

Field trip from 1A

The response of the students that make the trip is a source of great pleasure to Grano, who created the concept of the Stream Team and wrote the grant that continues to fund the program.

"The students are so enthusiastic to be outside and they are eager to learn about salmon and their watershed," Grano said. "Local grants from Rotary, Kiwanis and STEP have enabled us to purchase rain gear for the students, so they can be out in the weather and still have a positive experience."

The fact that the students enjoy their trip to Whittaker is just one aspect of the program. Another is academic, according to Siuslaw Elementary Principal Michael Harklerode.

"The Next Step Generation Science Standards call for a deep understanding of life cycles and systems. The salmon life cycle is a perfect fit," Harklerode said. "The other big reason is a connection to our local ecology and environment. We have a rich network of waterways and our kids really get to explore it in a way that very few kids in other regions ever could."

STEP volunteers are

involved in various programs in other geographic areas, but the focus of their efforts is always on the fish. Monitoring fish populations, restoring stream habitats and producing salmon, trout and steelhead for Oregon fisheries are also prime objectives.

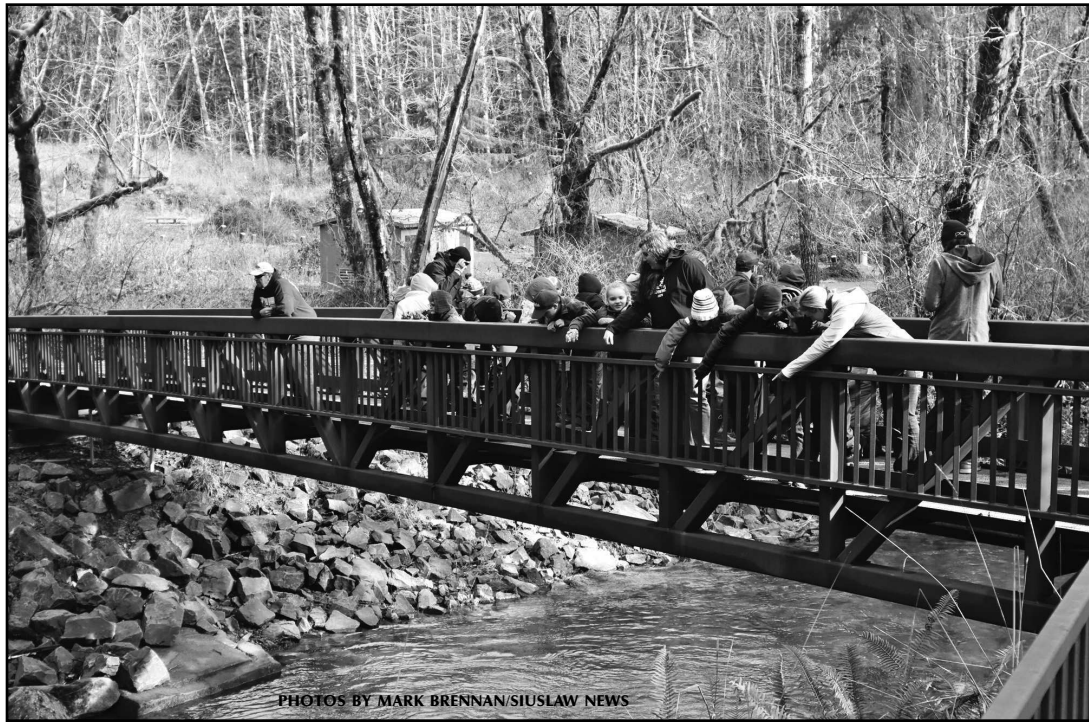
The wonder and enjoyment that the students feel while on site is obvious, both in their voices and the rapt attention they pay to the demonstrations.

The experience of going to the river and seeing the salmon inches away from them is one they remember for years to come, according to Grano.

"Former students of all ages are quick to tell me the Stream Team was a highlight of their middle school years. Younger students and parents always comment about what a great program this is. It also makes science fun and it plants the seeds for lifelong stewardship," Grano said.

The student trips to the Whittaker Creek Recreation Site are overseen by OWEB, a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas.

OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars, and salmon license plate revenue.



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



Students learn about the life cycle and habitat of salmon at Whittaker Creek Recreation Site.



Robbery from 1A

waited for the police.

When police arrived, Wilson told them that he had Huntington's Disease that

caused "uncontrollable movement with his arms and body." The affidavit also said he was difficult to understand, presumably because of the disease.

The affidavit said Wilson told Florence Police Detective

Brandon Ott that he robbed the bank because, "He had no where else to go and wanted to go to jail for up to three years."

Wilson's plan had one problem. He was so intent on getting arrested that he left the \$2,000

on the counter and stepped outside the bank to quietly wait for local police to arrive.

Apparently, he didn't want to disturb people at the bank any more than was necessary.

Florence police initially attempted to hold Wilson on a peace officer hold for mental evaluation without charges, but that was unsuccessful.

Florence Police Commander John Pitcher said, "Wilson was not kept by mental health on our police officer hold, so we did arrest him for Robbery II and transported him over to Lane County Adult Corrections (LCAC)."

Wilson was able to spend three nights in a warm bed with hot meals, but his initial plan had a flaw that put him back out on the street.

Lane County District Attorney Patricia W. Perlow said, "(Wilson) was released because the prosecutor who reviewed the case found there was insufficient evidence to prove he intended to commit the crime of robbery. He had no intention of committing a theft, having left the money on the counter. His statement that he was committing a robbery isn't sufficient to prove it was a robbery."

Wilson was released from LCAC at approximately 8 p.m. on Feb. 27.

He may have failed in his first attempt to get arrested, but he was learning how the system worked.

Now, armed with a better

understanding of the legal system, Wilson was ready to execute "plan B."

According to the sworn affidavit of FBI Special Agent Damara Schiltz, at approximately 10:20 a.m., Wilson walked into the Banner Bank branch at 169 West Sixth St. in Eugene, (less than two blocks from the LCAC facility) and said, "This is a bank robbery, this is a robbery."

Wilson was given \$1,300 in \$100 bills and this time, he stuffed the money in his pocket and left the bank.

He was arrested at 11:15 just a few blocks from the bank.

Again, according to the FBI affidavit, Wilson informed Eugene police officers that he had Huntington's Disease. He also admitted to the FBI that he had tried to rob a bank in Florence on Feb. 24.

The six-page affidavit concluded with, "I have discussed the foregoing information with Assistant U.S. Attorney Bud Fitzgerald who advises that, in his opinion, the information as related in this affidavit is legally and factually sufficient to support the requested warrant."

Wilson is once again in custody, in a cell with a warm bed and three meals a day.

Bank robbery is covered under Title 18, section 2113 of the U.S. Code. If convicted, Wilson could be subject to a serious fine and up to 20 years in prison.

He may have finally accomplished his goal.



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