

PEACE CENTER CONFERENCE SEEKS CHANGE

The Lane Peace Center's second annual Peace conference: "Peace & Collective Action: Connecting Hope to Change" is Friday and Saturday, May 29-30. Keynote speakers are David Solnit, direct action organizer and editor of *Globalize Liberation*; and Joel Magnuson, author of *Mindful Economics*.

Friday events take place at the LCC Center for Meeting and Learning, and Saturday events will be at Cozmic Pizza in downtown Eugene. Go to www.lanecce.edu/peacecenter for a complete program and registration and ticket prices, which vary for students and nonstudents.

"Obama made his promises, and now we are trying to hold him responsible," says Stan Taylor, director of the Peace Center. "The peace movement has a growing recognition that Obama is not going to be the peace president, and we need to organize. The U.S. is not withdrawing from Iraq or Afghanistan, and the new budget expands the military by 4 percent, which cuts into social programs."

The conference will bring together educators, students, community members, and activists dedicated to building a peaceful society and nation, "reflecting the idea that peace is rooted in social, economic, political, racial and environmental justice," says Taylor.

Presenters include: Good Sista, Bad Sista, Walidah Imarisha & Turiya Autry, David Cobb, Megan Wade; David West, Benji Lewis, Adam Bacher, Sasha Crow, Mary Madsen, Chicora Martin, Greg Evans, Arbrella Luvert, Beth Aydelott, Stacy Vyenne, Will Newman, and Ishi & Iana. — *Ted Taylor*

GAP AHEAD IN MIDWIFE BIRTHING SERVICES?

PeaceHealth is planning to close its medical group's Nurse-Midwifery Birth Center June 30, possibly a year or more before a new birth center opens in Springfield, leaving a potential long gap in out-of-hospital birthing in the valley.

"There are a lot of folks involved and details still being ironed out," says PeaceHealth spokesperson Andrea Ash, but no details were provided by press time.

The popular Birth Center at 511 E. 12th Ave. has served nurse midwives and about 2,000 families over the past 28 years. Groundbreaking has been delayed for a new \$417,000 birth center about a quarter mile from RiverBend Medical Center in north Springfield.

PeaceHealth was planning to keep the 12th Avenue center open until the new center is built, but now that RiverBend is built, "PeaceHealth is telling us we are too far away from the hospital to be considered low risk for birthing women," says Jude Hales, R.N., who works for PeaceHealth and the Birth Center. Hales says the concern "is actually a little ridiculous because our transfer rate is very low. In the years that I've worked there we have never transported a mother intrapartum [during labor and delivery] for any kind of emergency. It's always been if she decides she wants pain medication or labor stalled out and she needs something to help promote contractions."

"They ultimately told us that we cannot continue to practice in this location, so we said OK, so what's the plan? The plan, if you want to continue services, is to move out to the RiverBend campus, but you have to pay for your own move."

Hales says the center managed to raise more than \$600,000, "which speaks loudly for what the community wants. But what has happened is they delayed the groundbreaking three times now."

A letter from Katharine Gallagher of the Friends of the Birth Center steering committee was sent to PeaceHealth regional CEO Mel Pyne, dated May 19, expressing "profound concern over the process and direction of interim planning for the Birth Center. The plan, as I understand it, fails to preserve the practice's model of care and to maintain continuity of care, criteria critical to the Birth Center's long-term viability."

Gallagher wrote about the uncertainties facing pregnant women, potentially "diminished birth and postpartum lactation services," the rise in cost from about \$2,000 for a Birth Center birth to about \$8,000 for a hospital birth, and other concerns.

"We see dismantlement as a catastrophic blow with the potential to fully undermine birth center-based midwifery, a model of care touted and much loved in this community for its affordability, access and truly excellent outcomes," wrote Gallagher.

The complete letter and news updates can be found at www.lanecofbc.blogspot.com

— *Ted Taylor*

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

• **ODOT:** For information on proposed spray schedules, chemicals used, and dates of past applications call Don Angermayer at 736-2841. The Herbicide Application (888) 996-8080 is helpful but not always accurate, so double check this information with Don Angermayer.

