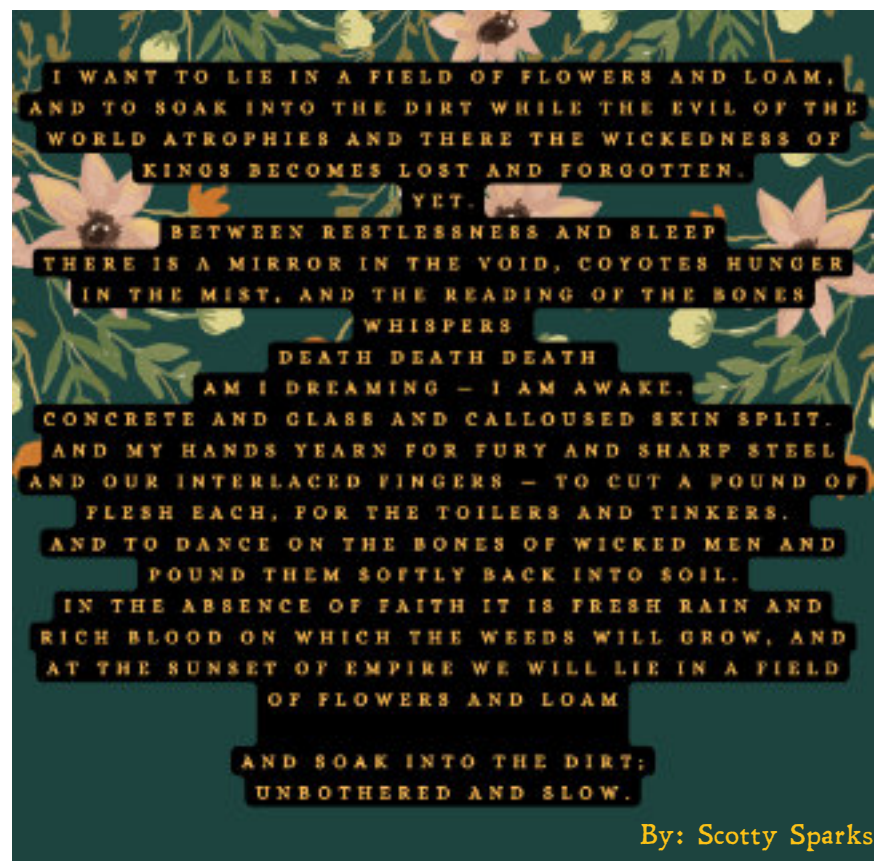
*And plant seeds of souls, each  
worthy of being, each a story  
deserving space to sprout*

*How do we melt the ice between us,  
the frozen stories we tell ourselves,  
words unspoken, stories untold,*

*And swim in an expansive sea of  
story, past present future, body  
mind soul, heart human  
community, plant creature animal,  
individual collective web*

*How do we dissipate the empire  
within*

*And cast spells of the abundant  
revolution within*



Hello dear kin! im inviting and seeking  
community voice for a future zine and  
workshop and would love to hear from  
you

stories that are an ode to;

how are your voices are a mirror for what  
you believe in

How do our voices weave threads of story  
of the quilt of collective healing

Ex: stories of:

healing conversations/ times your friend  
said something healing to you / (human,  
plant, animal, ancestor)

reframing something/ looking at  
something differently

practicing liberation in your relationships  
(centering access needs and crip time,  
calling in, centering indigenous ways,  
whatever this means to you)

communicating beyond words or  
experience w nonverbal states (writing,  
movement, image, etc)

[https://www.jotform.com/form/  
252157252852154](https://www.jotform.com/form/252157252852154)

Please share this survey with anyone you  
know who might feel inspired (especially  
trans, queer, disabled, neurodivergent  
kin). Thank you so so much



# Up For Grabs

By: John Zerzan

Harry Harootunian's 2000 book, History's Disquiet, reminds me of Freud's Civilization and its Discontents. The literal translation of its original title is The Disquiet in Culture.

