



### Lakes are too hot for trout releases

Why is it that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife refuses to stock area lakes during the summer, precisely when lake use is highest and the interest in catching trout to cook is also at its highest? Do they think people fish for trout in the spring?

In fact, they really want those trout to go home in coolers (albeit only at legal limits), and that's one of the reasons fish aren't stocked in the summer.

The water's often too hot. And this year, also too low. Dan VanDyke, ODFW's Rogue District fish biologist, points out that rainbow trout are coldwater fish that thrive in temperatures up to the mid- to upper-50s.

Water that reaches the mid-60s causes concerns that the already stressful handling, loading and releasing of trout may increase that stress and cause more fish to die, VanDyke says.

Moreover, warmer water holds less dissolved oxygen for trout, making it even more difficult for trout to adapt to their new environs and survive, he says.

During summer, water temperatures in the ponds, lakes and reservoirs of the Rogue watershed can often exceed 70 degrees.

The local exceptions to this are the Rogue River upstream of Lost Creek Lake, where cool water flows year-round, and Fish Lake, which has some cool-water springs.

That's why the Rogue and other water around Union Creek are stocked weekly through the summer, and Fish Lake is tapped to get another 3,000 fresh legal-sized rainbow trout through last weekend.

Send questions to "Since You Asked," Mail Tribune Newsroom, P.O. Box 1108, Medford, OR 97501 or by email to youasked@mailtribune.com.

### YOUR NEWS

#### Send the Ashland Tidings your photos

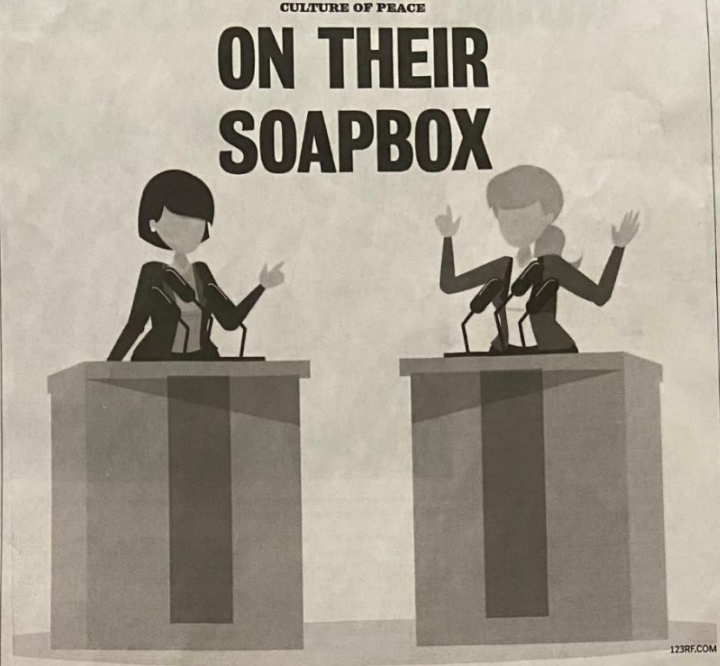
Are you interested in seeing your photos published in the local section of the Tidings? If that's the case, please send them to us. Email your photos to jumberson@rosebudmedia.com. Please make sure to say who took the photo, when and where the photos were taken and, if applicable, identify any people in the photo.

### CALENDAR

In lieu of mandated social distancing set by the state of Oregon, many activities, public spaces, performances, etc., have been canceled. The calendar listings will return after such restrictions have been lifted.



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# ON THEIR SOAPBOX

## Mayor candidates speak about excessive force by police

Editor's note: On Aug. 24, Ashland Culture of Peace Commission posed a question to Ashland mayoral candidates Tonya Graham and Julie Akins: "If you are elected, what action would you take to influence reform at the Jackson County Jail and the Sheriff's Office to reduce excessive force?" Because the Jackson County jail houses Ashland residents, the mayor represents our collective voices. Here are the responses from both candidates:

