

# COLESTIN VALLEY BUZZ

## July/Aug 2004

### DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY-WIDE FIRE SAFETY PLAN

Thanks Elaine Shanafelt

All of us in the Colestin/Mt. Ashland/Siskiyou Summit area recognize that one of the greatest threats to our community is fire. At the May 21 Colestin Rural Fire District (CRFD) Board meeting, representatives from the Klamath National Forest presented information on the Colestin Fuels Reduction Project they are planning to complete this summer. They also discussed grants that are available to community groups to make their communities more resistant to fire damage (for example by reducing fuels, improving access, improving water supplies). In applying for such grants, a community-wide fire safety plan is needed.

At the Board's request, three of us attending that meeting agreed to start the process of developing a Fire Safety Plan for the CRFD area. To do so will require input from the entire community.

After reviewing other fire plans and guidelines, we have identified two main areas we need to address:

- 1) Assessing and prioritizing our community's current fire risk, and assessing our current community disaster/emergency preparedness;
- 2) Developing an action plan to decrease our risk (fire hazard mitigation) and increase our preparedness.

Community organization is an essential element in collecting the information needed, in implementing any strategies, and in being ready to act effectively and appropriately in an emergency. One model for such organization is NERTS (Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams), based on small neighborhood groups. Some of us have already developed informal arrangements with our neighbors to help each other in an emergency - it comes naturally with living in a community such as ours. But if a major disaster occurs, we will need to coordinate what we are doing in our small neighborhoods with what is happening community-wide.

We need the help of others in our community in creating a Fire Safety Plan and Neighborhood Teams. As a first step in this process, all property owners will receive a survey from CRFD in the near future. Completing the questionnaire is voluntary, but we urge you to have your voice heard. The information will be used to:

- 1) prepare the Fire Safety Plan, which will enable CRFD to apply for grants;
- 2) assist the fire district in fighting a fire on or that threatens your property and in protecting your safety, your property and land resources.
- 3) assist residents in identifying fire risks on or to their property
- 4) develop a Neighborhood Emergency Response Plan.

As we move forward with developing a Community Fire Safety Plan, we will have specific, short-term tasks which we would like help from the community in accomplishing. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact us.

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Three years before the terrible events of September 11, 2001, a former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Robert Bowman, who had flown 101 combat missions in Vietnam, and then had become a Catholic bishop, commented on the terrorist bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. In an article in the National Catholic Reporter, he wrote about the roots of terrorism:

We are not hated because we practice democracy, value freedom, or uphold human rights. We are hated because our government denies these things to people in Third World countries whose resources are coveted by our multinational corporations. That hatred we have sown has come back to haunt us in the form of terrorism.... Instead of sending our sons and daughters around the world to kill Arabs so we can have the oil under their sand, we should send them to rebuild their infrastructure, supply clean water, and feed starving children....

In short, we should do good instead of evil. Who would try to stop us? Who would hate us? Who would want to bomb us? That is the truth the American people need to hear.

From *A People's History of the United States* 2003 ed. Thanks Taylor Sloan

## Cool Animal Fact

Maximum number of human saliva samples that giant pouched rats can be trained to sniff for tuberculosis during a single hour: 150

Number of samples a human lab technician can analyze in a day: 20



**Ameline Rose Keith** was born on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She came early into this world, weighing 2 lbs 1 oz. Ameline is staying in the hospital and is doing beautifully, now weighing over 4 lbs. Her family will welcome her home in a few weeks. Many, many thanks from Martine and Scott to everyone for the love, support, and delicious food! Welcome Ameline!

## **Red Sweat Hippo skin oozes antibiotic sunscreen**

from May 29, 2004 *Science News*

The hippo version of sweat is red-orange, and Japanese researchers have now isolated two pigments responsible for the colorful glow. Tests so far confirm years of speculation that this skin secretion can block microbial growth as well as some ultraviolet light, says Kimiko Hashimoto of Kyoto Pharmaceutical University. The pigments are highly acidic compounds containing carbon rings, Hashimoto, Yoko Saikawa of Keio University in Yokohama, and their colleagues report in the May 27 *Nature*.

The researchers named the newly identified red pigment hipposudoric acid and the orange one norhipposudoric acid. If chemists could make more-stable derivatives, Hashimoto says, "these pigments would be seeds of pharmaceutically important compounds".

Hippo biologist Keith Eltringham of the University of Cambridge in England explains that the secretions are not technically sweat because hippos don't have the small sebaceous glands that produce it. Instead bigger, deeper glands release liquid through skin holes that are visible to the naked eye. Eltringham is skeptical that the secretions play much of a role in regulating body temperature because a hot hippo just lumbers into water to cool off.

Eltringham traces the speculations about the secretions' antibiotic powers to observations that hippo wounds tend not to get infected, even though male hippos fight viciously over territory. "The hippos turn nose to tail and just slash each other," he says.

For the new experiments, keepers at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo swabbed hippo skin with gauze to collect the secretions. Then, Hashimoto, Saikawa, and their colleagues figured out the pigments' structure and properties. Lab tests showed that the red pigment inhibits growth of two disease-causing bacteria.

Each pigment's light absorption peaks in the ultraviolet range. "There's no question that the hippo is getting its sunscreen," says photobiologist Gavin Greenoak of the University of Sydney in Australia.

