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The **Arts and Business Alliance** BRAVA Breakfast will be at 7:30 am Friday, June 1, in the lobby of the Hult Center. The Maude Kerns Art Center will be given the 2012 Fentress Award recognizing excellence in performing and visual arts groups. Ceramic artist Betsy Wolfson of Woof Works Studio in Eugene will also be awarded the 2012 Bishop Endowment's Eugene Arts and Letters Award "for her nontraditional ceramic creations that speak of human feelings and of ageless wisdom." Register for the breakfast event at www.eugenechamber.com

NEDCO, the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation, is expanding to create a new micro-finance program called Community LendingWorks. The program is designed to "serve individuals and families who lack the financial resources to build the assets they need in order to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children," according to NEDCO. Local peace activist David Hazen says, "I've waited a long time for this opportunity to invest directly in my own community with funds I've yanked out of Wall Street." The next information session will be from 5 to 6:30 pm Tuesday, June 5, at Springfield City Hall. Call 345-7106.

Locally owned **Evergreen Nutrition** at 16th and Willamette is celebrating 32 years in business in June and is planning lots of "gift basket drawings, free goodie bags and product demonstrations" at the store. Evergreen, founded by Dorothy Shields out of a chiropractor's office, is also involved in health education and activism through its website and email lists. See evergreennutrition.com or call 729-9128.

The **Solarize Eugene** program run by The Resource Innovation Group (TRIG) has signed up more than 40 households during its first two months, and more than 200 residents have attended workshops on solar hot water and electricity. Five Eugene solar installers are involved in the program: Advanced Energy Systems, Energy Design, Green Store, Pacific Solar and Rain, and Solar Assist. Program Manager Sarah Mazze of TRIG says the process of going solar is now more easy and affordable. "People are shocked at how much the prices have gone down over the last few years," she says. Three more workshops are coming up with a registration deadline of June 15. Visit solarizeeugene.info or email sarah@trig-cli.org or call 654-4052.

The **Corvallis Advocate** has purchased the *Corvallis Weekly Independent*, according to CWI founder Roy Crowe in a May 22 announcement. "We didn't sell out, we bought in," he says. Crowe cites the inefficiencies of two alternative newspapers in the relatively small market of Corvallis. The *Advocate*, published by Steve Shultz, will absorb some of the staff and freelancers. CWI started up in September 2011 a few months after *The Alchemist Weekly* shut down. *Eugene Weekly* continues to distribute about 2,800 papers each week in the Corvallis area.

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