There's more and more cause for disquiet. We feel more cut off, more lonely, and more aware that as global civilization falters exactly everything is up for grabs. Ulrich Beck, of Risk Society fame, points to a basic instability in his "Zombie Categories" essay (2016). Beck finds that basic social references such as class, family, and gender no longer refer to living realities, because their referents have changed so much. Capitalism without classes, he avers, will mean more, not fewer inequalities.

In the third decade of the Millenium, disquieting news comes in from various sources. Systems engineer Peter Wurmsdobler addresses "Tipping Points in Complex Systems" (2025) as likely involving sudden "phase-shift" events, e.g. collapse of civilization. Astro-physicist Tom Murphy (Do The Math website) provides a scientific refutation of the myth of sustainability, pointing to certain civilizational doom.

Ideology has been on the wane for some time. Right-wing populism is mainly resentment, not basically political. The ideology today is society itself. Agency, too, is in eclipse. History is what happens to the individual, as if inevitable.

Enlightenment was to be the end of superstition and myth. Turns out it introduced its own myth and extended the reign of domination. This is best examined in Horkheimer and Adorno's Dialectic of Enlightenment (1947), specifically in their essay "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception." Deeper than this: for "enlightenment," substitute "civilization." As Freud suggested, maybe the whole point of civilization is to repress the human animal, not liberate it.

The End of History and the Last Man, Francis Fukuyama's 1992 offering, echoes 1950s American political scientists who proclaimed "the end of ideology." Liberal democracy has triumphed, the final stage of political development has been reached. Andrew Bard Schmookler's The Illusion of Choice (1993) replies: "We have left our unfortunate history behind and arrived in the promised land. The guide who can't see says there is no place further to go."

Fukuyama builds upon the monumental misperception of Emile Durkheim, the "father of sociology," exactly a century before. The Division of Labor in Society (1893) consecrates alienated activity in a fundamental way. Durkheim rightly discerned that division of labor is the ultimate "source of civilization," but wrongly ascribed "social harmony" to that basic social institution. Cooperation and unity are its fruits, owing to its role in the integration of society. But integration can no longer be seen in a positive light—if it ever could—given the prevailing landscape of isolation and immiseration.

Industrialism and technological society required division of labor. As Marshal McLuhan put it, "First we build the tools, then they build us." Karl Marx missed this entirely in his mature thought: "The Luddites' mistake was that they failed to distinguish between the machinery and its employment by capital, and to direct their attacks, not against the material instruments of production, but against the mode in which they are used." Thus Marx abandoned his early confrontation with division of labor; he originally held that its abolition was essential for liberated humanity. And yet, as William Leiss observed in Under Technology's Thumb (1990), Marx remained puzzled by technology qua technology. He sensed some "peculiar quality inherent in the apparatus itself."

In The Technological System (1977), Jacques Ellul referred to "the linear, indefinite, and increasingly accelerated growth of technology. That was 1977; before personal computers, smartphones, AI. Now the juggernaut speeds forward at a truly dizzying pace.

Bernard Stiegler failed to see digitalization's pedigree and was taken in by its false promises. In his essay "The Tongue of the Eye: What 'Art History' Means" (2011), he asserted: "The relations of industrial work formed here are not those of the division of labor and the social roles that the 19th century productivism and 20th century consumerism had imposed: they are associative and participative."

Lonely and withdrawn more like, tied to the screens in a Great Retreat. Drowning in data and information, an ignorance explosion, as Juluis Lukasiewicz put it, as far back as 1994.