• **Gypsy moth spraying** (southeast Eugene): The last tentative spray date was May 19. Health effects and social disruptions caused by the spraying are being collected and documented. Contact Lisa Warnes, vice-president of the Southeast Neighbors Association, 484-2210.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, *Forestland Dwellers*: 342-8332, forestlanddwellers.org

news Briefs

INVASION OF THE ALIENS

Burmese pythons trying to swallow whole alligators in Florida; toothed fish called snake heads capable of breathing and crawling on land, escaping their aquariums and devouring small mammals; large rats that live in streams and damage dams and cause flooding. All sound like scenes from bad made-for-TV movies. They are all the results of invasive species, and some members of Congress say they need to be stopped before the problems get worse.

Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio is among 31 legislative cosponsors of HR 669, a bill which would regulate nonnative wildlife species in the United States.

Essentially, HR 669 is a replicate of a previous bill, HR 6311, which failed to obtain confirmation from Congress the past two years. Both bills create The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act, aiming to ban certain species under a vague U.S.C Title 18 classification of "injurious wildlife."

According to HR 669, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would determine the species prohibited from importation through science-based evaluation.

Peter Jenkins from Defenders of Wildlife, a supporter of HR 669, says, "It is all oriented to the future, so in the future commercial importers can't bring in harmful species without some assessment."

Unconventional pet owners and sellers oppose HR 669 for its restrictive text. The U.S. Association of Reptile Keepers (USARK) claims the U.S. accounts for 82 percent of the global reptile industry and the bill would destroy a \$3 billion a year industry. The organization also says that one in 25 U.S. homes has one or more reptile pets.

DeFazio said in a press statement, "This is a responsible bill designed to stop the spread of dangerous and costly non-native invasive species," and pointed out the damage that nutria, the invasive large semi-aquatic rodent species, have done to dams, dikes and industrial crops in Oregon.

Local pet store Zany Zoo reacted to the proposed bill by putting red signs on the cages of potentially affected species, warning that they will become illegal if HR 669 is passed. The signs are visible for the majority of the animals there.

Zany Zoo owner Nathan McClain worries that the bill ignores concerns of the pet industry. He believes the bill is poorly crafted with no distinction between captive breed and wild-caught animals, nor does it make consideration for unique animal lovers. "It will cause hundreds of millions of animals to be released into the wild or slaughtered wholesale," he says.

DeFazio's statement says that contrary to "Internet myths," the bill "exempts live-

stock and commonly domestic animals and will not take away people's pets."

An April 23 subcommittee hearing ended without a resolution due to more than 50,000 signed written letters petitioning against HR 669. However, since then the bill has gained six legislative cosponsors. — *Sachie Yorck*

SAVING THE LANDMARK CIVIC STADIUM

Eugeneans will have a chance to get involved in the effort to preserve historic Civic Stadium when Save Civic Stadium (SCS), the nonprofit that formed to protect the historic ballpark, holds a general meeting at 7 pm Tuesday, June 2, in the EWEB meeting room.

SCS is focusing on finding creative ways to save the stadium and, ideally, retain the Eugene Emeralds minor league baseball team. The stadium occupies only about half of the property, so some plans involve selling and/or developing the other half of the land to recoup costs while retaining the stadium itself as a multi-use facility. Dennis Hebert, president of SCS, spoke at City Club of Eugene April 10. Part of his talk is available on video at www.cityclubofeugene.org

SCS formed in 2006 when the future of the current home of the Ems first came into question. Since then, the group has gathered thousands of signatures from the community and garnered support for the cause from the Eugene City Council, which pledged staff time to the issue at a work session back in January.

Civic Stadium, built in 1938 under the New Deal, is in need of restoration, and the group is trying to find the funds for the project. SCS is also trying to find a buyer for the property, as the stadium's owner, the 4J school district, no longer considers the stadium useful. To compound these problems, the Ems plan to move to PK Park, UO's new baseball stadium, in the 2010 season because of Civic Stadium's increasing disrepair.

The meeting on Tuesday will be an overview of what has happened in the past year. Tom Halferty, secretary of SCS, says that the group wants to save the stadium with or without the minor league team — and, he adds, "It's not a done deal — the Ems could very well end up staying at Civic."

Either way, Tuesday's meeting will give Eugeneans the opportunity to learn more about the beloved landmark and get involved in one of SCS's committees. "We're looking for participation," Halferty says.

— *Krista Harper*

SISTER CITY ARTIST DIES

Russian artist Aleksandr Sheltunov from Eugene's sister city of Irkutsk has died unexpectedly of a heart attack at age 58. He and his paintings were well known to the art communities in Eugene, Corvallis and Portland as well as Russia, China, Japan and Europe.

Sheltunov worked mainly in watercolor