

Teen bitten by rabid bat gets treatment

**By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer**

Aldon Moore, 16, was swimming in the Illinois River near the Green Bridge the afternoon of July 22 when he saw a bat struggling in the water. Thinking it might drown, he picked it up about the same time another youth rowed an inflated raft nearby.

The bat seemed to react to the presence of the raft and bit Moore on the knuckle. As he carried it out of the water and tried to place it in a bucket for its safety, it bit him on the other hand.

His mother, Lisa Moore, called the Josephine County Health Department from her cell phone and was advised to take the animal to them for testing; which they did on the way to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass.

At the hospital, Moore was treated for rabies, since the optimal window for treatment is the first eight hours following exposure. He was given eight separate injections of rabies immune globulin to prevent infection; one injection near each of the bites and 6 additional injections in his arm. Injections are no longer given in the navel and dosage is determined by an individual's weight.

He was also given a tetanus shot and prescribed a course of amoxicillin to be taken twice daily for a week.

The bat died the first night and was found to be carrying rabies, so Moore was given more serum on Thursday, the third day, to help his body learn to identify and fight the virus. He was given a third series on July 29 and will be given the final treatment on August 5.

"I'm glad we got help right away and he's going to be fine," Lisa said.

The bat that bit Moore was a hoary bat, one of the most colorful in Oregon with a yellow-orange throat and dark fur tipped in white. Hoary

bats are the largest in the state and wingspan can reach nearly 16 inches. This fast-flying bat migrates to southern California and as far as Mexico in the winter and returns in the spring.

When infected bats become ill and fall to the ground, skunk, fox, raccoon, cats or dogs prey on them and become infected. Humans are commonly infected by a bite from an infected animal, and this is the time of year exposure happens. If not treated, the virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately attacking the brain, causing swelling (encephalitis) and death.

There have been several cases of rabid animals in the area over the past few years. Residents should have their pets vaccinated and never approach an animal which is acting strangely. For example, a few years ago a rabid fox tamely walked into a home in Takilma.

Citizens should report wild animals that show strange behavior or have lost their fear of humans to Oregon Fish and Wildlife at 1-866-968-2600. If pets tangle with a wild animal or if someone is bitten by an animal, call the Health Department at 541-474-5325 or the state at 541-826-8774 for information, and get the victim to the nearest emergency room.

Heller creates her own kind of art magic

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A variety of Patsy Heller's portraits and landscapes are currently on display at Sterling Bank in Cave Junction. The show will be up until the end of August.

Heller loved looking at paintings when she was a little girl growing up in Carlsbad, California.

"When I was in fourth grade, an animation illustrator from Disney Studios gave a talk in our class," she recalls. "It made me want to create that kind of magic."

Heller was not able to realize her dream until her own children started school. She took a drawing class at Santa Monica City College and later studied for four years at the California Art Institute in Calabasas, Calif. She also studied watercolors, her favorite medium, with Debbie McDonald in the early 1990's.

"Watercolors are very portable," Heller states. "I can sit by the river, dip my brush in the water and paint what I see."

She now has dozens of sketchbooks filled with watercolors and pen and ink drawings. "I paint memories," she says.

She also enjoys painting from photographs. One of the mixed media pieces at Sterling Bank is a portrait of a child Heller painted from a photograph taken by her sister-in-law in Zambia. Heller's brother and his wife routinely volunteer in Africa and South America, assisting with needed surgeries for indigenous people.

Heller prefers figure work over landscapes but is adept at both. She's currently doing a portrait from a photograph of her beloved grandfather-in-law, a master stoneworker who built rustic fireplaces and other structures in Minnesota and California.

One of her proudest achievements was getting juried into the Valley Watercolor Society in Southern California. She became president of that organization in 2000.

She and her husband wanted to leave California and

moved here in 2005 after finding their Illinois Valley home on the Internet.

"I love the town of Cave Junction with its great people and natural beauty," she said.

She was juried into the Watercolor Society of Oregon in 2006 and is a current member.

"It was a blessing to find I.V. Fine Artists," she said. "I really enjoy our Monday sessions and guest workshops. We have great camaraderie and new members are always welcome."

