

## Slow Ponies galloping into town

Local favorites the Slow Ponies will be playing a show at the Axe and Fiddle on Friday, Feb. 19 at 8:30 p.m. The Slow Ponies are an all-woman group that plays classic cowgirl music from the silver screen era.

The band is comprised of a veritable who's-who of regional folk artists: Acclaimed author Shannon Applegate, renowned visual artist Susan Applegate, Kalapuya elder, story-teller and educator Esther Stutzman and area and internationally touring musicians Linda Danielson, Liz Crain and Melissa Ruth.

The group has headlined numerous events including the Oregon Coast Music Festival and performs about six times a year.



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Fun Fly

The Cottage Grove Armory will be the venue for a "Fun Fly" scheduled Friday, Feb. 19 from 4-6 p.m., an event that aims bring electric helicopters and planes and their fans together.

The South Lane RC Modelers and Cottage Grove's Youth Advisory Council will host the event, and the public is encouraged to bring small electric aircraft to fly in the Armory. Participants under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

More information can be obtained by contacting Marvin Goins at 541-942-0530.

### Learn first aid

A First Aid class is being offered on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church, 820 S. 10th St. The course is free; however, there is a \$20 fee for those who need a course completion card. Books will be available for student use at the class. Those interested must call 541-942-6943 to pre-register for a spot in the class.

### New 2-1-1 hotline in operation for pesticide incidents

Oregonians involved in pesticide incidents impacting people, animals or the environment can now report those incidents to a telephone hotline seven days a week, 24 hours a day. By calling 2-1-1, concerned or affected

individuals will receive immediate information and referral service regarding a pesticide incident, no matter what time or day.

The free referral and information helpline was funded by the 2015 Oregon Legislature as part of House Bill 3549, relating to pesticides. The Oregon Department of Agriculture provided training to Oregon-based 2-1-1 staff on what to do upon receiving pesticide related calls from the public.

The three-digit telephone number generally provides information and referrals to health, human and social service organizations. Persons in Oregon calling 2-1-1 are immediately offered a menu of choices that includes options for reporting pesticide incidents or asking for pesticide information. At that point, they are connected to a person. Callers asking for information are referred to appropriate agencies and organizations. Callers involved in pesticide incidents will be asked to provide basic information. Within one hour of completion of the call, all information recorded by 2-1-1 will be forwarded to the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC) for further referral and response within one business day.

Information about PARC can be found at <<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/Pages/PARC.aspx>>.

In the event of a medical emergency related to pesticide exposure, people need to call the Oregon Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or 9-1-1 directly.

### 'Parallel Lives'

The Opal Center for Arts and Education announces its upcoming production of "Parallel Lives" directed by Peg Major, which runs Feb. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27. Doors opening at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$12 each and are available at opalcenter.org or at The Crafty Mercantile in Cottage Grove.

This show is rated R for adult content and is not intended for anyone under 16. "Parallel Lives" is not a play, but a series of mostly unrelated comic sketches written by Mo Gaffney and Kathy Najimy. This production of Parallel Lives stars Miriam Major and Nikki Pagniano, who will portray a variety of characters in a series of satiric sketches.

### Blackberry Pie Society hosts School Bond Presentation

The Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society will host a presentation by South Lane School District Superintendent Krista Parent on the District's school bond proposal from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Healing Matrix, 632 E. Main Street in Cottage Grove.

Superintendent Krista Parent will share information and answer questions about the school bond, which will appear on the May 17 ballot. The bond aims to replace Harrison School, provide safety and security upgrades to all district schools and

renovate the existing Warren Daugherty Aquatic Center. The bond would also tackle major deferred maintenance projects and improve technology access for all students in the district.

The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be available.

For more information about this event, contact: Blackberry Pie Chairperson Leslie Rubinstein at 541-521-2887 or blackberryie@gmail.com.

### Damm promoted to manager

Ashley Damm has been promoted as manager of Wells Fargo's bank branch at 1500 E. Main St. in Cottage Grove.



In her new position, Damm is responsible for the customer service, sales, professional development and community involvement efforts of five team members.

Damm initially joined Wells Fargo in 2007 as a teller in Central Point. She later served as a lead teller, customer sales & service rep and service manager before being promoted to her current position.

Wells Fargo has recognized Damm in the past for her superior service. She was also nominated for and completed a Wells Fargo leadership training program last year for future branch managers.

## Avoid any monkey with a pet Chihuahua

BY NED HICKSON  
News Media Corporation

As a journalist, I'm trained to recognize the most subtle signs of trouble.

A misspoken word.

A reluctant glance.

A gang of monkeys destroying a library.