"Be a Good Ancestor" reads a current bumper sticker. Memory is the best grounds for revolt, not dreams of future liberation, Walter Benjamin felt. Our own memories and experiences, positive and negative, may foreground the fight in future. It's clear that the depth and varieties of deprivation we endure are potential reserves calling to be redeemed.

a week later. A default judgement issue was ordered after the company failed to attend the court date. The president of Rapid Response, Lance Hamel failed to pay any of the ordered amount to the woman's family. In 2024 Hamel and Rapid Response pushed for a redo on the case, first arguing that they had not been notified. When the contrary was proven, they amended their statement to claim that they had simply 'forgot'. This is according to court documents and testimony procured by Portland Street Roots.

In the wake of the seemingly fruitless meeting with Papaefthimiou and representatives of other parties in the conflict, the community at Thousand Acres was left to figure out next steps alongside advocates who have helped them along this journey.

*"A lot of people were angry and frustrated with the lack of response that we got.... There's this sense that the state is underestimating us, and that's an advantage in a way. There's a lot of beauty and power and strength in being a group that has a lot of care for each other. People are intent on not having the community split up and continuing to care for each other- no matter what." - Bantam*



Looking ahead to what's to come, Bantam described other routes that may begin to take shape- whether it be raising money to buy land elsewhere or building a "digital action toolkit where supporters can make calls and apply pressure to Kotek's office and DSL," they added that, "there will be opportunities for people to be showing up in person more, and laying out a process for how people can contact us and support us and get involved." They concluded, "when the state is after every aspect of your being, people get creative."

The Digital Action Toolkit was released shortly after the interview, and can be found here: [bit.ly/defend1000acres](https://bit.ly/defend1000acres)

Readers can also get involved by going to @thousandacresdefense on venmo and can follow the Instagram account with the same name to stay up to date and find resources as the encampment's struggle continues to unfold.

Photos taken by author at the encampment.



# Disabled Love

What happens when we tell the whole truth about the parts of us we've been taught to pretend don't exist?



*Strawberry (they ki he she) is a queer disabled art witch who lives in community. Find berry at [listeningtothenoiseuntilit-makessense.com](https://listeningtothenoiseuntilit-makessense.com).*

I met someone for the first time who was naked. Of course we're all naked under our clothes. I've met a lot of clothed folks, in my life. Some I've gotten close to and seen naked later, once we knew each other. But this was the first time I ever met someone who was naked.

At the time I thought this person was a woman. I was less practiced in understanding that gender is a construct, and parts don't necessarily have anything to do with gender. I must admit I was overwhelmed by his breasts and apparent jennies— the shapes and curves of his body— and overwhelmed by his intelligence shining out.

Immediately I cared for this naked person who apologized for being naked. Why did he apologize? Maybe I looked taken aback.

But I was at a new place, beginning a new chapter of my life— entering another world. That first day was sacredly liminal.

## stim

This new person saw me stimming; I stim a lot when I'm nervous. He is at least as crazy as I am, and some form of neurodivergent.

When he saw me stim, he stimmed back. We looked like we were casting spells, standing there under the trees. He stimmed in ways that matched mine, similar language— arm movements, motions of slow reaching, noticing, shifting, stretching, expanding. We began to communicate through stimming.

We conversed with our vocal language. And we had a separate conversation with the movements of our bodies.

I felt this person learning my stims the way we learn a new friend's accent. Learning my stims was respectful. We were meeting each other for the first time, two beings doing our best in a world that wasn't made for us. Our words had something to say, while our bodies had other things to say— matching, diverging, then matching.

## hands

Can you feel the energy in your hands? Can you direct it? Doing tai chi and chi gung, I was asked to feel and direct it, which I'm happy to do. In ritual I was asked to direct energy for magic also.

I keep a lot of my spirit in my pelvic bowl, in my root, in my jennies, and in my ass. Also my heart, stomach, and shoulders. But my arms and hands have the most ready and dynamic, changing, moving energy of my spirit body.

Stimming is a way I process information. I comfort myself out in the world or while thinking. Stimming is being kind to my body— autistic liberation. Stimming is freedom. Stimming is part of who I am because I'm alive, so I'm in motion.

