

"Tick Talk" by Julie Wheeler

Saturday, May 7, 2:00 pm
Ruch Library

It's that amazing time of the year in the Applegate! And our local ticks know it, too. Can we interest you in learning what precautions you can take to keep from getting ticks? How about the correct methods for removing ticks? Presenter Julie Wheeler can tell you those things and plenty more including getting your ticks identified and tested for the Lyme spirochete and recognizing Lyme symptoms. Her talk will include the DVD, "Under our Skin." There'll also be time for questions and answers. Have we got you itching and looking yet?

Julie Wheeler, Applegate Valley

born and raised, is currently an Occupational Health and Safety Manager for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and has a small business teaching First Aid classes. You're in good hands!

This is another excellent program presented by your Friends of the Ruch Library - it's yet another way we're celebrating Saturdays at the library! No charge, but donations to support the library are always appreciated.

Pat Gordon • 541-899-7655



Benefit Performance for Ruch Library

Music from Islands Real and Imaginary

with Mark Kailana Nelson

Saturday, May 14, 7:00 pm, Ruch Library



Mark's story: his career started well before he could drive. In the 1970s, he created a whole new vocabulary for Appalachian dulcimer and guitar. His first place win at the National Dulcimer Championships in Kansas, 1979, led to appearances at festivals, colleges, and coffeehouses across North America and Europe, and a recording career that continues. When not on the road, he calls the Applegate Valley home.

He is one of the first non-Hawaiian musicians to master the Ki Ho 'alu, or slack key guitar. His playing honors those who came before, and his teaching passes it on to the next generation.

Mark weaves stories and humor with his music. He's performed from Barrow to Boston; Sligo to San Diego, sharing the stage with performers as diverse as Grover Washington, Jr., Keola Beamer, Norton Buffalo, Phoebe Snow, Doc Watson, and George Winston. He once worked as a banjo-playing gorilla in Dublin, but that's another story...

Mark's performance is sponsored by the Friends of Ruch Library.

Suggested donation—\$10. Contribute more if you can since all the money raised will benefit our Ruch branch library. The Friends have no administrative overhead.

Special thanks to Mark for his generosity!

For more information call the library at 541-899-7438.

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Jackson County Library Services' Summer Reading Program

"One World—Many Stories" is the theme this summer at the Jackson County Library and children are invited to visit the library and explore the world through books, activities and storytelling.

Registration for the program begins as soon as school is out in June. Children age 3-12 are invited to sign up at their local branch library, read or listen to ten books, and earn reading incentives such as a free meal coupon from HomeTown Buffet.

Parents of infants and toddlers 0-36 months can read to their children and receive a gift book, a signed certificate, and a bookmark.

Teens can participate in the "You Are Here" reading program, attend activities, write reviews and earn the chance to win a Flip Mino video camera.



Everyone is invited to special summer reading activities and performances at branch libraries around Jackson County.

For more information, contact your local branch library or visit our Web site at www.jcls.org.

Photo above: Applegate Branch 2010 Summer Program winner displays his Barnes & Noble gift certificate. In 2010 over 5700 children, teens, and adults participated in the Summer Reading Program at Jackson County Libraries and read over 50,000 books.

Woodland Charter School Supporters Forge Ahead

Despite an initial "no" vote, Waldorf-methods Charter School developers seek means to open in Fall 2011

On February 7, the Three Rivers School District Board of Education voted down a proposal to sponsor the first rural Waldorf-methods charter school in the state of Oregon. The school is proposed for the Applegate Valley, an area with a strong history of residents seeking alternative educational options for their children. Nearly two years of work by dedicated community members and parents were threatened by the "no" vote, but the organizers of the Woodland Charter School have regrouped and are forging ahead. They plan to take their request for sponsorship to the State Department of Education if needed.

At issue is the potential financial impact of the Woodland Charter School on the Three Rivers School District. With a proposed maximum student population of 85 children, it will require \$404,700 in ADMw (Average Daily Membership weighted) funds to operate the school in the first year (2011-2012). In a year when TRSD has had to cut 15 days from the school year to make budget, this amount sounds like a hard pill to swallow. But, as usual, the funding issues are complex and nuanced. While TRSD is claiming that the \$404,700 will come out of their pockets to start Woodland Charter School, they're not giving the public the whole story.

Here's a basic primer on ADMw funding for charter schools:

- The state of Oregon awards approximately \$6000 per enrolled student via the State School Fund.

- Those funds for the students at the charter school are delivered to the sponsoring district.

- The district retains a percentage of those funds (anywhere from 10-20%), and then passes the money through to the charter school.

- The charter school uses the 80-90% remaining to cover its operating expenses, including facilities rental/purchase, salaries and benefits, supplies, materials, professional services, and utilities.

In the case of Woodland Charter School, homeschool families and students who are being educated outside of TRSD make up the core proposed student population (86%). These students, who will be new to TRSD, will provide a new revenue source to the cash-strapped district. At the proposed rate of 85% pass-through, TRSD stands to gain \$69,300 from Woodland

students in the first year of operation.

But TRSD fiscal managers have their eyes on that \$404,700 in "start-up" costs. They believe this to be their "loss" in the first year of operation. What they are not explaining to the general public is that the \$404,700 needed to operate Woodland would not be subtracted from the ADMw award that the state gives for each of the existing TRSD students (which totals approximately \$29 million), but instead it would be subtracted from the extended ADMw award.

The state of Oregon allows school districts like TRSD that are experiencing declining enrollment to request a special extended ADMw award to help cushion their budgets. Here's how the extended ADMw comes into play with the Woodland Charter School:

- TRSD overestimates the number of students that will attend district schools in 2011-2012 by approx. 150 students.

- Oregon DOE awards 150 "ghost" students worth of extended ADMw (approx. \$900,000).

- Woodland Charter School's real students require \$404,700 of that \$900,000 for their education.

This "ghost student" funding is the crux of the financial dilemma regarding Woodland Charter School's sponsorship approval. TRSD is within their legal rights to request the extended ADMw, but in denying Woodland Charter School students because they will cut into the "ghost student" funding, TRSD is simultaneously arguing for state assistance because of declining enrollment and denying the possibility of Woodland Charter School to students who would help increase district enrollment. This doesn't make sense.

The developers of the Woodland Charter School have submitted a revised proposal to the TRSD Board of Education and it will be voted upon Monday, March 7 at the Three Rivers School District offices in Murphy. (*Editor note: this was subsequently voted down.*) Should the TRSD Board deny the proposal, there is a process for mediation. Woodland developers will ask for an immediate move to state board sponsorship, and can do so if both parties waive mediation.

Contact info: info@woodlandcharterschool.org; www.woodlandcharterschool.org and 541.846.4246

Contact: Stacey Denton, Woodland Charter School Project Coordinator

Celebrate National Library Week

April 10-16, 2011



And remember—in Jackson County your Library is available 24-7 @ www.jcls.org