

news Briefs

COUNTY FUNDS KILLING COYOTES AND BEARS

Contracts show that Lane County paid thousands of dollars in 2011 to Wildlife Services, a federal agency that reports show killed almost 60,000 animals in Oregon over a 10-year period through trapping, snaring and poisons. It is unclear whether Lane County has signed a new contract with the agency in the new budget year, according to Commissioner Pete Sorenson.

Brooks Fahy of Predator Defense and Sorenson turned up a contract between Lane County Wildlife Control and Wildlife Services for \$14,545. That contract ended June 30. The county's Waste Management division signed with Wildlife Services as well, for \$16,000 through Dec. 31. "If they can afford \$16,000, then they can afford to fix the fence," Fahy says.

He says he recently went out to the county's Rattlesnake Road disposal facility and saw large breaks in the fence. The facility recently had a trap set to catch a bear. Once a

bear is caught, they are generally killed, Fahy says. He says fixing the fence and making the area less tempting to bear would be a better use of county money than trapping and killing animals. "These dumps are basically bait stations," Fahy says. "I want Lane County solid waste to cancel the contract." He was unable to find out if a bear had been trapped and killed.

Sorenson says, "Brooks and I have worked over the years to eliminate any contract with Wildlife Services," and says, "the Lane County Budget Committee eliminated what I would call 'generic funding' for Wildlife Services, but that may have been renewed in this last budget year." Sorenson and Fahy discovered that the Eugene airport has also contracted with the controversial agency for \$10,000 from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

'Wildlife Services is one of the most misnamed of all federal agencies – it sounds like it's for wildlife when it's not.'

– Commissioner Pete Sorenson

Gail Gould, a sheep farmer in Pleasant Hill, says there are predator problems in Lane County. "We have regular losses to coyotes and cougars," she reports. "I have lost six lambs with attack bites on the side or bottom of the neck. I have several living adult sheep with similar wounds. I am assuming that the damage is from coyotes."

Fahy and Predator Defense advocate for and give advice on nonlethal means of predator control.

Sorenson says Wildlife Services is "something I'm glad I got rid of; it's a bit alarming that these contracts have crept in." He says, "At the congressional level I've been supportive of [Rep. Peter] DeFazio's efforts to eliminate federal funding of Wildlife Services."

He adds, "Wildlife Services is one of the most misnamed of all federal agencies — it sounds like it is for wildlife, when it's not."

A recent report by the *Sacramento Bee* showed that since 2000, Wildlife Services has accidentally killed more than 50,000 animals that were not problems — golden and bald eagles, rare or imperiled species and more than 1,100 dogs. Since 1987, at least 18 employees as well as several members of the public have been exposed to cyanide when they triggered spring-loaded cartridges meant to poison coyotes.

Fahy says that if the public knew more about this, they'd be outraged.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC), legislation requiring the USDA to publish clear and accessible information on animals killed through Wildlife Services, which was introduced in the House Aug. 2.

"It shouldn't be incumbent on government to subsidize livestock producers," Fahy says. "If the county is broke, where does it get the money for this?" Fahy asks.

— Camilla Mortensen

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE BRINGS IN EXPERTISE

People who are homeless need a legal place to sleep – and cities benefit from providing that space. That's the premise of Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE), which is proposing a community similar to those in Portland and Seattle.

Portland architect Mark Lakeman will speak at an OVE event at 7 pm Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the new Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W 13th Ave. Lakeman's City Repair Project, a nonprofit that works to transform urban spaces based on artistic and ecological principles, was influential in the creation of Dignity Village, the Portland homeless community.

Andrew Heben, an urban planner and designer on the steering committee for OVE, says there's a trend right now of cities coping with homelessness by helping transition homeless people from existing tent cities to villages. Heben says cities are starting to recognize that evicting homeless people doesn't adequately address the problem of homelessness. "They'll be evicted from one site and they'll move to another site," he says. "Finally the city realizes that the problem's not going to go away, and they give them a piece of land."