But mostly stimming is energy work. The movement helps me stay safe because my energy isn't stuck and stagnating. I stay healthy with physical movement-based Honesty. The motion is an expression of my being. Like singing, my names, my fingerprints, my smells.

A long time ago when I was a child, people told me sit still, stay still, and be quiet. That was for their convenience. I was

a “good kid” and did what I was told. I got my sense of self-worth by obeying, getting A's at school, and being invisible— no trouble.

So I was motionless as a child, teenager, young adult, and adult— the stimming had been beaten out of me. When I grew up a few years ago, the people who had told me to sit still, stay still, and be quiet all eventually died. I looked up and realized I was free. The spell was broken.

Also I realized that if I want to stay alive, I need to be who I actually am, including movement. So I became a free stimmer and remain so to this day.

Some of my stims are happy— you'll find me swaying, vibrating, and making repetitive dance-like motions. My body is committed to certain movements. Vocal stims can come out as well.

My happiest stim is in my legs. They move back and forth. But most of my stims are with my arms. My arms and my hands have so much spirit energy, and when I stim I'm moving the energy, which gets me to the point of this essay.

## Jaguar

Recently I saw a new energy worker and learned a lot. The messages came at the beginning: I'm protected, I'm loved, I'm dear to the spirits. Earth spirits, forest spirits, and fairies are protecting me. My gentle energy needs to be balanced with a fierceness.

“Thank you, Jaguar,” the energy worker whispered partway into our session.

The energy worker didn't know that when I almost died in the hospital six years ago of a stomach ulcer— it had bled a large portion of my blood out of my body in the form of black poop— Jaguar came to save me. I was lying there on the energy worker's table which was warm with a heating pad. The energy worker had drummed and touched my feet.

When I heard the energy worker whisper, “Thank you, Jaguar,” I was shocked but not shocked, because I've been needing to thank Jaguar ever since that happened. I haven't properly thanked Jaguar and want to.

When I was lying on that table and the energy worker was clearing mistakes from my spirit body, trying to plant seeds of self-worth in my spirit body, in the holes we were leaving by clearing mistakes, telling me how dear I am and protected, I was releasing fear from my lower back, from all the places I hold grief in my body...

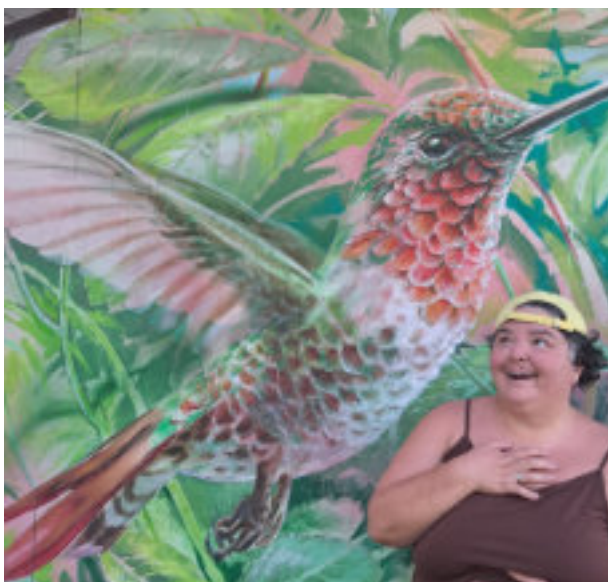
## trust

...and I thought about my naked friend. When we were moving our arms to communicate, that was sacred— that was holy. It was also fun. Now I understand that the way I stim is not just pleasure or release. I understand now it's keeping me alive.

When my new friend and I were trying out each other's stims— mostly the new friend was trying out my stims— we were slightly healing each other. It was exciting and made me want to be close to this person. It made me trust him.

Then I learned about his addictions, criminal history, and extreme difficulties functioning in the world. I realized that most people who are as crazy, sensitive, autistic, and different as I am have some shady shit in our pasts.

