



Food and farm rights in Lane County are the focus of a citizens' initiative petition filed July 10 at the Lane County Elections Office. The filing launches the Support Local Food Rights campaign, which, if successful, will be "the first food rights for residents and farmers to be established in Oregon," according to chief petitioner Lynn Bowers. Ann Kneeland is the attorney for the campaign and can be reached at 255-0272 or annbkneeland@yahoo.com.

Jewish Events Willamette-valley (JEW) is a new nonprofit in Eugene dedicated to building Jewish community, pride and learning. JEW and the Bijou have teamed up to start the Eugene Jewish Film Festival, says JEW Executive Director Shmuel Shalom Cohen. "Edward at the Bijou suggested that we have an ongoing monthly film festival to keep people interested all year long, rather than an intense one-week period once a year and then be forgotten till next year," he says. "Also it is easier for people to see a movie once a month instead of every day for a week." The first movie is *Fill the Void*, an Israeli film. "It is unusual in that it is a movie about the ultra Orthodox Jewish world written by a woman from that world," Cohen says. It will be shown at 2 pm Sunday, July 14, at the Bijou Metro downtown, with a discussion to follow. Ticket prices are \$5 with donations above \$5 going to JEW. See JewishEventsWillamette-valley.org and Bijou-cinemas.com/bijoumetro.

Institutional Stove Solutions (InStove) will be hosting its first "Spark-A-Change" event from 2:30 to 5 pm Saturday, July 13, at the Hideaway Bakery behind Mazzi's at 3377 E. Amazon Dr. in Eugene. InStove designs, builds and places environmentally friendly cookstoves in refugee camps, schools and orphanages around the world. Staff and volunteers at this event will be demonstrating the technology and talking about their programs. The event is free but includes a raffle and food and drink sales to raise money to send a dozen stoves to Africa. See instove.org/events for more information.

Saturday Market downtown is in full operation this summer even during big regional events such as Art and the Vineyard and the Oregon Country Fair. Some of Saturday Market's regular vendors will be out at the Country Fair this weekend, but many other craft and food vendors will be on the Park Blocks catering to locals and visitors. On the Market Stage this Saturday, starting at 10 am and running through the afternoon, will be Ken Silverman, Rich Glauber, Parzival, The Now Brothers, The Huckleberries and To the Bridge.

Fisherman's Market at 7th and Blair has completed its extensive remodeling project, inside and outside and is celebrating July 10-16 with special offers and free samples. Owner Ryan Rogers, a commercial fisherman who bought the place in 1997, says the renovations will provide more space for customers eating inside. The market also does a lot of take-out business. Call 484-2722 or visit eugenefishmarket.com.

SELCO Community Credit Union has opened a new west Eugene branch at 3630 W. 11th Ave. The credit union opened for business in early June but had its ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration July 10. Local contractor McKenzie Commercial renovated the commercial building and it's the first SELCO building to be equipped with solar panels. "To date, our carbon offset with the solar panels is equivalent to 27 trees," says Kasey Easley of SELCO, "and this number continues to grow daily."

The 12th annual Oregon **Lavender Destinations Tour** is Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14, at herb farms around the southern Willamette Valley. See oregonlavenderfestival.org for locations or call Carol Tannenbaum at 336-8575.

The nonprofit **Mobility International USA**, based in Eugene, is raising money on Kickstarter and from other sources to fund publication of the *Brilliant & Resilient* photography book, a project that recognizes the leadership and accomplishments of disabled women activists worldwide. Photography is by Brian Lanker, Darcy Kiefel and Paola Gianturco. So far, \$7,355 has been pledged by 80 backers. See wkly.ws/1ic or call Susan Sygall at MIUSA at 343-1284.

NEWS

FOUR TO THREE LANE REDESIGN COULD BE SAFER

Willamette Street, one of Eugene's most collision-prone roadways, will get a makeover in 2018. The city's community meetings to consider reengineering the street to work better have been packed to the brim. When the Eugene City Council considers alternatives later this summer or in early fall, it will choose from three options: the four-lane street's current configuration; three lanes, including a center turn lane, and bike lanes in both directions; and three lanes with wider sidewalks.

Consultants from DKS Associates, a traffic-engineering firm the city hired for the project, say the average delay on Willamette Street, if redesigned to include three lanes, would be about 30 seconds. Between 100 and 500 drivers per day could reroute themselves if looking to rush through the corridor.

Senior Transportation Engineer Scott Mansur says that similar "road diets" in places like Washougal, Wash., caused many of the same concerns that some residents have regarding Willamette Street, but the Washougal conversion has been successful in reducing accident rates without disrupting businesses.

According to the city, Willamette Street has approximately double the rate of collisions of similar Oregon streets. Mansur says a redesign in Washougal solved a similar problem on a 12,000-vehicle-per-day corridor (Willamette sees 16,000 vehicles per day). He spoke to Washougal's police chief after the redesign was in use, and it turns out the four-to-three conversion saved time (and ergo costs) for emergency responders, as well. "Since the conversion happened, he said he can't recall any collisions that occurred that he'd had to send crews to on that corridor," Mansur says. He says the city's public works coordinator reported that business owners on the corridor, who were skeptical of the redesign, have been surprised by its functionality.

A 2012 PSU study found that adding conveniently located bike lanes is good for business because bicyclists

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spend more money at bars, restaurants and convenience stores than drivers do, but cyclists are less likely to travel in corridors that aren't bike-friendly.

Eugene's fire chief told the R-G that he's concerned three lanes might cause difficulty for emergency responders, but Mansur says that a redesigned street would require the same driving tactics as a four-lane street: vehicles moving to the right to make room for emergency vehicles.

"As an engineer I think of it as physical space, and if you've got 42 feet curb-to-curb and there's four travel lanes or you've got 42 feet curb-to-curb and three travel lanes and bike lanes, there's still the same amount of physical space," Mansur says. "If cars are moving over to the bike lanes, it's still the same amount of room for emergency vehicles to get through the corridors." — Shannon Finnell

GROUP SAYS DEFENSE ACT EXPLOITS FEAR OF TERRORISM

Organized opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 is rolling into Lane County. People Against the NDAA (PANDA) question the act's authority to undermine basic rights in cases of suspected terrorism, with two subsections in the 2012 NDAA allowing for indefinite military detention of U.S. citizens without trial. The law affirms the 9/11-era Authorization for Use of Military Force that granted the president enhanced powers against suspected terrorists until the "end of hostilities" in the "War on Terror."

PANDA will hold town hall meetings with presentations by founder Dan Johnson in Springfield and North Bend next week, protesting misuse of the NDAA, which exists to authorize the military's budget. "Instead it became a haystack bill," Johnson says. "Politicians would throw needles in and hope they never got seen." Nearly 200 amendments were proposed.

The 2014 NDAA passed the House last month, while key amendments to change the 2012 provisions were voted down. Reps. Peter DeFazio, Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici and Kurt Schrader voted against it; Rep. Greg Walden voted in favor. "It was kind of disappointing," says Shane Ozburn, Oregon state coordinator for PANDA.