**JULIE AKINS**  
I've been thinking about it often. I thought about it recently when the Oregonian broke a story about an Oregon Shakespeare Festival actor who was arrested in Ashland and, according to his account through his lawsuit, was brutalized in the Jackson County jail.  
I've thought about it while documenting the daily crisis of being unhoused and the jail time that often accompanies the occurrence of violating various ordinances which govern behavior.  
It is unlawful by Ashland ordinance to sleep in public, but if you have no private place to sleep and your body shuts itself down, what do you do? If a police officer wakes you after an hour or two of sleep and you are combative due to the strain on your body, mind and soul — these are the times you may find yourself in the Jackson County jail.  
Yet, Ashland has ordinances and a right to keep order for its citizens. How do we strike a balance?  
As mayor of Ashland I would have no jurisdiction over the jail nor the sheriff's department. That is the job of the county. But I would have some influence over how people wind up in jail from Ashland. And I would use it to see that fewer people are arrested. Depriving people of their liberty needs to be a last resort.  
Fortunately, there is another way like the much celebrated CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets). As of 2019 CAHOOTS was working with Olympia, Denver, Oakland, New York City, Indianapolis, Portland, Austin and Chicago to help implement similar programs. The program was founded in Eugene in 1989.  
It's time we consider this model. The Ashland Police Department is funded at roughly \$8 million annually. I feel convinced the police could be funded to accomplish this with no budget increase.  
Most crimes in Ashland are not violent crimes. In the case of violent crime, we absolutely need our armed and trained police officers. But armed officers are not the right responders to all situations. Police generally are trained to deal with crime, not mental health situations. According to the Treatment Advocacy Center in Arlington, Virginia, at least 25% of people killed in police encounters have serious mental illness. No one benefits from that sad statistic: not the officers, the person nor their families and community. We need not continue down a road we know doesn't work.  
Police need to be able to do their jobs: Preventing and solving crimes. For mental health issues and simple ordinance violations there are better answers, and other communities are showing us the way.  
My answer to the question is that I would send fewer people to the Jackson County jail. I would instead intervene in a way that's appropriate to the situation and get people the help they need. I would free police officers to do their job of fighting crime and let social workers and mental health professionals do their job of keeping peace in their field of expertise.  
Having said this, I am a representative for Ashland residents and would seek their guidance and approval.

**TONYA GRAHAM**  
Given the uncertainty and the widespread despair the pandemic is causing, our guiding principles must be kindness and respect for one another if we are to build peace in our community and in the world.  
Although the mayor of Ashland has no legal jurisdiction over the Jackson County jail or sheriff, I offer these thoughts about what we should expect from our law enforcement professionals.  
A policing philosophy that respects all people, protects our communities, and provides accountability for bad behavior requires a near sacred trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. We entrust specific duties to our police and expect, in return, that they treat all people with compassion and respect.  
To that end, we must make sure we choose well, train well, and provide the environment necessary to ensure public safety while respecting and protecting the dignity of all.  
We also need to monitor behavior and act swiftly when officers show poor judgment and cross the line into excessive force.  
It should also be said that community members have a reciprocal duty to treat our law enforcement officers with respect as they work to uphold the rules government has adopted.  
I elected mayor of Ashland, I will.  
I Advocate for enhanced training in de-escalation techniques, procedural justice, implicit bias, and how best to manage inmates who are under the influence of drugs and alcohol and/or are suffering from mental illness.  
Work with other local government and community partners to create a system that differentiates between mental health crises and law enforcement situations so that the right assistance arrives when someone calls for help.  
We must also ensure a healthy environment for inmates and officers at the jail. I have toured the jail. It is oppressive for everyone inside its walls. Although I was only visiting, I felt for both the inmates and the staff and was relieved to get outside again when the tour was over. We want all who are inside the facility to maintain their humanity, and the physical environment of our jail makes that incredibly difficult. Our current facility was designed with one goal — to punish. We can and must do better.  
As part of any future approval process for a new jail, Ashland must ensure that Jackson County has appropriate systems in place so that we are confident that our residents are treated with respect and exit any encounters at the jail with their dignity intact.  
I have already begun working on these issues. The council recently passed the Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution that Councilor Dennis Slattery and I drafted and presented to council along with Councilor Rich Rosenthal. It includes developing a program that would dispatch mental health practitioners, rather than law enforcement, to respond to emergency calls to help people suffering an acute mental health crisis.  
This is a very important issue to me, so I volunteered to lead the Council's efforts on that task. I have initiated discussions with Ashland Police Chief Tighe O'Meara, local advocates, and Jackson County to move this effort forward.

