

# Repairs close bridge

**HORTON** — Eugene officials for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have announced that the Hult Pond bridge will be closed until mid-October to facilitate replacement of the bridge and restore channel width.

The bridge was damaged by fire in 1997. A motor vehicle fatality that occurred in the same year prompted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to seek construction funds for replacement.

"This has been a work in progress, and we were finally high enough on the National priority list to receive construction funds to accomplish the necessary replacement," stated Dan Howells, multi-resource staff leader for the Coast Range Resource area.

Federal Highway Administration crews will spend the next two to three months removing the old wooden plank bridge and replacing it with a concrete bridge. The new bridge will be longer, requiring new footings and approaches to the bridge. This will allow the channel to be wider, permitting a more natural flow of water during peak flows.

In recent months, the headgate which controls overflow at Hult Pond has been studied by private contract divers. They are working out a system that would allow the headgate to be tested and water level of the pond to remain unchanged. A report will be completed this fall, and funding is anticipated to be available to undertake the project next summer.

The public will continue to have access to the pond during bridge construction. Further information is available by contacting Mark Wilkening, program information specialist for the Eugene BLM District at 683-6963.

## Wine, blues festival set for weekend

**VENETA** — This weekend Secret House Winery is hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Wine and Blue Festival, an open-to-the-public event featuring music, wine and a variety of attractions.

Billed as a benefit for the Relief Nursery, a local organization that fights child abuse, the festival will be held from 1-10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 11 and Sunday Aug. 12. Secret House Winery is located just west of Veneta along Hwy. 126.

The weekend's musical offerings will highlight blues and jazz musicians.

Saturday will open with the Jive Masters. Featured musicians throughout the day include Li'l Lynn and the Smokin' Soles. Linda Hornbuckle will close out the night. Sunday will open with Johnny Dark

# Harrisburg man leaves gift to community

By **CHRIS RYAN**  
Of the News

**HARRISBURG** — After longtime Harrisburg resident Milford Springate retired from his work with the federal Soil Conservation Service District in Tangent, he continued to help out farmers in the area, even without the obligation of his job.

Springate's generosity extended beyond his death in January at age 70. He left \$25,408 to the Harrisburg Fire Department.

"He wanted to give back to the community for the way they helped him," said Hubert Christensen, who grew up in a home near Springate's house. Springate was also on the local soil conservation board with Christensen's father.

Springate began working for the Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service Center in Harrisburg in 1955. Though he had only an eighth grade education, he was able to break into the profession with the help of Frank McEldowney, who trained him how to survey soil.

Springate completed a sub-professional training course in soil conservation in San Luis Obispo in December 1960. He spent the rest of his employed life working in the field of soil conservation.

His job was to develop ways to lower the water level so that farmers could plant better

crops. He worked in Harrisburg for all but the last few years of his employment, when he was stationed at Tangent.

Springate was a relatively young 54 when he retired for health reasons. But even after his retirement, Springate hauled out his surveying equipment to help local farmers with their projects.

"Any time he could help somebody out, he was there for him," Monika Jefferson said.

After retirement, Springate, who never married and had two first cousins as his only surviving family members, took out a life insurance policy. He listed the beneficiary as the Harrisburg Fire Department.

The fire department learned that it was the object of Springate's generosity shortly after his death. It received the money in June.

"It's nice to know that somebody thinks of us enough that they would do something like that," said Scott Mitchell, chief of the fire department. "Something like this just doesn't happen very often."

Mitchell said that there are currently no plans to use the money. He said that the fire department will most likely form a committee to decide a suitable purchase to make in Springate's honor.

Jefferson said that Springate was adamant about giving his money to the fire department, because the department was always there for

him. On medical calls, the department had come to the assistance of Springate's parents, and Springate himself. She said that she had talked about his plans to donate his money to the fire department for a long time.

"The fire department meant a lot to him," she said. "It was always an understanding that the fire department would get his life insurance policy."

Springate loved to hunt and was a member of the NRA, as well as an avid knife and gun collector. He collected military rifles and handguns and often practiced target shooting. His other hobbies included fishing and bowling.

Because of Springate's love of animals such as elk, his close friends scattered his ashes at Finley Preserve, a game reserve near Monroe, which was one of Springate's favorite places to go. After his ashes were spread, the group went to the Ron-D-Voo Tavern in Harrisburg for a potluck.

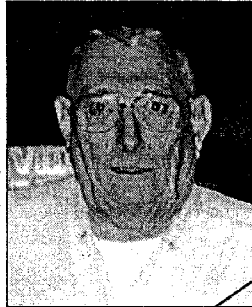
"A good time was had by all," said Scott Reiser, another of Springate's friends who helped organize the event. "That's the way he would have wanted to go."

Springate lived on a farm on Priceboro Drive in Harrisburg, and was acquainted with scores of people in Harrisburg.

"He was well known here," said Nash, who made several hunting trips with Springate. "He was always mixed up in something."

Jefferson said that Springate was known in Harrisburg as Milford, and in Monroe as Mel, though she never knew the reason.

"He was just a sweet man and I'm really privileged to have gotten to know him," Jefferson said.



Milford Springate

# Veneta urges water conservation

By **CHRISTENA HANSEN**  
Of the News

**VENETA** — August has arrived, and Veneta's water supply seems to

be holding steady. But that doesn't keep city officials from urging residents to ration the water that flows from their homes' taps and hoses.

"Prevention" is the buzzword around town, with public works director Jerry Shanbeck explaining that reducing usage could help everyone sidestep a crisis. If residents wait for a water shortage to surface before taking action, it will be too late, he said.

Preaching a "better safe than sorry" message,

the city is asking residents to avoid using too much water — especially outside. During the summer, roughly 75 percent of the water supply goes toward the irrigation of gardens, lawns and plants,

### Saving water outdoors

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, walks and patios
- Keep grass at least two inches high to shade roots and hold moisture
- Aerate lawns regularly and use mulch around plants to reduce evaporation
- Water trees slowly, deeply and infrequently to encourage deep rooting
- Water in the early morning or evening
- Plant drought-tolerant shrubs

through September," Shanbeck said.

With two months of the high-demand season left, residents can save water — and money — a number of ways, Shanbeck said.

"I've seen a lot of people out there watering their lawns with a hose," he said. "Aesthetically, it feels good, but it's really not doing any good."

Hand-held watering usually doesn't last long enough to benefit a lawn, he said.

It only begins to penetrate the soil, plants' roots migrate upwards to receive moisture and grass can end up dying.

He suggested that residents use a timed sprinkler to properly water their lawns.

Timers are useful because they can be set to turn on a sprinkler in the middle of the night — prime watering time. Watering during warm summer nights keeps the city

from the need to provide huge amounts of water during the day. And plants retain more of the moisture.

As much of 25 percent of water applied at the heat of the day evaporates, Shanbeck said.

Lush green lawns may be an American tradition, but it's no fashion faux pas to let lawns go unwatered this year, Shanbeck said. While a dry summer will turn a lawn brown, it won't kill the grass, he said.

And a car-washing session can double as irrigation if it's possible to park a vehicle on the lawn. Using a spray nozzle instead of a regular hose head to wash vehicle will save water.

Waxing a car will cut down the number of times that it needs to be washed.

"The important thing is that we're getting into the season where demand is high," Shanbeck said.



The New Penney's Junction City Cafe

Attorney purchases historic downtown JC bank building