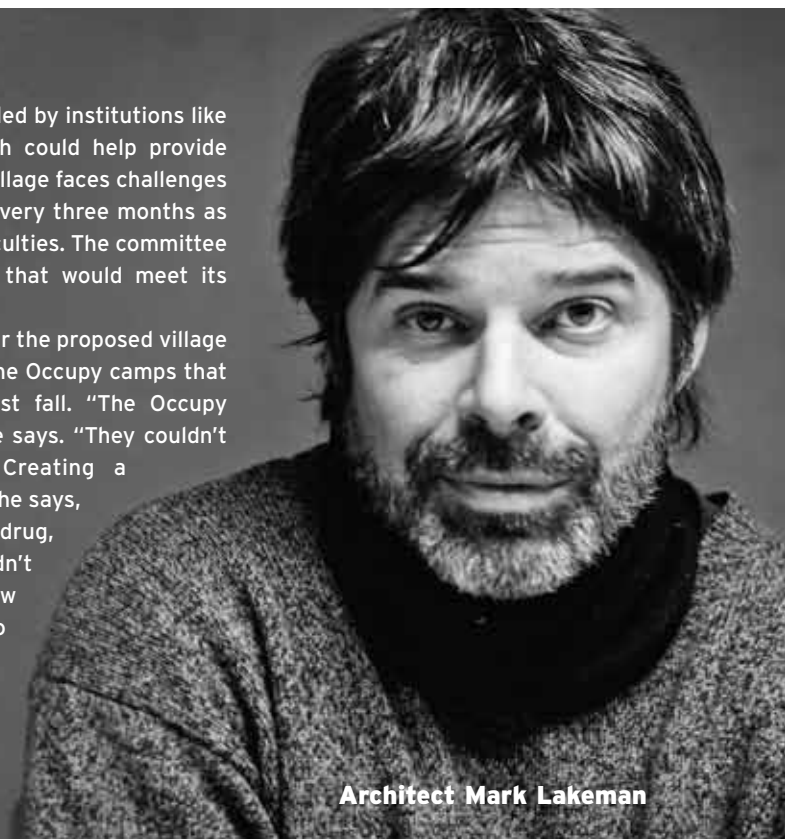
The OVE steering committee proposed a site near 13th and Chambers that fits a list of criteria identified in the early planning stages, Heben says. Among other criteria, it's close to

bus and bike transportation and surrounded by institutions like the Unitarian Universalist Church, which could help provide support. Heben says Portland's Dignity Village faces challenges due to its remote location, and moving every three months as the Seattle village does also creates difficulties. The committee is still interested in other suggestions that would meet its criteria for a successful site.

Heben says it's been frustrating to hear the proposed village referred to as a camp and compared to the Occupy camps that hosted a large homeless population last fall. "The Occupy Eugene camp was pretty anarchistic," he says. "They couldn't exclude anyone from living there." Creating a community with community agreements, he says, means that people who can't abide by drug, alcohol and violence-free principles wouldn't be allowed to stay. Those who can follow those rules could be connected to resources that could help them transition out of homelessness.

See a video featuring Mark Lakeman on the *EW* blog.

– Shannon Finnell



Architect Mark Lakeman

BEST HANGOVER... DINNER?

Your favorite breakfast joint
NOW has an all new dinner menu!

Brails RESTAURANT & ESPRESSO

BREAKFAST ALL DAY

New Hours:
Mon- Thurs 7am – 9pm
Fri-Sat 7am – 10pm • Sun 7am – 3pm
1689 Willamette • Eugene • 343-1542
see our full menu on facebook

The Best OF EUGENE 2011-2012

The Willamettans Family Nudist Club, where all you need to wear is a smile.

OPEN HOUSE, HOT AUGUST, OPEN HOUSE

Here we go again with the final, Hot August Open House of the summer. **Saturday August 11, from 10am to 4pm**, we will open our gates to the public for a free day of fun in the sun. Come out and see our brand new beautiful Tennis/Pickleball courts that you have to see to believe. If you can't wait for the 11th to arrive bring this ad to our office for a free visit so you can get started on removing those tan lines. Be sure to check our web site for all of the upcoming events.

 **The Willamettans**
A Family Nudist Club

Swimming Pool • Tennis Courts • Horseshoes • Camping or Rentals

541-933-2809 willamettans.com
aanr.com • 1-800-TRY-NUDE