

# biz beat

The nonprofit **Helios Resource Network** now has matching grant money available for nonprofits and emerging groups planning to become nonprofit, according to Helios President Cary Thompson. The small-grant program focuses on sustainable action and education in Lane County. For more information see [heliosnetwork.org/grantinfo.htm](http://heliosnetwork.org/grantinfo.htm) or call 636-0465.

A **regional carsharing program** is scheduled to launch April 2 in Eugene and Springfield. The program is a collaboration between LTD's Point2point program, Enterprise Rent-A-Car's WeCar program, and the cities of Eugene and Springfield. Ribbon cutting ceremonies will be at noon Thursday, March 29, at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, followed by 2:30 pm at 906 Charnelton St. in Eugene. The program will begin with four Ford Fusion cars. Call LTD at 682-6183.

Eugene mortgage broker **Casey Lown** of Alpine Mortgage Planning is now providing free information on HARP 2.0, the Home Affordable Refinance Program designed to help "underwater" home owners with loans through Fanny Mae and Freddie Mac take advantage of today's lower mortgage rates. He can be reached at 743-2970 or email [casey.lown@alpinemc.com](mailto:casey.lown@alpinemc.com)

The **Oregon Bach Festival** brings thousands of classical music fans to the Eugene area each summer and the dates this year will be June 29 to July 15. Performances will be in Eugene, Portland and five other cities this year. See [oregonbachfestival.com](http://oregonbachfestival.com) And overlapping the Bach Fest will be the **Oregon Country Fair** July 13-15, with early tickets now available online at [ticketswest.com](http://ticketswest.com)

**Mountain Rose Herbs of Eugene** now has "the only certified organic tea line on the market packaged with 100 percent post-consumer waste materials," according to VP Shawn Donille. See [mountainroseherbs.com](http://mountainroseherbs.com)

Send suggestions for Biz Beat items to [editor@eugeneweekly.com](mailto:editor@eugeneweekly.com) with "Biz Beat" in the subject line.

## news Briefs

by Louis-Dreyfus (*Seinfeld's* Elaine, *The New Adventures of Old Christine's* Christine), Meyer feels more authentic, funny and flawed than other women on the tube, teetering between confidence and frazzled incompetence.

*Girls*, HBO (April 22). The latest HBO show about four single New York City women is being called the "antidote" to *Sex and the City*. Whereas *SATC* is set in the city's most glamorous pockets, *Girls* takes a sharp, comic and more relatable look at Big Apple life for ambitious and broke recession-era twentysomethings who get tested for STDs, smoke pot, struggle with their weight and have awkward sex.

— Alexandra Notman

## SNAIL DARTERS AND AMPHIBIANS

"Hump smarter, save the snail darter," Zygmunt Plater read off a package of the Center for Biological Diversity's Endangered Species Condoms, which were given out to attendees of the UO's Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in early March.

The questionably witty rhyme got the packed audience laughing in the EMU ballroom on the afternoon of March 3 for the keynote speakers of the day. The subject at hand was a case near and dear to Plater, who is a faculty member at Boston College Law School.

Plater has served as petitioner and lead counsel in a case

involving the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The snail darter was crucial to his argument that went before the Supreme Court. The TVA had put dams all over the state flooding small farmers' lands and damaging wildlife habitats, but these concerns weren't enough leverage to bring a suit.

According to Plater, the key was the Endangered Species Act, which had recently been passed at the time in 1973. Under this legislation, the snail darter was endangered and needed to be protected. The Tellico Dam threatened its protection. Plater made his case based on this and won, but the dams were built anyway thanks to a congressional amendment exempting the snail darter from the ESA.

The second keynote speaker that afternoon was Tyrone Hayes, a biologist and professor at the University of California, Berkeley. In his research, Hayes has focused on how chemicals can affect amphibian development. He has studied these dangers throughout the U.S. and Africa.

Hayes had found that certain herbicides such as atrazine can feminize male amphibians. He urged that this is not only a risk to wildlife, but to humans too and especially to those in lower-income areas who tend to be less informed about the dangers surrounding pesticides. Locally, atrazine is widely used as a forestry pesticide, and members of the Triangle Lake community have tested positive for its presence in their urine. For more information on Hayes' research go to [atrazinelovers.com](http://atrazinelovers.com)

— Ted Shorack

### ACTIVIST ALERT

- The Opportunity Eugene **Task Force on Homelessness** will be meeting at 9:30 am Friday, March 30, at Lane County Health and Human Services, 151 West 7th Ave., Room 258. Contact is Michael Wisth, 682-5540 or [michael.c.wisth@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:michael.c.wisth@ci.eugene.or.us)

- The SOLVE Spring **Oregon Beach Cleanup** will be from 10 am to 1 pm Saturday, March 31. Volunteers are encouraged to register at [www.solve.org](http://www.solve.org), or call (503) 844-9571 ext. 332.

- A public "meet and greet" with Springfield **Mayor Christine Lundberg** and some city councilors will be from 1 to 3 pm Saturday, March 31, at Jerry's Home Improvement, 2525 Olympic St. in Springfield.

- Two community meetings on "Transforming Healthcare in Lane County" are coming up, dealing with the **Oregon Health Plan**. The first will be from 1 to 3 pm Monday, April 2, at the Florence Events Center on Quince Street in Florence. The second will be from 5:30 to 7:30 pm Tuesday, April 3, at the Eugene Public Library downtown.

- Another "**Hoodie Action**" built on this week's gathering at the old Federal Building is coming together

for 6 pm Monday, April 2, at the Free Speech Plaza, 125 E. 8th Ave. The vigil in memory of Trayvon Martin is being organized by Occupy Eugene, NAACP, CALC and the Civil Liberties Defense Center. A march is also planned that day at 5 pm starting at Campbell Senior Center, 155 High St.

- The third in a series of first-Monday "**Conversations on the Forest**" continues at 6 pm Monday, April 2, at Cozmic Pizza, 199 W. 8th Ave. in Eugene. Hosted by Commissioner Rob Handy, forester Roy Keene, and *ArchitectureWeek* editor-in-chief Kevin Matthews. Handy says the first monthly meeting drew 100 people, the second 140. "It's gathering legs like we thought it would," he says. See [conversationsontheforest.org](http://conversationsontheforest.org) for more information, or email [rob@robhandy.com](mailto:rob@robhandy.com)

- Commemorating the anniversary of **Martin Luther King Jr.'s** death, CALC will present local high school students performing excerpts from his speeches and writings on economic justice, as well as their own speeches, poems, or songs, from 7 to 9 pm Tuesday, April 3, at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak. Call 485-1755 or e-mail [calcpeace@efn.org](mailto:calcpeace@efn.org) for more information.



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