Hashimoto says that hippos all over the world secrete pigments, so she doesn't think they depend on pigments readymade in their food. She suspects instead that the animals synthesize the pigments from common precursors such as the amino acid tyrosine.

The secretions start out colorless, turn red-orange within minutes, and then gradually go brown. Hashimoto's team reports that the darkening results when the pigments form long chains. Greenoak notes that natural-product chemists have found other substances, mostly from plants, that block UV light. In general, they haven't been successful as sunscreens for people. "The problem with all of them is they're horribly unstable," he says. He adds that a sunscreen probably wouldn't sell if it turned people red-orange. -S. MILIUS

Did you know that higher speed limits actually do lead to more accident-related deaths? The number of fatalities has increased by an average of 38% in areas where speed limits were increased to 75 miles per hour. Statistics from Status Report 2003, published by Insurance Institutes for Highway Safety, [www.iihs.org](http://www.iihs.org)

The Buzz reports that subscription year '03-'04 was in the black by a few dollars. Thanks to all who support the Buzz! Your mailing label indicates your "paid through" date. As always, I encourage you to submit material. One neighbor sent a collection of submissions she'd been amassing over time. Whatever works for you. Thanks again for all the support !

## ***It Might Take a Village To Solve Some Social Problems***

Children and the elderly sometimes seem to be locked in a zero-sum conflict for limited funding and services, demanding difficult choices from policy-makers. Making just decisions is challenging: how should we weigh the relative merits, for example, of a program to provide subsidized housing for fixed-income seniors, versus another that provides tutoring and emotional support for foster children?

Most attempts to deal with such problems through public and private service-entities come to be seen as problems of management expertise, efficient logistics, and inevitable tradeoffs. But occasionally a community turns out to express itself coherently without bureaucratic direction, and realizes imaginative solutions to complex problems. The organizations which emerge are often difficult to classify, being hybrid entities.

*Generations of Hope* is one such innovation. Located on a deactivated military base in central Illinois, *Hope* provides housing and professional support to ten families who adopt children from the foster care system. All live as neighbors in *Hope Meadows*, a planned suburban development utilizing former base housing. Intermingled with the family homes are an additional forty-seven rental units occupied by senior citizens, who provide services to the children and to the project in exchange for reduced rent.

### ***Social alchemy***

This strategy of combining three or more generations of kin-like support in a secure and welcoming neighborhood has paid off: seniors have a safe and affordable place to live, families at last receive adequate support for the often overwhelming task of adopting "special needs" foster children, and the children find an end to (or even avoid) a long series of temporary placements and painful disruptions.

Multiple sources of need are combined at *Hope* in a single crucible, and a peculiar alchemy ensues in which needs become resources, resources become multiplied, and certain stubborn costs seem to drop away altogether. The *Hope* innovation poses interesting challenges to business-as-usual in the care and service industry, and offers an opportunity for re-imagining public service.

### ***Hope West?***

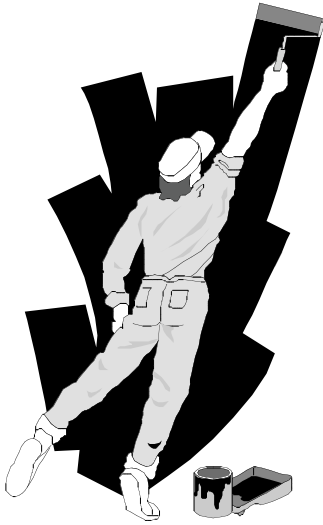
Recently an Ashland-area resident contacted *Hope* about the possibility of replicating the program, and offered to provide land for a *Hope Meadows* neighborhood development near Hilt, California.

*Still needed:* A few visionary local (Ashland-area) community leaders interested in exploring the feasibility of replicating the *Hope* model: to assess the need, to connect with local agencies, to strategize funding, and potentially to develop a working business plan, with the assistance of *Generations of Hope* in Illinois. *Contact:* Taylor Sloan, Hornbrook, California, 530-475-3726  
*More info:* [www.generationsofhope.org](http://www.generationsofhope.org)

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: too many deer were being hit by cars and she didn't want them to cross there anymore.

# Wanted

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Colestin Valley Professional  
Resources Directory

**SECOND AND FINAL CALL FOR  
SUBMISSIONS!** Call 541-821-5479 or email  
lbuttrey@starband.net with your submission.  
Include the services you offer and contact info. Any  
and all services are welcome - tree work, babysitting,  
plumbing, accounting - you name it!

**DEADLINE SEPT 15TH**

- Old Cd's and # 10 tin cans. Call Lisa at 821-5479. I'll pick 'em up.

# For Sale

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**POTABLE WATER TANK** - Like new, 1000 gallon, underground, extra heavy  
duty. Originally \$1000, sell to best offer. Call 488-0916.

# Services Available

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**REAL ESTATE SERVICES** - I have been your neighbor in the Valley for 23  
years. I offer 30+ years of personal, detail-oriented experience to tend to all  
your real estate needs. Referrals too. Rioh Heigh Real Estate 488-6921

# F. Y. I.

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A mountain lion was spotted at mile 2.5 on Colestin Road on July 3, at 6.45a.m.  
It appeared to be an older lion and a little on the thin side. Thanks Tony Rei

**Colestin Valley Buzz**  
**Lisa Buttrey**  
**1211 Colestin Rd**  
**Ashland, OR 97520**

Next BUZZ  
Deadline  
Sept 15, 2004



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