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A Perseid meteor pierces the night sky just below the North Star over the dark desert skies of Joshua Tree National Park in California. Similar photos of the Perseids shower can be found at www.astropics.com.
 Courtesy of Wally Pacholka

Star showers

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throughout the years, but this year it may be a bit harder to see the showers.

"The problem this year is there is going to be a bright moon," Zimmerman said. "To see them the best you really need a dark sky."

So where is the best place to go?

According to Zimmerman, the trick is to get away from the city lights.

"You don't want to drive far, [so] I usually tell people to go out in the valley around Goshen," Zimmerman said. "Or the other side of Spencer Butte that is blocked from the city lights."

Domineack also suggests finding a nice dark place.

"Go somewhere you can get a view of the whole sky, [such as] Fern Ridge Reservoir or 25th and Lawrence," he said, referring to

the lake east of town and one of the highest points in Eugene, respectively. "If you really want a good view, go to Eastern Oregon's

“This is the most famous of all meteor showers — it was recorded in Chinese history before the birth of Christ. Babylonian and Greek recordings of it go back to the 8th, 9th and 10th centuries.

James Schombert
 University professor of physics

Pine Mountain Observatory." The observatory is located approximately 26 miles southeast of Bend, and is at an elevation of 6,500 feet. Once you have found the ap-

propriate place to search, begin scanning the skies between the Little Dipper and the Big Dipper in the northeast, right by the W that is formed in the sky, the constellation known as Cassiopeia, Zimmerman said.

Because of this year's bright moon, experts suggest the best time to see the stars is the period in the early morning hours, around 3 a.m., before the sun comes up.

"This is the period of time when the sky is very dark," Zimmerman said.

While astronomers and star gazers will be looking toward the sky to catch a glance at a few meteors, Zimmerman had a few words of practical advice.

"Don't be disappointed if it's not a fireworks display," he said. "But you should be sure to see one."

For more information about the Perseids meteor shower, contact Freddie Domineack at 461-4665.

HIV director

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With a mother who was a nurse in an intensive care unit, she admitted to a long-time interest in health policy issues. She developed an interest in the AIDS issue in the 1980s, after witnessing members of the gay community work together to change the health system.

She attributes that activism to helping improve hospice care and getting the Food and Drug Administration to supply new drugs to the market more quickly.

Lang Brissenden said that her biggest challenge is "keeping the community aware this is a disease that is very much present in our community ... [and] trying to get info to the population that is under-served and fighting an uphill battle to begin with."

"I'm looking forward most of all to working with the staff," she said. "It's a very professional staff with a lot of expertise. I'd like to help them figure out how we'll have the most impact in Lane County."

After a period of seven months without a director, the agency was eager to have Lang Bris-

senden on board.

"We went from wanting someone to run the agency to wanting someone to enhance the agency," said Trent Seager, the men's outreach director for the HIV Alliance during the past two years.

"Diane fit that role because she has been here in Eugene for some

“Diane is fantastic. She's a great addition to the agency. She's going to expand relationships for the agency and the community.

Sherold Barr
 Eugene HIV Alliance board member

time and has a background in health law," he said. "Her strength is helping us run efficiently as an agency."

Lang Brissenden was the obvious choice in a solid field of candidates, several members of the HIV Alliance board of directors said.

"Diane is fantastic," said Sherold Barr, a board member for

the past five years. "She's a great addition to the agency. She's going to expand relationships for the agency and the community."

The HIV Alliance is Lane County's only nonprofit organization to provide support for those facing the challenge of HIV and AIDS.

Services include providing health care and social services to HIV-infected clients and their families, educating students and community members on the facts of HIV and reaching out to at-risk men and women.

HIV Alliance's projects include the Sana Needle Exchange, a program designed to help intravenous drug users protect themselves from becoming infected with HIV or spreading the disease to others. Since its commencement a year ago, the program has collected 45,000 dirty needles.

The Riverwalk, which celebrated its 14th year on May 20, serves as a fundraiser for the HIV Alliance. This year's theme, "It's Not Over: Step Up, Be Aware, Act," addressed an issue Lang Brissenden plans to emphasize — that tens of millions of people in the world have been infected with HIV and zero have been cured.

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