



agreement with the USFWS to expedite protections for 757 species across the country, including 26 Pacific Northwest slugs and snails. — *Camilla Mortensen*

EUGENE STILL LEADS U.S. IN BIKING

Eugene's bike commute rate dropped last year, but the U.S. Census survey has a big margin of error and Eugene remains the top city in the U.S. of its size or larger for biking.

In 2010 8.3 percent of commuters in Eugene, almost 6,000 people, rode their bikes to work, according to the Census's American Community Survey estimates. That's down from 10.8 percent in 2009, but the survey reported a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points for the 2010 data.

Eugene's 2010 bike rate is still the highest

in the nation for cities its size or larger. Portland's 2010 rate is 6 percent.

A few smaller cities have higher rates than Eugene. Boulder, Colo. has a 9.9 percent bike commute rate, Davis, Calif. has a 22.1 percent rate and Corvallis has a 9.3 percent rate. But Eugene is a third larger than Boulder and more than twice the size of Davis and Corvallis.

The long-term trend for bike commuting in Eugene is increasing after a decline, according to Census data. In 1980 8 percent biked, in 1990 5.8 percent and in 2000 5.5 percent.

A new bicycle and pedestrian plan headed to the Eugene City Council this month calls for more accurate local counts of cyclists. To dramatically reduce global warming pollution and increase health and livability while saving money, the plan calls for a doubling in biking rates over the next two decades. — *Alan Pittman*

(A version of this story first appeared at EugeneCycles.com)

LIGHTEN UP

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

The Republicans are still looking for the right presidential candidate to run against Obama. It's not easy to find a fraud voters can believe in.

biz beat

An independent book store called **The Book Nest** has joined the shops at INDULGE! Wine & Food mall at 1461 Mohawk Blvd. in Springfield. Owner Amanda Bird will offer new and used books, including a collection of cook books.

The Oregon-based nonprofit **Friends of Trees** is planning to open a Eugene office this fall. The news comes with the announcement by Eugene director Erik Burke that the local branch will benefit from a \$25,000 Meyer Memorial Trust grant that will help the organization integrate with the Eugene Tree Foundation. Friends of Trees has also received a \$5,000 grant from REI for expanding natural area improvements in the Eugene-Springfield area. Friends of Trees-Eugene plants trees and does urban restoration work in partnership with the Eugene Tree Foundation. To volunteer or donate, visit friendsoftrees.org

Eugene environmental attorney **Charlie Tebbutt** has a new office and a new staff with Dan Snyder, staff attorney, and Marisela Taylor as assistant. Open house is from 4:30 to 6:30 pm Thursday, Oct. 13, at 451 Blair St. See charliettebbutt.com

Send suggestions for Biz Beat items to editor@eugeneweekly.com and please put "Biz Beat" in the subject line.

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