



What's a "**benefit company**?" The Oregon Senate has approved a new designation for businesses to register as corporations committed to sustainability. Companies will need to meet certain social and environmental performance guidelines. HB 2296A has passed both houses of the Legislature and is expected to be signed by Gov. Kitzhaber, but the rules and regulations are still to be worked out.

The **Eugene Bawk Celebration**, a backyard poultry event which overlaps (unintentionally) with the Oregon Bach Festival this year, will be 2 to 6 pm Saturday, June 29, at The Eugene Backyard Farmer store, 501 Washington St. The event features live music, food booths, chicken poetry readings, a crowing contest, chicken beauty pageant and a DJ playing chicken-themed music. Call owner Bill Bezuk at 485-3276 or see eugenebackyardfarmer.com.

Friendly Street Market will have a new owner soon, Erin Gilfillan, and will not be closed for remodeling as we reported in our Chow! issue June 13. The transition will happen in mid-August. Gilfillan is owner of Pony Express Restaurant Delivery Service and plans to continue that business as well.

Energize Corvallis has a new initiative to increase local energy savings. Going Ductless! is a program that educates and promotes the purchase and installation of ductless heating systems, in collaboration with The Heat Pump Store, 6775 SW Philomath Blvd. in Corvallis. The three-month promotion ends Aug. 31. Call (877) 509-2961.

The **Downtown Liquor Store** has moved to a new and larger location at 401 W. 11th Ave., formerly occupied by Kannabosm. The previous location was 220 W. 8th Ave. Owner Ken Hand says the new location has plenty of off-street parking and will allow an expanded inventory. Open Monday through Saturday. Call 343-4424.

The **Farm to School Program** needs a minivan to transport staff, volunteers, fruits and veggies and program supplies to and from schools and farms. The ideal van or similar vehicle would be reliable and low-maintenance. A donation would be tax deductible. Contact Megan Kemple at 344-4329 or megan@lanefood.org. The program is part of the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, which partners with local school districts to incorporate locally grown and processed foods into school lunches and snacks. The Oregon Department of Education recently awarded grants totaling more than \$55,000 to expand the local Farm to School Program.

Ferry Street Café is a coffee shop at 1260 Ferry St. that opened in early June, serving not only coffee but sandwiches, smoothies, etc. Owners are Holly Saunders and Steve Thomas, both retired paramedics from California. Find the shop on Facebook or call (530) 503-5770.

Spencer Creek Community Growers' Market is now open from 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays at the Spencer Creek Grange, and is inviting backyard gardeners in the area to join the fun for \$5 a space. Register at spencercreekgrange.org or call Genie Harden at 341-1709.

See's Candies is opening a new shop in Eugene on Friday, June 28, in the Lindsey Crossing Shopping Center at 207 Coburg Road. The California-based company makes more than 100 varieties of chocolates and other candies.

We hear **Hilton Hotel** and Conference Center employees spent the better part of Saturday, June 22, building raised garden beds for residents of ShelterCare's Afiya Apartments in Springfield. ShelterCare provides support services for families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and adults with mental illness or brain injury. The garden project is part of ShelterCare's Healthy Food Initiative.

NEWS

RODEOS, DOGS AND THE LEGISLATURE, OH MY!

Though the Oregon Legislature is still tied up in session, Oregon dogs will no longer be tied up on short leashes or for long periods of time, thanks to an anti-dog-tethering bill. That's just one of several animal-oriented bills that came up this session. Animal advocates are cheering the ones that have passed (and cheering some that died) and expect some more good news for the beasts to come through before the session ends.

The dog-tethering bill, House Bill 2783, was signed into law June 13. It basically says domestic animals (not horses or livestock) cannot be tied "with a tether that is not a reasonable length given the size of the domestic animal and available space," and the animal should not be able to get tangled up in it in a way that will hurt it. It also says that the pet cannot be tied with a pinch or choke collar and can't be

tied for more than 10 out of 24 hours. It gives exceptions for things like campgrounds and certain working dogs.

Scott Beckstead, Oregon director for the Humane Society of the United States, is among those celebrating the wins for animals in Oregon. He points out that among the bills that didn't make it through this session were ones that would change Oregon's current voter-mandated ban on hunting cougars with hounds.

A bill banning horse tripping in Oregon — roping a galloping horse by the neck and legs and intentionally causing it to fall — passed in the House (57-1) and Senate (22-6) and now moves to the governor's desk. Beckstead cites the leadership of Sen. Mark Hass, Rep. David Gomberg and House Majority Leader Val Hoyle in moving the bill forward and eliminating "the embarrassing disgrace of horse tripping from the Oregon landscape."

Kendra Kimbirauskas, who testified in favor of the bill, says, "As someone involved in the horse industry, I have been ashamed and embarrassed that horse tripping was legal in this state." She says Republicans and Democrats joined together to stop "this horrific practice."

'The basic idea is that patients should know what they're getting'

- JOHN SAJO, HB 3460 CO-AUTHOR

CANNABIS DISPENSARY BILL PASSES HOUSE

Medical marijuana patients too sick or inexperienced to grow their own cannabis might have new options. House Bill 3460 passed 31-27 in the Oregon House June 24, and the Senate was gearing up to vote as *EW* went to press June 26.

"Right now patients obtaining medicine often have to be in the gray areas of the law, and that's not good for anybody," says John Sajo, who co-authored Oregon's medical marijuana initiative. About 200 medical marijuana dispensaries, collectives or cafes now operate in Oregon's legal gray area, according to the Associated Press. In the past year, authorities have busted two Eugene-area medical dispensaries, The Greener Side and Kannabosm.

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) gives participating patients or their caregivers the right to maintain up to six mature plants, but advocates of dispensaries say not everybody wants to grow cannabis or knows someone who can grow it well, so some patients end up turning to the black market.

In addition to making medical cannabis easier for patients to access, Sajo says there are benefits in health, safety and quality control. "The basic idea is that patients should know what they're getting," he says. "It's helpful, medically, to know what the percentages of the active ingredients are," and the Oregon Department of Health can add requirements to screen for molds and pesticides.

HB 3460 includes regulations such as no dispensaries in residential neighborhoods or within 1,000 feet of schools, which Sajo says is reasonable.

"We don't have other businesses in residential neighborhoods — we don't have pharmacies there — so that's just common sense."

The bill allows for regulations to be added. "There are a lot of complicated issues still out there," Sajo says, including federal laws making it difficult for dispensaries to obtain bank accounts, potentially complicating efforts to regulate and audit them.

A representative from the office of Eugene Sen. Floyd Prozanski, a longtime advocate of marijuana policy reform and co-sponsor of the bill, says that Prozanski thinks there's sufficient support to get 16 votes in the Oregon Senate, and a vote would likely happen Wednesday, June 26, sending it to the governor's desk.

— Shannon Finnell