Why yes, Virginia, this issue is mostly about the Rendy! :-)

Rendezvous 2009

Well, the goatpacker’s much-anticipated event of the year is now only a memory -- but a happy memory it is! Although I have not been able to attend a great number of these gatherings, in my mind, this one was one of the most rewarding in view of the significance of what we were able to do with our goats, and with the PR we were able to engender with the Forest Service. Which was effective in this location, and by word of mouth, in other locales as well!

Charlie Goggin’s efforts to establish a work project with the FS were richly rewarded in their allowing us to enter the wilderness and totally clean up a very messy pot-growing operation. This is notable in view of the fact that many people’s reaction to the suggestion that ‘goats’ could be a significant help in such an operation was, at least in the beginning, “Goats? What can goats do?”

What indeed! The picture will show that we hauled out an incredible quantity of trash and some very large items that were a push even for our very capable goats. But haul them out we did, and doing so generated a Forest Service memorandum that will likely be seen all the way to Washington, D.C.

(Please go to our website and check out the PDF of the memorandum. It is worth the effort as it is filled with pictures, and praise! [http://www.napga.org/links.asp?pageid=4&menuID=])

Other ‘events’ generated by Charlie that were new for me (and probably everyone else… Charlie is verrrrry creative!), were ‘goat calling’, ‘speed saddling’, ‘even-weight pannier

Carolyn Eddy’s Comments on Rendy!

I am so pleased with how the Rendy project went. What is really important about this is that the forest supervisors are talking and they are the ones that will spread the word among themselves, all the way to the upper levels of the National Forests. Previously, we have mostly been assigned to seasonal folks. They don’t have the clout to make a national showcase out of what we did. ‘Packgoats against Pot’ will affect every decision made from here on out, in a positive manner.

I’d like to thank the Goggins and the Waligorskis for all their hard work. It was the best Rendy yet, I’m thinking. The silent auction made over $1,000, thanks to the generosity of the attendees. We all had a great time.

A few behind-the-scenes things. Marilyn Bateman and Brad Emerson were on their way to Nevada to get married. We tried to get them to do it at the Rendy and I think if they’d have had their license in order, they would have. Also, the fantastic goat marionette actually ended up suspended from Becki Rebesehl’s dining room light as her birthday gift from Mark. Brad and Marilyn and Becki
packing (without a scale), ‘goat calling’, and ‘cheater goat calling’. Also, awards were given for a dutch-oven cookoff, the ‘the Italian Granmamma (the one who fed the most of the rendy participants), ‘Goat of Distinction’, & ‘the Bard (teller of best stories). Lots of laughs over all of these. As I have said, Charlie is a very creative lady!

Award for Goat of Distinction was a tie between Lazlo & ‘Darth Munchie', Italian Granmamma was won by Loki & Flagg Waligorski for sharing their hay with any goat that ambled by, the ‘Bard’ was won by Charlie Goggin (anyone surprised here? ;-) ), and Dutch Oven Cook-off done by Wendell was judged the best, with Gary Coyan taking second, & Randy Goggin came in third.

Finally, there was the usual malarkey from the President about global warming. No! Not that, but the usual stuff about membership, ie., that members are brought in by members talking to other goat folks, and the need for a periodic newsletter... which we haven’t been real good at to this point. Fortunately the President’s stuff was left to last so the folks that fell asleep from boredom could just be carried off to their campsites.

I have to admit that getting together with large gaggles of people isn’t exactly at the top of my list. As Charlie so aptly said in an email to me before the event, ‘getting goatpackers to do anything together is like trying to herd cats!’ However this Rendy was a whole lot of fun and rewarding work, and I have to admit looking forward to next year’s event, wherever it is. And as it turns out, the NAPgA ‘cats’ were’nt so hard to herd after all! ;-)

Happy Goatpacking!
Larry Robinson

One Sour Note…

The only thing that I noted that was a sour note from the Rendy, and it was a REALLY sour one indeed, and that was the girdling of a 4-5” tree in the campground by goat or goats unknown. Since no one ever admitted that their guys perpetrated this unpleasantness, it pretty much solidifies that it is, and was, recognized as wrong. Especially since we were being allowed to take over this beautiful CG based on our ‘good behavior’.

The first time I went anywhere with a purported ‘goatpacker’, this individual allowed his goats to girdle a couple of trees where we were camped. I am sure that I don’t have to tell anyone reading this that letting our guys girdle trees is absolutely unacceptable and hardly in keeping with ‘Leave No Trace’.

When we get together as a group we need to be especially cautious that our animals do not do damage to our camping area whether we are in a CG or not. During one of the Idaho campouts there was some vegetation issues, and it created a lot of negative PR. The effects of that PR was mitigated by NAPgA’s involvement with the land manager in question, but the fact remains that it should never have happened in the first place.