I'm lucky to have escaped the trauma of my childhood and youth somewhat unscathed. I haven't much been in the hospital; I was homeless for less than five months. I was arrested many times in direct actions, but I've never spent





time in jail or in prison.

chaos

My instinct that my new friend was someone not to get involved with was based on fear. I can't invite that much chaos into my life. I need to take care of myself because I'm a giver. I know from past interactions with people I've loved who have similar traits that I would get sucked in.

When I meet takers, especially charming, beautiful, brilliant, deeply gifted and wounded takers, I'm often at a loss. I get so depleted that I almost don't recognize myself, by the time I figure out that I need to drop everything and run.

When I think about how fortunate I am, that I could be this sensitive, crazy, autistic, and different yet have avoided so much horror of addiction, imprisonment, and near death—although I have been near death but for different reasons, less at my own hand— I don't know how to express how grateful I am.

gratitude

So I would like now to express how grateful I am.

Thank you to Jaguar for leading me out of the jungle when I was dying in the hospital of the gnarliest ulcer bleed my doctors had seen.

Thank you to my spouse Ming for holding me through sickness and health, helping me build a beautiful life to try things out and make mistakes in.

Thank you to my chosen family member Jack for helping me learn that I deserve love and I'm worthy— not based on sexual desirability or performing success in a way that society understands, but for my good heart and differences.

Thank you to my mom who taught me how to love and who every person in the world who benefits from my love might pay respect to.

Thank you to Parent Earth for giving me everything I need, and who will eventually take my body back into yourself.

Thank you to my own body, the sky, the clouds...to Harriet Tubman for showing me ways of liberation. To my ishtadeva Sri Sarada Devi for showing me the meaning of love through service and duty, cooking tons of food for wacked out spiritual seekers.

Thank you to the ocean. Thank you to water. Thank you to movement itself in the form of stimming which is a lot like the movement that is life— the movement of spirit to spirit, of fluids and materials within cells, of blood within circulatory systems, the movement of air in our lungs, which is the sky going into our lungs.

The movement of bees wiggling their butts to dance maps—the movement of plants toward the sun— the movement of the baby toward the nipple. And the movement of the dying as they stir their limbs in their final moments.

All of this is holy— all of this is sacred, and I give all of this gratitude to you, reader. I'm sharing in case you need to express gratitude as well, for however you've survived. Disabled or abled, imprisoned or free, stimming or still.

bring a comforting stone and join

Eugene Radical Mental Health Collective's free!

# Emotional First Aid Kit Workshop

Grower's Market upstairs

Oct 6 2025 10:30am-noon

454 Willamette St

kit materials, masks, water, & radical community provided

solidarity

## GARDEN SHOW

Miele

Mahonia Mist

Herrily

The Big Scare

9/28 6PM

4 OCT 2025 1-4 PM

### PENPALS FOR PALESTINE CHILDRENS LETTER WRITING

Eugene Public Library Pascon/Tykeson Room

The children living in the West Bank need some light and compassion. Let's let them know they have friends in Eugene who are thinking of them!

Building bridges from our families to theirs.

## Mend

An anti-capitalist theatrical spell

November 8 at 6-8:15pm

November 22 at 4-6:15pm November 23 at 4-6:15 pm

Fundraising for

440 Maxwell RD Eugene OR 97604

Learn more at: FundCreators.Fund.com



# DISSONANT WEATHER

Meet our resident dissident meteorologist, Praise: “I bring a raised-poor, working class, and Native raised-white perspective to this work. I am Chickasaw and Cherokee and feel a deep love for animals, plants, trees, clouds, the night sky, gurgling brooks, the ocean, and our exquisite, unique, precious, irreplaceable planet Earth. Though I have no formal climate science education, I studied astrophysics as a young person. I became interested in ecology in 1977, then moved close to Glacier National Park, Montana in 1980 and fell in love with cryospheric science...I've been a climate activist since the mid-1990s and also bring that perspective to the amateur weather forecasts for the Eugene area...Given the increasing attacks on the climate sciences, it's perhaps no surprise that I am beginning to see myself as something of a dissident amateur meteorologist”

