



Local and regional **solar companies** will like this. The nonprofit Environment Oregon (EO) is pushing Eugene and other cities to “prioritize solar energy” through a petition that can be found at environmentoregon.org (click on “Go solar, Oregon”). The group says Oregon gets less than 1 percent of its energy from solar, “but local governments can play a big roll in repowering our state with clean, renewable solar energy.” How? By adopting proactive solar policies, including installation targets and streamlined permitting, and working with local solar companies to provide discounts though bulk buying campaigns. EO is working with the Oregon Energy Industries Association and recently held a lobby day in Salem to push for pro-solar legislation in the next Legislature. Many cities have adopted solar access codes to prevent new development from casting shadows on neighbors’ existing or potential solar amenities, but Eugene’s building codes are very weak regarding solar access.

Job opportunities for registered nurses are getting a boost in the area with the completion of the psychiatric hospital in Junction City and the anticipated \$80 million expansion of McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center in Springfield, due to be completed in 2018. With these developments in mind, along with our aging population, the financial technology company SmartAsset has ranked the Eugene-Springfield metro area as fifth in the nation for nursing careers. “The Eugene area already added almost 300 nursing jobs in 2014 alone,” says the company.

On a local note, however, not every aspiring nurse can get the required education. Nursing programs at Oregon colleges have a very limited number of openings and they are expensive to staff and operate. Oregon colleges turn away about 50 percent of qualified nursing school applicants, according to a story in the *Portland Business Journal* in 2012. Compounding the problem are the lack of instructors, classrooms and labs and the age of RNs currently on the job. About “25 percent of the 36,000 nurses licensed and practicing in Oregon expect to retire within 10 years,” according to the story.

ART for ALL (Animal Rescue Teaching for Any Level of Learner) will host a Halloween field day open house in celebration of its newly acquired 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from noon to 4 pm Saturday, Oct. 31, at 85671 Chezem Road outside Eugene. This is a free family event open to the community and will include costume dress-up rides with ponies, arts and crafts and treats. Owners are Tammy and Dan McNally. The nonprofit’s mission is to “rescue and rehabilitate animals using them for education of people young and old.” Call 556-2353 for more information.

Cynthia Hylton, senior health insurance benefits officer for Lane County, will speak at the meeting of Health Care for All Oregon Eugene Chapter from 7 to 9 pm Tuesday, Nov. 3, at First United Methodist Church, 13th and Olive in Eugene. Hylton will speak on current Medicare enrollment program options. Email siniger@efn.org for more information or visit hcao.org.

BRING Recycling is doing something different for Halloween. BRING’s Planet Improvement Center at 4446 Franklin Blvd. in Glenwood is inviting people to bring in leftover fruit from backyards and urban orchards from 11 am to 3 pm Saturday for a “scary fun community cider pressing.” WildCraft Cider Works will process the juice to create an artisanal cider that will be sold starting New Year’s Eve to benefit the Long Tom Watershed Council. Wear a costume to the event and get a 25 percent discount on most used merchandise at BRING.

BrightStar Care in-home care agency is a new business with offices at 935 Oak Street, Suite B, downtown. Owners of the franchise are local entrepreneurs Jennifer and Mark Ensminger. The business will “provide a range of compassionate, person-centered medical and non-medical care to people of all ages, from infants to seniors,” say the owners. Rachel Shipsey has been hired as director of nursing. The business is actively hiring and is expected to have 40-plus part-time and full-time certified nursing assistants and caregivers by year’s end. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for 1 to 4 pm Tuesday, Nov. 10. Call 632-7800 for more information.

“Finding a Job After 50” is the topic at a free workshop at 5:30 pm Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Eugene Public Library downtown. Representatives from WorkSource Lane, Goodwill Industries, Experience Works and Lane Community College will share information and advice. Sponsored by Eugene Public Library and LCC Successful Aging Institute. Call 682-5450 or eugene-or.gov/library.

NEWS



THIS BOBCAT CAUGHT IN A SNARE IS FEATURED IN A DOCUMENTARY BY PREDATOR DEFENSE

PHOTO CREDIT: PREDATOR DEFENSE

FILM SHOWING CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF PREDATOR DEFENSE

“Right now at this moment a coyote is strangling in a neck snare or a wolf is struggling in a leghold trap,” says Brooks Fahy, executive director of Predator Defense and one of the nonprofit’s founders. The predator advocacy group is celebrating 25 years of work to protect coyotes, wolves, cougars and other predators on Nov. 5 with movies and a Q&A at the Bijou Art Cinemas on 13th Avenue.

Predator Defense started off in 1990 as Cascade Wildlife Rescue, a hospital and rehab for predators. Fahy says the journey started with three coyote pups whose parents had been killed by a government agent. Fahy raised and released them and that, combined with his involvement in political activism such as trying to ban trapping in Oregon, led him to get a license in Oregon rehab wildlife and then found the rescue.

After five years, Fahy and Cheri Briggs, who had joined him in 1992, ran into another dilemma. The group was rescuing and rehabbing predators only to release them into a shrinking habitat with “no safe place for them. There are traps everywhere, poison everywhere,” Fahy says. He points to Wildlife Services, a government agency that is charged with resolving “wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist” as a top killer of predators. The agency killed 2.7 million animals in 2014, down from 4 million in 2013. Animals killed range from birds to bears and include feral dogs and cats as well as several pet dogs.

Fahy and Briggs had been working on a campaign to stop the aerial gunning of wolves in Alaska, and they made the decision to address Wildlife Services, then known as Animal Damage Control, on a national level.

“There is no other organization in the country that’s dedicated more time and resources to these issues,” Fahy says.

Fahy says over the years one of the things he is most proud of is the relationships the group has formed with individuals from all walks of life. Former government agents have aided in exposing the bad science behind the trapping and the group has brought everyday people before Congress to testify about their dogs that have been poisoned or trapped.

Fahy says that stopping Wildlife Services from aerially gunning coyotes on Oregon’s Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge is a prime example of Predator Defense’s work. It has “stood the test of time,” Fahy says.

In 1995, the refuge called to have the coyotes killed in response to a year in which almost no pronghorn fawns had survived, and Predator Defense, with the help of former refuge biologist Jim Yoakum, fought back, pointing

to bad weather and habitat as the culprit for the low fawn survival. The gunning was stopped each time the refuge called for it. Pronghorn fawns rebounded without the gunning of predators and Fahy says that over the next 20 years this allowed the group to prove that nature, as opposed to predator control, works.

It has not been an easy journey, Fahy says, but working with Predator Defense has been “extraordinary.”

There will be three films shown at the Bijou to celebrate Predator Defense’s 25 years,

and staff — including Fahy, carnivore advocate Sally Mackler and filmmaker Paul Garrett — will be at the theater to answer questions. The films include a 10-minute documentary about a rescued and released bobcat, *The Imperiled American Wolf* and Predator Defense’s latest film, *Exposed: USDA’s Secret War on Wildlife*.

The event, presented by Encircle Films, starts at 6 pm at Bijou Art Cinemas, 492 East 13th Avenue. Ticket prices are \$8.50 in advance, with senior, student and member discounts available. Tickets can be purchased at bijoucinemas.com or at the door. — *Camilla Mortensen*

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— BROOKS FAHY, PREDATOR DEFENSE