Part of being responsible goat owners is to minimize as much as possible our goat’s effect on the area we are camping in.
Larry Robinson, NAPgA

Jayne Biggerstaff’s Letter, (cont.)

The work done by all the folks is so much appreciated by the District and we will thank NAPgA formally so you can share that with all your members.

And since you don’t really like crowds, come on back. You won’t need to work and most of the time you can hike all day in the wilderness and not see another soul. The Acting District Ranger is hoping we could get you folks to come back. One at a time or all at once - doesn’t matter.

I can’t tell you how much fun it has been to see this whole project come to pass. You have been an absolute delight and I love your guys. I took my grandsons up on Saturday and they were ready to bring some “kids” home with them. Debra let them go for a hike and it was just too fun watching all the kids play. I spotted your daughter along the trail, too. She didn’t know me but it was easy to recognize her.

We will be in touch with a formal thanks and will also send on any news articles that come out of this adventure.

Take care - I’m sorry its over. For now.
Jayne Biggerstaff, Modoc National Forest
800 West 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101
phone: 530-233-8740, fax: 530-233-8709

Carolyn Eddy’s Comments, (cont.)

were bummed because I wouldn’t give them a straight answer about who got it. Imagine Becki’s surprise when she found that Mark had spirited it home for her.

This was one of our largest Rendys and just fit the area we had. There were some mighty confused people who were already there when we started showing up with goats. They all were very cooperative about it, if not a little bewildered.

Anyway, a good time was had by all, and I hope a Rendy comes close enough to you all to make it at least once. I got to see a lot of friends. This meant a lot to me since I am up for a liver transplant this fall. The timing was perfect since I got the word on the way home from Alice’s house. The rest of the summer has been & will be spent testing at the hospital, but it will be worth it in a year because I will be able to count on a lot more Rendys.

Lastly, I’d like to thank Mike Smith for his tenure on the board of NAPgA.* He will continue to work in his local forest spreading the packgoat word.

Carolyn Eddy
“Sweet Goat Mama”

* Mike recently resigned his position on the board as his current job responsibilities just don’t allow for him to be an active participant in the board’s activities. We look forward to the time when he can rejoin the board as a functioning member.
Much to everyone’s surprise we actually packed out the entire pot farm including the car battery and two propane tanks! I want to extend a special thanks to “Battery-Man Bill” who was willing to lug two heavy batteries up that hill. I asked how he managed and he dryly replied, “I just hiked to the next shade”, that was his goal up the hill, the next patch of shade. I’m pretty sure it was at least 90 degrees when we were packing out so he wasn’t the only shade seeker on that steep slope!

Goats and humans alike behaved admirably, we were a well oiled team! The goats hauled their share and more, the humans worked hard and fast, it didn’t take near as long as we all thought because nobody lazed about, everyone really got down to business as soon as they arrived.

Rodney York and his goats hiked in the day before and hauled out a load all on their own after Debbie W. and I hiked in on Thursday to flag the trail. If it were not for his hard work and dedication we could not have gotten it all out. Thank you Rodney!

Our youngest hiker was Koda, who is 11 and he hiked in with a sprained ankle! He is one tough and social fellow who got 2nd place in the goat saddling contest against veteran packers when he had never saddled a goat before this trip.

Our senior member of the pot project is Rodney’s uncle Glenn, he is 81 folks and man can this guy hike and WORK! We all admire his strenth, stamina, sweet personality and sense of humor. It was great to meet him!

I was very pleasantly surprised to see Isolde from Costa Rica! I told her that I had not expected her and she said she arrived “Accidentally”, which just gives a hint of her lovely temperament and sense of humor. Marina loved visiting with her while we worked on the pot farm, Marin was ill and could not hike yet. We all were very happy she and her friend could come.

Carolyn Eddy was terrific, the “behind the scenes” brains of the whole operation. She would just come over and quietly tell me what do do and announce next, thanks, Carolyn, you are a life saver.

Everyone left their campsites very clean, thanks! Sierra and I went around last night with our rake and a trash bag and were happily surprised by what we saw.

Officer Burns came in yesterday to see the pile of trash in the trailer they left us, he was very pleased to see we’d gotten it all, he didn’t think we would.

25 people and 24 goats hiked the mostly uphill 3 miles into the pot farm site and everyone was back by dinner time. The folks left behind holding down the fort were just incredible when we got back! They were waiting there, by the trail head, with fresh water for the goats and teams of people taking the panniers from our caprine friends and loading the horse trailer with the contents. We felt like heros coming home to a parade! You have no idea how good it was to see your smiling faces when we arrived!