Thanks to my training and experience, and several highlighted newspaper clippings sent in by concerned readers, I have painstakingly pieced together what I, as a member of the conservative media, believe is undeniable evidence that animals are planning to take over the world.

We will begin in eastern India, where scores of monkeys have overrun Loreto College in Darjeeling, an institute of higher learning that had once taken great pride in its slogan:

Unlimited tea and monkey-free.

"That has all changed now," said one student, who refused to be identified out of fear of monkey reprisal. "They interrupt my classes, steal my lunch, hassle me and the other students. It's like high school all over again."

According to the article, which was first reported by the Indo-Asian News Service and sent to me by Norman Buckner of Atlanta, Ga., the biggest problem is that the monkeys have no fear of humans. This in spite of repeated threats by angry school officials to "fail each and every student without an opposable thumb."

As unsettling as that article was, it wasn't until reading this next piece from the New York Post that I began to consider canceling my PETA membership. This story was frightening for two reasons. First, because it involves rats (which, as many of you know, I would recall from Earth given the proper authority), and second because the thought of rats popping up in a toilet has caused me to consider switching to a full-time liquid diet.

According to the link sent to me by Tammy Ruger of DeSoto, Texas., a Brooklyn woman heard splashing in her commode one night and, after lifting the lid, was startled to find...

You guessed it: A monkey!

Okay, not really.

It was a rat. Possibly experienced in pearl diving. The woman, who has since moved to a fifth-story apartment in Idaho, said that upon seeing the rodent swimming in her commode, she immediately dropped the lid and called the city's Public Works Department, where she was told she wasn't alone, and that there were rats everywhere! Emerging from the sewers and consuming people in SLOBBERING, RABID HORDES!

This was followed by screaming, laughter and a dial tone.

Public Works officials later explained that sewers in many larger cities have rats, and that they can sometimes scurry up a pipe and into someone's toilet bowl, leaving residents "a little shaken."

Or, in the case of one humor columnist who asked not to be identified, too traumatized to sit on anything other than a hammock.

Our final piece of evidence comes from Doreen Kimble of Santa Clara, Calif., who called my attention to an incident in which hawks, specially trained to keep pigeons from doing what pigeons do on visitors to the Boston Public Library, were grounded after one raptor scooped up an unsuspecting Chihuahua.

The dog's owner, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisal (mostly from his Chihuahua), said he believes his dog was mistaken for a rat — which seems strange since they weren't anywhere near a commode...

(Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, *Humor at the Speed of Life*, is available online at Port Hole Publications, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at [nedhickson@icloud.com](mailto:nedhickson@icloud.com))



# PET DENTAL HEALTH



## Oral Care Essential for Dogs' Health

Dogs, like people, are living longer thanks to advancements in preventative health care. That means that illnesses and parasites that once were the culprit behind a short life span are no longer the threats they once were. Now oral health care issues have become a leading problem for dogs. Fortunately, such problems are largely preventable.

A new puppy comes home full of life and with sweet breath. As a dog ages, however, foul breath can become the norm and make interacting with a pet an undesirable affair. Bad breath is one of the key signs of poor oral health and an indication that owner should take action.

While it's largely believed that eating and gnawing on bones is enough to keep plaque and tartar build-up at bay, this isn't the case. Dogs need routine brushing of their teeth for optimum health. Failure to do so opens dogs up to the build-up of food and bacteria, which can contribute to tartar and gum disease.

Research indicates as much as 85 percent of all dogs have some form of gum disease. In addition

to bad breath and tooth loss, periodontal disease can increase a dog's risk of heart disease.

Ideally, a dog's teeth should be brushed at least once a day. But many people do not take the time to brush dogs' teeth. At the very least, the task should be done once a week. This is the single best way to help keep periodontal disease at bay and prolong a pet companion's life. There are other steps to take that can reduce tartar build-up and fight bad "doggy" breath.

- Use antibacterial wipes (found at the pet supply store) to reduce the amount of bacteria in a dog's mouth that can contribute to plaque.
- Routinely inspect the gums and teeth to check for discoloration or tartar build-up.

- Consult with a veterinarian if the problem is bad. He or she may have to perform a professional dental cleaning, which is conducted while the dog is under anesthesia.
- There are many bones and other dental-health products that can help remove plaque scaling from the teeth.
- Observe a dog's behavior and look for problems that could indicate mouth pain, such as pawing at the mouth or trouble eating.

As in people, periodontal disease can lead to other issues, including heart disease, and should be taken seriously. Maintaining healthy teeth and gums is an easy task and one that can greatly prolong the life of a furry pal.



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