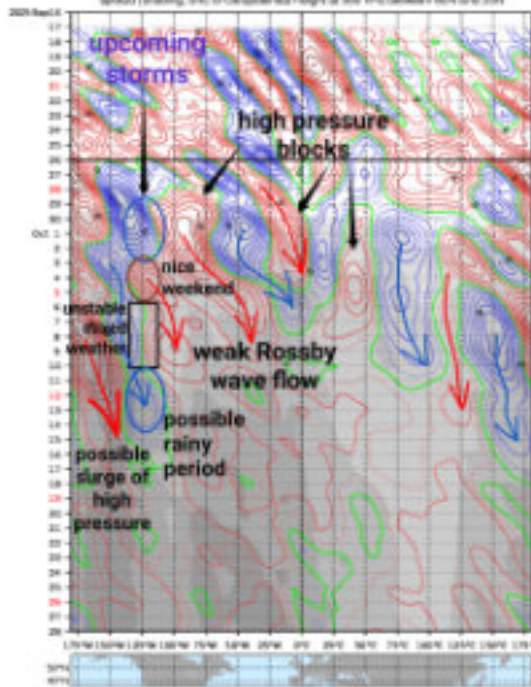
## EARLY AUTUMN SUMMARY

By and large, the first half of October has done almost a complete 180° turn towards Autumn weather in just two days, and a series of fairly moderate storm systems this week could help seal the deal.

Starting this weekend, a blocking pattern of high pressure over the East Coast, north Atlantic, and Russia will help lock in a mostly low pressure regime over western Oregon for at least the next 15–18 days, or so.

Two stratospheric polar vortex (SPV) disruptions are imminent with the first already affecting the lower polar stratosphere. But, as usual this early in the season, the higher levels will NOT be severely disrupted.

More consistent high pressure may not return until the last two weeks of October.



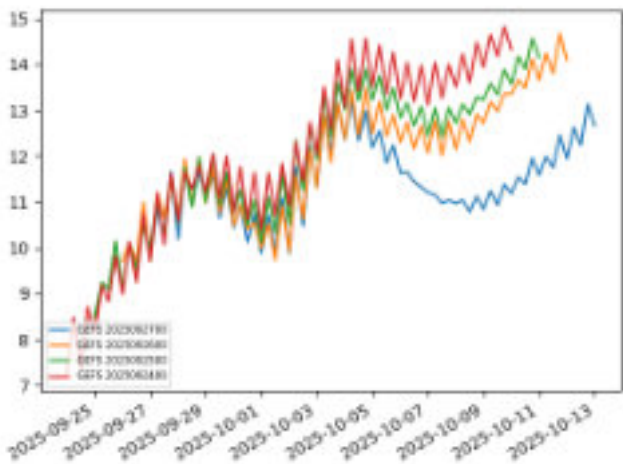
## FOUR - WEEK FORECAST

A series of fairly moderate storm systems will impact Oregon early next week—the first being a long atmospheric river, and the second looking more cyclonic with possibly more rain.

Breezy winds are possible on Sunday by mid-afternoon. Eugene could see

precipitation as early as Monday morning, with around 0.15–0.25 inch total rainfall for the atmospheric river.

The more cyclonic system for Tuesday currently has a larger range of total rainfall, roughly 0.20–0.50 inch.



Gusty winds up to 25–35 mph are possible on Tuesday by late morning and all afternoon. Breezy conditions are also possible on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. (Another system could arrive late Thursday.)

Widespread gale-force winds are also likely all day Tuesday all along the Oregon coastline, along with high seas. There's an elevated threat for sneaker waves through Tuesday night for anyone along the Oregon coast.

Next weekend could end up dry with high temperatures in the low 70s, followed by what looks like a mixed and unstable period.