It was great to put some faces to so many names! It was wonderful meeting everyone. Thank you for making the Rendy, and work project, a success.

The idea was thrown out that we ought to try to do the next Rendy in the Winds and find a work project that will make packgoats seem more friendly to the land managers there. Start looking for the location, folks, next summer is only 12 months away!

Happy Trails
Charlie Goggin, Lightfoot Packgoats

Packgoat Friendly Campground Review
by Rachel Suomela

Derek and I stayed at a great horse camp on our way to the Rendezvous. What I liked about the camp is that I could make reservations. –

http://www.recreation.gov Since most horse camps are first come first serve, I get concerned about pulling into a horse camp with my trailer in tow and not have any place to stay. I did call ahead and talked to them about pack goats and they were pleased to have us.

The sites are nicely spaced and most are level. There are either 2 or 4 horse metal corrals at each site. It was easy for me to tie a high line across the metal stalls for the goats. There are also lots of pine trees that high lining could be accomplished with also. Water was available near each camp site and two wood vault style toilets. There is cell phone coverage if you have the right carrier. Each site has a picnic table and fire pit. The open pine forest was easy to wonder around with the goats and let them munch.

We were unable to hike the trail there but would like to. The trail head is at the end of the campground. The views in the area are spectacular. We did go part way down a trail at the entrance of camp to a small crystal clear creek and wooden bridge. The only, and it seemed major at the time, drawback were the mosquitos. They were very thick this time of year (end of June). I even succumbed to 30% Deet on my child, goats and self which I normally don’t like to do. This is probably what prevented us from exploring too much. We built a smoky fire and it seemed to calm down in the evening.

I would love to visit this area again and explore but I would definitely inquire about the bugs before I go!

Whitefish Horse Camp & Trailhead

Happy Trails
Charlie Goggin

Well, the Rendy’s Over and it Seemed to be a Great Success
Charlie Goggin

Packgoat Friendly Campground Review
**Lazlo, the Super-Goat... and No Pictures to Prove It!**

I just realized after going through Randy’s pictures and thinking on it that nobody got a photo of Lazlo carrying those two big propane tanks in his panniers.

My darling Laz, he was so good that day and nobody got a photo! If anyone did, please send it to me, I would sure like to have it and I’m sure Larry would love to post it to NAPgA’s webpage for future PR work.

These were very heavy, heavier than the ones we have on our travel trailer, perhaps they are older? I know I padded Lazlo's ribs with 2 layers of insulite pad, but I still felt that they were hitting him in only one spot on either side due to their shape. However, he got under his load and he was determined to get back to camp, where he knew I'd unload him.

There were folks hiking behind me on the trail, and Lazlo is always behind me, imagine their horror when, several times, a dog who was along on the hike erupted from the undergrowth toward the goats! As you can imagine, this spooked the loaded goats, causing them to run toward the people behind them for moral support.

I’ve got to say I’ve never seen tired hikers move off trail so fast as when Lazlo the “motorhome” was headed in their direction with these two propane tanks flapping up and down on either side of him! He looked like Moses parting the Red Sea!

No hikers were harmed in the telling of this story and said dog was finally leashed and the alarming sight of a bolting Lazlo was no longer a threat to life and limb...

Honest folks, he would not have hit you. Really! :-) He’s not run over me yet and I’ve been hiking with him for 7 years.

I guess that is precious little comfort when something like that is headed your way, ears and panniers flapping. :-)

I hope everyone had a happy Independence day.

Charlie Goggin
Lightfoot Packgoats

_Lazlo the propane bottle hauler, and Bill the Battery Man... and we don't have pictures of either one? Bummer!_
Poisons do not affect all species equally. Research and practical experiences confirm that some species are more susceptible to certain poisonous compounds than others. “This susceptibility or non-susceptibility may be due to different grazing preference and habits or also different physiological factors,” Nix relates.

“The sex, size and age of the goat are also important factors,” Nix continues. “Size is important in that a mouthful of poisonous plant will affect a smaller goat more than a larger goat because the dose of poisonous compound per pound of body weight will be larger in the smaller goat. Sincebucks are often larger than does, bucks would be less susceptible from a size standpoint. However, since bucks are dominant to does and often get the lion’s share of the feed, bucks can be more susceptible in some situations. For example, if Rhododendron cuttings from a yard are thrown to a group of goats, the buck may eat the largest share and be more susceptible to poisoning.”

Contrary to popular belief, sheep and goats do not innately know which plants are poisonous and which are not. Nix contends that sheep and goats learn this knowledge through the social interactions of the herd. “In the wild, every goat eats the same kind of plants at the same time as the dominant or head goat in the herd,” she elaborates. “Young kids learn what forages are edible by mimicking older, more dominant goats. If kids are not allowed to interact with older goats, the herd can be susceptible to poisoning.”

