

# Club News

## Boy Scout Pack 334

Parents, adults, Scouts and family members of Pack 334 are grateful to area businesses for their donations to this year's family camp. The contributions provided a larger selection of crafts for the boys and their families. Thanks to their generosity, not once was heard, "I'm bored. What is there to do?"

Thanks also go to Dave Vaughan for his presentation on fire safety and how to start fires five ways without using matches. Thank you also to John and Evan Horstman and Randy Thom for looking out for our safety by mowing Camp Murname. Finally, appreciation goes to Dianne Thom for her hours and hours of sweat, brainstorming and mileage in putting together a wonderful camp.

# Births

## GABRIEL ELIASZ MEEK

Robert and Nicholle Meek of Junction City are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Gabriel Elias, on June 17 (Father's Day) at Heart Medical Center, Eugene. Gabriel weighed 10 pounds, two ounces at birth and joins a sister, Alyssa Marie, age 2-1/2, at home. Grandparents are Howard and Marie Meek of Junction City, Lorrie and Kamp of Tucson, Ariz., and Raymond and Donna Halsey of Junction City.

## Lindsey Sue Stripling

Robert and Tracy Stripling of Junction City are the proud parents of a daughter, Lindsey Sue, born June 5 at Sartwell Medical Center, Eugene. Lindsey weighed 10 pounds, eight ounces at birth and joins a brother, Robert, age 2, at home. Grandparents are Lynn and Rita Stripling of Junction City and Billy and Linda Stipling of Clatskanie, Ore.



# Long Tom Watershed Council

By KAT BEAL

The Western Pond Turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*) can be found from British Columbia south to Baja, Calif. One of only two turtle species native to Oregon, pond turtles are the only native freshwater turtle found south of Corvallis.

Pond turtles have suffered dramatic declines in recent years and have vanished from Washington state and other locations throughout their range. Once common in the Willamette Valley, the strongest populations remaining are in the southern half of the valley. The healthiest populations can be found in the Long Tom watershed, and at the confluence of the middle and coast forks of the Willamette River near Mount Pisgah.

Pond turtles are aptly named. Although they are found in streams and rivers, in the Willamette Valley they seem to prefer relatively warmer ponds and sloughs. Where you find warm, slow-moving water, with deep pools and abundant logs or branches to bask on, you may also find turtles.

Historically, the Long Tom watershed has offered excellent habitat for pond turtles, and some researchers believe that the Long Tom was once home to the largest turtle populations in the Willamette Valley. With its relatively warm water and broad floodplain, the Long Tom and its associated meanders and sloughs provided bountiful habitat for turtles.

Halting the decline of the pond turtle in the Willamette Valley and elsewhere will depend on strong protection and careful management of what remains of their habitat and is particularly important in the South Valley watersheds where turtles are still present. Much of the habitat remaining is on private property, and the turtles' future in the Willamette Valley depends largely on the fate of privately owned wetlands, ponds, sloughs, and adjacent uplands and agricultural lands, plus sound management of public resources like Buford Park, West Eugene Wetlands and Fern Ridge Lake.

The Long Tom Watershed Council has joined with other South Valley watersheds and local and federal agencies to work together to provide information on where turtles can be found in the watersheds, and what interested landowners can do to help the turtles. If you have turtles on your property and are interested in learning more, call Kat Beal at 937-2131 ext. 147. The next Long Tom Watershed Council meeting is set for July 31. The group will be gathering around 5:30 p.m. for an outdoor tour in the upper Long Tom sub-basin. For more information, please call Dana Erickson at 683-6578.

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