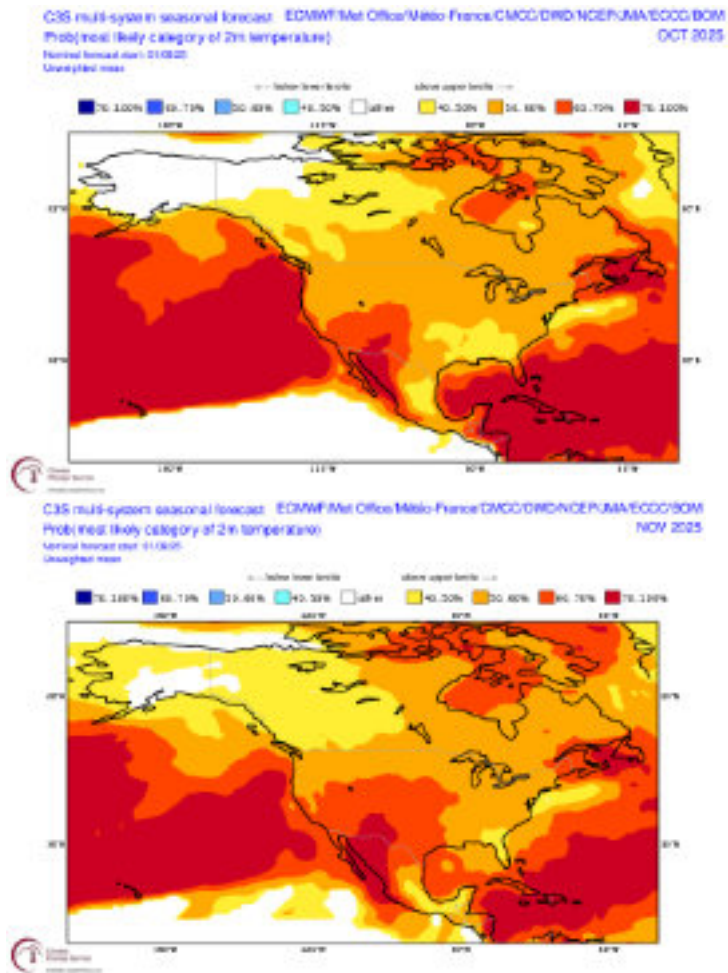
A mild SPV disruption from Siberia already underway may not have much effect around here. Siberian snow cover is extensive and Arctic sea temperatures are near normal north of east Siberia, both of which should help to channel the disruptive Ural Basin high directly across the central Arctic atmosphere. If this happens, I would not expect a significant cold air mass to reach us.

Any possible impacts on the Pacific Northwest, if any, would probably be delayed until at least October 10–12. But that's also about when the next stormy period will arrive.

Now, the second SPV disruption is more uncertain and could be stronger, so I wouldn't discount any possible Northwest impacts shortly after October 15–16.

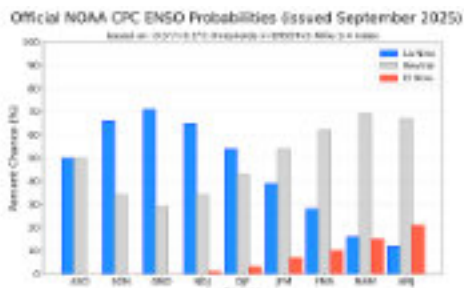
After that, a resurgence of high pressure may bring seasonably warm and dry weather heading into late October, just as global wind speeds are predicted to increase.

## SEASONAL TRENDS



The Copernicus C3S seasonal forecasts expect the extreme north Pacific marine heatwave to continue promoting generally elevated air temperatures across the southern Pacific Northwest through the rest of Autumn.

And the Climate Prediction Center is predicting La Niña conditions will develop rough by mid-Autumn and should last into mid-Winter, at least. And a return to El Niño is not out of the question by next Summer.



–Praise





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