

war, Harper and thousands of others moved through final training before they embarked. At Fort Bragg, N.C., he became part of the famed 36th Artillery Regiment. It was an old unit, with an unbroken organizational tradition that stretched back to the American Revolution.

And unlike many units armed with relics that literally dated to the 19th century, the 36th had been entrusted with the newest weapon in America's arsenal. The 155 mm guns, heavy and powerful weapons, had barrels over 20 feet long and could drop their 6-inch-diameter shells on targets as distant as 14 miles.

After a stop in England, the unit and its 24 guns were posted in late 1942 to North Africa, which America and its Allies had chosen as the first steppingstone on the route into Hitler's Fortress Europe. Their opponents would be the mobile and aggressive forces of the German Generals Von Arnheim and Rommel.

"We were positioned to take out oxygen in the water gets low. Dissolved oxygen is critical to the entire biological community in surface waters and is a key element of healthy salmonid habitat. Specifically, dissolved oxygen levels below eight parts per thousand of water can weaken or kill fish like cutthroat trout. Cutthroat trout are the one of the most sensitive fish in our watershed. Many hide in the smaller tributaries that have deep pools, shade, and cooler water temperatures in the warm summer months.

For example, data collected by the Watershed Council's water quality monitoring team in mid-July of this year showed temperatures ranging from 53 F near the headwaters of Elk Creek (near Noti) to 68 F at the mouth of the Long-Tom River. Dissolved oxygen levels at these same sites were 10.1 parts per thousand and 7.5 parts per thousand respectively.

Where would you be at this time of the year if you were a cutthroat trout in our watershed? Probably somewhere near the top of Elk Creek or up in one of the many small

Long Tom Watershed Council
BY CINDY THIEMAN Sept. 21, 00
It's the time of the year when streams and rivers become sluggish and warm in the Long Tom watershed. This makes for great swimming and water sports, but can be stressful for fish, especially trout, living in these streams. There are two main reasons why high water temperatures are bad for fish. First, when stream temperatures get above 64 F, some fish and aquatic insects can weaken or die. Second, when water temperatures get high, the amount of dissolved

Sewer from page 1

The loan is to be repaid with increased sewer rates. The alternative would have been a bond issue — at substantially higher interest rates — to be repaid by property taxes.

For residential customers, the monthly sewer charge will be rising from a current average of about \$18.40 to a new level of \$43.40. The \$25 increase has been termed an "equivalent dwelling unit" charge that will be imposed uniformly on single family residences.

Business and commercial accounts are being rated individually. Many will pay more, because they will be billed a multiple of the EDU figure, depending on the number of employees or the level of water use.

Municipal sewer upgrades similar to Junction City's, many of them financed by state loans or grants, are under way around Oregon. Some of the communities have chosen high-technology "active" mechanical treatment systems, while others are

expanding existing low-technology "passive" lagoon treatment systems.

Junction City is sticking with its lagoon system. Renshaw said expansion or abandonment of a lagoon system often is a cost decision that hinges on the availability of land. Cities that switch to mechanical treatment systems — which require full-time technicians — often make that choice because land to expand lagoons is not available or is too expensive, Renshaw said.

But Junction City's existing lagoon site can easily accommodate expansion, including the poplar tree irrigation site, Renshaw said.

He also said that a final decision on the rate plan will come after the public meetings.

"We've found that when we explain the whole issue and the reasons why we must do this, people seem to accept it," Renshaw said. "But we want to listen to everything people have to say before we go to

the City Council for a decision."

Renshaw said a rate break for fixed-income residents, if approved by the council, probably would be modeled on the systems used by electric companies. A small "overcharge" would be included in the rates for most customers, creating a fund to permit a lower rate for qualified fixed-income applicants.

Plumlee launches mobility business

JUNCTION CITY — Helping Hands, a retail business that specializes in medical mobility devices and hardware, has been opened by Jeff Plumlee at 94077 River Rd.

The business offers items such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, lift recliners, ramps and special seat cushions. Plumlee said the company operates in a sales territory that includes all of southwestern Oregon.

streams draining into the Long Tom. You'd find a spot with plenty of shade and a deep pool!

So how can we help keep water temperatures cool and dissolved oxygen levels high for the trout living in our watershed? Look at how much stream side (riparian) vegetation you have if you have a stream or the river running through your place. Does it provide shade to the stream, especially toward the south or southwest? Consider protecting or enhancing streamside vegetation so that it can prevent the water warming up from direct exposure to the sun.

Finally, you should be careful about taking water from the streams. The Oregon Water Resources Department regulates water withdrawals so that enough water is left in the streams for fish and wildlife.

You can have a positive impact upon the health of the water in the watershed by careful land management. More information can be found on the council's web site at www.longtom.org.

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