

COMMUNITY UPDATE

• The United Way needs volunteers for the following positions: public relations person for Lorane Unicorn Program, three hours per week; yard worker for Lane County AIDS Hospice Services, two hours per month; Pet-Smart adoption aide for Green Hill Humane Society, three to six hours per week; kitchen assistant for American Red Cross, three hours per week; mail preparer for Housing Authority and Community Services, two hours per week.

• Steve Gordon and Neil Bjorkland will present a slide tour of local wetlands sites May 24 at a Lane County Audubon Society meeting. Gordon is a planner for the Lane Council of Governments and Bjorkland is a planner with the city of Eugene. Participants will be updated on local wetlands acquisition programs. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. For more information, call 485-BIRD.

• The Literary Education and Referral Network is offering a workshop May 24 called "Taking the Fear out of Teaching Grammar." Tutors and instructors will learn tips for teaching language structure from Chris Siefert, Kathy Russell and Karen Irmsher, Lane Community College Adult Basic and Secondary Education instructors. The workshop

begins at 7 p.m. at the LCC Downtown Center, 1059 Willamette St. For more information call Marjorie Smith, 687-5450.

• The Lane County Board of Commissioners needs applicants for the Community Corrections Advisory Committee. The committee participates in the design of the county's community corrections plan, observes the operation of corrections facilities, makes annual reports and develops recommendations for improvement. The committee meets bimonthly. Applications are due May 24 and are available at the Board of Commissioners office, 125 E. 8th Ave. For more information, call 687-4207.

• The Springfield Spring Garden Festival is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. The festival will feature gardening demonstrations, musical entertainment, children activities and a plant sale. Events begin at 9 a.m. Saturday with a plant sale near the Centennial Fountain at Springfield City Hall. Gardening demonstrations begin at 10 a.m. For more information, call 726-3753.

• Oregon Special Olympics needs volunteers for its Eugene games Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers are needed for escorting athletes, scorekeeping, line officiating and security. For more information, call 1-800-452-6079.

EARTH

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of children," she said. "I don't take that for granted."

Earth Explorers, said Berry, is an eight-week program for children ages 3-5 and 6-9. The program has been offered through both Amazon and Sheldon Community Centers.

Activities center around a nature theme and include scientific experiments, arts and crafts and cooking. Six of the eight weekly sessions are held at the community centers, plus two all-day field trips.

"I hope to spark a desire in these kids to keep our natural environment as pristine as possible," Berry said. "I think it's important to get little kids out into the wilderness just to see what we have here, the beauty of nature. There aren't enough opportunities in the public school system for that kind of education."

Berry saw a need for this type of program so she presented her idea to a Eugene Parks and Recreation representative, who was in charge of the after-school programs at Sheldon Community Center. Berry received an enthusiastic response and the program was funded.

Berry teaches about first aid and how to deal with situations in the forest — such as insects or snakes.

"One of the things I really stress is knowing poisonous plants," Berry said. "The plants to watch out for, like stinging nettle and poison oak, exist all around in this area and can be readily identified. We don't have a lot of poison ivy. We don't have a lot of poisonous insects or snakes. We are fortunate in this valley that we don't have many poisonous creatures living among us."

Berry always has two plans for the day depending on the weather: a fair-weather plan and a foul-weather plan. Most of the sessions are spent outdoors. If all the kids have adequate rain-gear and if it's not raining too hard, they splash around outside.

The two field trips include exploring ecosystems discussed in class. The children learn plant names

and animal identification and are provided with pocket microscopes, magnifying lenses and test tubes to get water samples for investigation. But basically, she said, the kids are on their own. She said it's OK if a child ignores microscopic life for the big frog sitting by the shore.

Berry designs activities to keep kids active she teaches the scientific method (research a question, make a hypothesis, test the theory and reach a conclusion).

Berry is dedicated to making the program fun and engaging.

Berry recently simulated a "fossil" hunt by creating fossil beds from filling half-gallon milk cartons with layers of clay, dirt and sand. She tucked away into each box a collection of special rocks, petrified wood, shells and tiny plastic dinosaurs. In one box, she put a raw egg — to discourage overly-exuberant digging and she said it worked.

Berry prepared the kids for the hunt by reading to them from a book about fossils, called *They Turn to Stone*. Because the fossil beds were hidden, the children first had to find all the pieces of a map Berry had drawn. Once pieced together, the map led them to the fossil beds. Armed with popsicle sticks, toothbrushes, spoons, tweezers and magnifying glasses, the kids excavated their finds.

Earth Explorer groups have toured EWEB's electric facility and visited the city's waste-water plant. Guest speaker Louise Schimmell, from Cascades Raptor Care Center, bewildered the children with her birds of prey.

Berry said she delights in dreaming up new learning adventures for her classes. When asked why she does this for living, Berry said, "I love nature, and I love spending my day with kids. I get great satisfaction from planting seeds of understanding about nature into the hearts of children. I hope these seeds will sprout into a sense of responsibility and caring stewardship for our forests."

Berry's Earth Explorer and Nature Appreciation summer camps are currently being offered through Sheldon Community Center. Registration has begun. For more information, call 687-5312.



Blues Without The Booze

Curtis Salgado

and friends

Thursday, May 26
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
EMU East Lawn
with Special Guest
Brett Estep

Also the week of
May 23-27
 Monday • Mocktails on
 EMU Terrace 10-2 p.m.
 Tuesday • Ice Cream Social
 at Johnson Hall 11-1 p.m.
 Wednesday • Fun Run
 at Alton Baker Park 4 p.m.

Activities sponsored by:
 • Student Health Center
 • Dean of Students' Office
 • UO Housing • GAMMA

Call the Health Education
 Office at the Student Health
 Center for more information
 at 346-4456

Credit Classes are Still Available for Spring Term!



Environmental Awareness Workshops

Coastal Lakes—May 20-22

2 credits (LSS 408/508) Fee \$150 plus \$30 travel
 Large and small lakes along Oregon's coast provide an interesting and informative field-lab for the study of plants, animals, history and geology. This workshop will explore preservation and use issues, recreational opportunities and resource values, as well as the historical and geological significance of these exceptional resources.

Rivers—May 27-29

2 credits (LSS 408/508) Fee \$150 plus \$30 travel
 This workshop will investigate the exciting riparian environments of Oregon's rivers. Field-labs on local rivers offer firsthand exposure to help students gain an understanding of the problems, relationships, concepts and opportunities for river activities. Studies of plants, animals, history and river geology will broaden students' awareness of Oregon's waterways.

River Recreation—June 17-19

2 credits (LSS 408/508) \$30 travel

Deserts—June 24-26

2 credits (LSS 408/508) \$30 travel

Adventure Recreation—July 1-3

2 credits (LSS 408/508) \$30 travel

Volcanic Cascades—July 8-10

2 credits (LSS 408/508) \$30 travel

Crater Lake—July 15-17

2 credits (LSS 408/508) \$30 travel

To register for any of these workshops, stop by the
 University of Oregon Continuation Center at
 333 Oregon Hall, or simply call:

346-4231