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### JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## In-person public meetings canceled

Anti-mask group repeatedly attended meetings in violation of Oregon regulations

By Vickie Aldous for the Tidings

Jackson County commissioners will have online-only public meetings after a group of people opposed to COVID-19 restrictions repeatedly attended meetings without wearing masks.  
One of the members of the anti-mask group is Michael Erickson, who calls himself Biome and has made unsuccessful runs to be mayor of Ashland. On Twitter, Erickson describes himself as a "White (Aryan) male American National Socialist/Historical Revisionist."  
A fan of Adolf Hitler, Nazism, segregation and white supremacy, Erickson has tweeted that the Holocaust and the COVID-19 pandemic are hoaxes.  
"It's all a manufactured scam, hoax designed to bring on the global slave state. Lockdowns are for prisoners. Don't be fooled!" he tweeted about the pandemic.  
During a recent county commission meeting at which he didn't wear a mask, Erickson said Oregon's governor and state health officials are beholden to globalist corporate masters. He said communists are inciting racial division across America in hopes of taking over the country.  
"The pandemic and the race war are both contrived," Erickson said.  
County commissioners agreed Thursday to stop holding their regular Wednesday meetings in-person at the Jackson County Courthouse auditorium. They had been offering the public the option of attending in person or via the videoconferencing service Zoom.  
Earlier in the pandemic, the commissioners were meeting by Zoom only, but then began offering the in-person or videoconferencing option.  
But for at least a month, several people have been attending the Wednesday public meetings to question whether the pandemic is real and to say Gov. Kate Brown's regulations meant to stop the spread of the virus are unnecessary and authoritarian.  
Jackson County could potentially be slapped with costly Oregon Occupational Safety and Health fines for allowing people inside a government building who aren't wearing face coverings or practicing social distancing.  
A Lakeview pharmacy that let customers inside without masks was fined \$9,400 in August.  
Commissioner Colleen Roberts said she would like to be able to offer residents both in-person and online opportunities to comment but doesn't want to risk OSHA fines, which she called exorbitant.  
"I don't want any undue liability to the county, and hopefully this is all a short time frame," she said of the move to online-only meetings.  
Roberts said struggling businesses throughout Oregon are having to figure out how to stay afloat under pandemic restrictions imposed by the state. She said the mask mandate has divided people.

### Southern Oregon have n

SEATTLE — The Resident orcas have become a new member of their family. Mot Tahlequah, 335, is a call. KOMO-TV two years ago. He carried her dead days and 1,000 grief gripped the people all around. According to Ken the founder for the Whale Research, arrived Friday on "robust." The group announced discovered that was pregnant in significant for the gliding orcas who boat noise, a fuel supply, habitat, environmental pollu

### Arizona end to sell river

PHOENIX — The Arizona Department of Resources ended a proposal from farmland radio River to a Phoenix suburb of post effects for the river. The recommended water sale by the Queen The Arizona Saturday. AS state approval permanently quarters of farmland annual entl 678 million Creek for a of \$21 million requires fee has generated whether tr away from the economic comm miles west the Califo Resource chazka a he recom transfer t half the p

### Nation propos

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## Mayor Candidates speak about excessive force by police

September 8, 2020

By Irene Kai, Co-founder, Ashland Culture of Peace Commission

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A policing philosophy that respects all people, protects our communities, and provides accountability for bad behavior requires a near sacred trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. We entrust specific duties to our police and expect, in return, that they treat all people with compassion and respect.

To that end, we must make sure we choose well, train well, and provide the environment necessary to ensure public safety while respecting and protecting the dignity of all.

We also need to monitor behavior and act swiftly when officers show poor judgment and cross the line into excessive force.

It should also be said that community members have a reciprocal duty to treat our law enforcement officers with respect as they work to uphold the rules government has adopted.

If elected Mayor of Ashland, I will:

- Build a close working relationship with the Jackson County Sheriff to ensure that our community members are treated with dignity and respect in all interactions at the jail
- Advocate for enhanced training in de-escalation techniques, procedural justice, implicit bias, and how best to manage inmates who are under the influence of drugs and alcohol and/or are suffering from mental illness
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