This group of artists, ranging from beginner to professional, meets weekly in the Kerby Belt Building; and also goes on field trips as far as Brookings to do plein air work.

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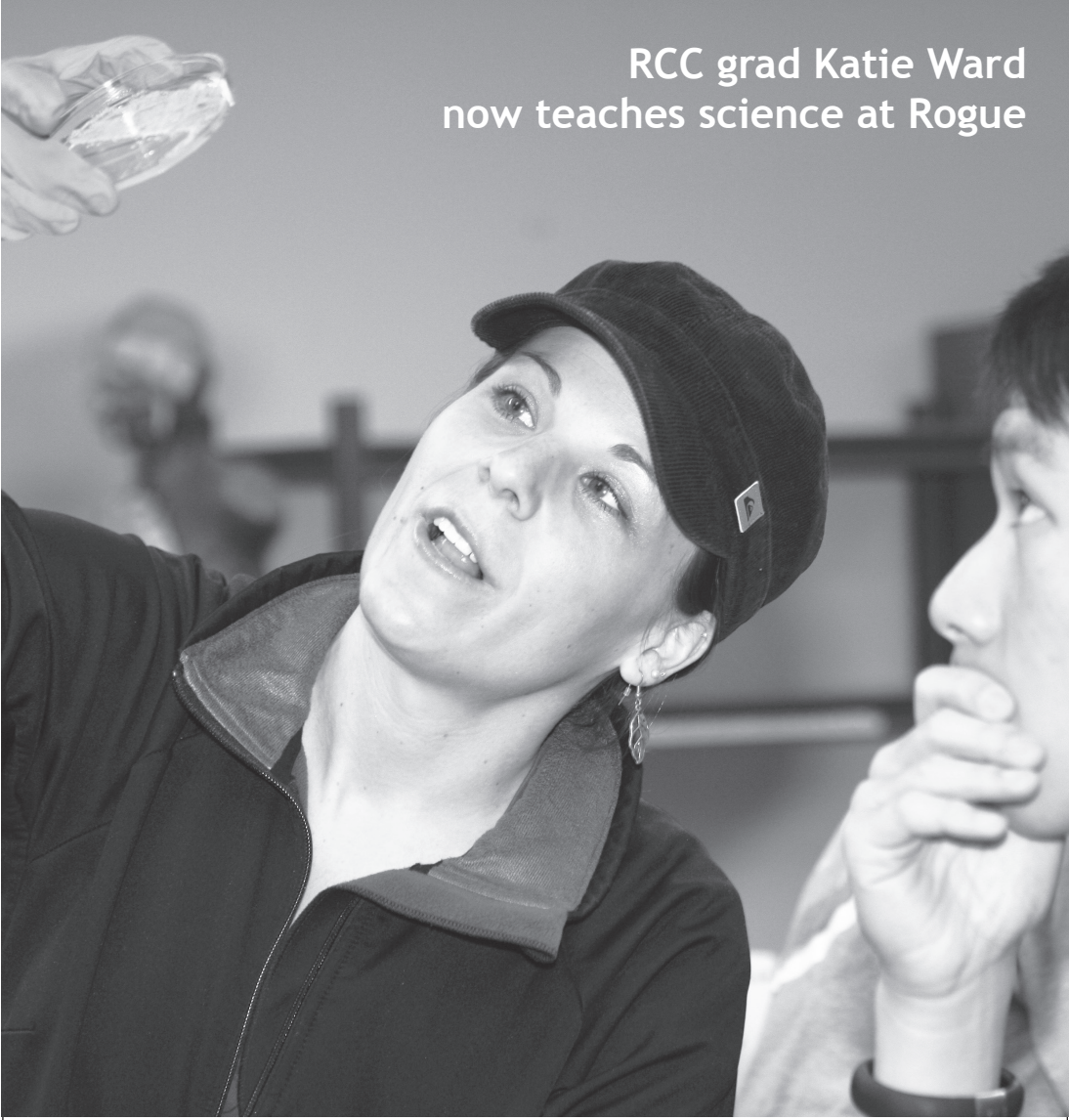
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