Symptoms
Nix stresses that symptoms of poisoning are variable and are usually not specific for a particular plant. “Unfortunately, the first symptom noticed may often be a dead goat,” she continues. Some symptoms of plant poisoning among sheep and goats include frothing at the mouth, vomiting, staggering, trembling, crying for help, rapid or labored breathing, convulsions and sudden death.

Nix advises owners who observe any of the symptoms and suspect poisoning to remove the goat or sheep from the area and to look around the area and try to figure out what poisoned the animal. Another first step is to call a veterinarian as soon as possible. She also urges owner’s to remove poison from the animals by placing two teaspoons of salt on the back of the animal’s tongue to induce vomiting. Another method is to administer charcoal tablets and rehydration fluids along with some mineral oil. She says the charcoal will bind some of the toxins, the fluids will prevent dehydration, and the oil will coat the gastrointestinal tract and prevent foaming.

Be Proactive
To protect animals from poisoning, the Agricultural Research Service information suggests owners follow eight steps:

1. Learn to identify the poisonous plants that grow on your range.
2. Learn the conditions under which these plants can be dangerous to your livestock.
3. Develop a grazing plan to improve your range and prevent poisoning of your livestock by plants. Graze your range at the proper time. Do not over-graze them.
4. Do not allow animals that have been under stress or that are overly hungry to graze in areas infested with poisonous plants.
5. Provide adequate water for your livestock.
6. Be especially careful when grazing newly introduced livestock on your range.
7. Provide adequate salt and other supplements as needed.
8. Control poisonous plants where feasible.

Nix adds that providing a nutritionally balanced diet for sheep and goats will prevent them from seeking out harmful plants in search of nutrients.

“Good mineral nutrition will help produce healthy goats and sheep that will be less likely to consume poisonous plants and also more likely to survive accidental poisoning than unthrifty goats and sheep,” Nix summarizes.

Dr. Joseph DiTomasco of Cornell University has compiled a list of plants reported to be poisonous among animals in the United States. To check out the list, visit: http://wríc.ucdavis.edu/information/poisonous.pdf

Poison Plants and Packgoats
As owners of packgoats we need to be able to identify poisonous plants in the areas we are hiking. A good research site is: http://www.anisci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html Photograph’s of poisonous plant are best. Just a description or a drawing of a plant makes it hard to identify. If you are hiking in an area of the country that you’re not familiar with it would be a good idea to contact the local extension office or forest service with help in identifying the plants that could be poisonous to your goats.

Many of us allow our goats to browse along the trail and while taking a break or camping for the night. We need to be observant of what our packgoats are eating. Small amounts of different browse will be less harmful to your goat if they are poisonous and will cause less impact on the trails and campsite. Always be careful when highlining your goats. Do not allow them to eat every leaf on a plant or bush and don’t allow them to strip the bark on trees.

As members of NAPgA we have a standard to uphold. Always practice Leave No Trace principles.

Jan Privratsky
Activists Decry Military Use Of Test Goats
SCOTT FONTAINE; The [Tacoma] News Tribune, Published: 05/22/09 12:05 am

Animal rights activists targeted Fort Lewis on Thursday over its use of goats to train medics in combat trauma response.

As cars jammed Lakewood’s Tillicum neighborhood at lunch, Susan Hoppler walked down Berkeley Avenue and caught passengers’ attention.

The leaflet she handed out shows hands wearing surgical gloves cutting into an animal.

“Stop military trauma tests on animals,” it says.

“I’m a normal person. I’m not some wacko,” said Hoppler, a 46-year-old former veterinary technician from Federal Way. “But this is important to me.”

Hoppler was one of eight people organized by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. PETA is protesting at Fort Lewis and 16 other military installations across the country.

Kathy Guillermo, PETA’s director of laboratory investigations, said in a release that the Army’s use of animals could violate a Department of Defense regulation that requires the use of nonanimal methods when they are available. The Navy’s and the Air Force’s trauma training practices don’t use animals, she said.

PETA forwarded to The News Tribune a 2006 article in the Journal of Surgical Research by 10 Madigan doctors assessing the use of animals in trauma training.

The report details the use (among other procedures) of goats in teaching the proper application of tourniquets. A veterinarian anesthetized each animal before the training and euthanized it afterward.

So, is it effective? Yes and no, the report says.

The report questions the method’s efficiency: “The goat model is not ideal for venous access practice and much time was taken to obtain such access with the result of personnel not having the opportunity to treat other injuries.”

But it concludes that the goat method is “an effective method for training medical personnel to deal with modern battle injuries.”

Kate Brindle, a PETA campaigner who flew from Norfolk, Va., for the rally, said her organization is urging the Army to use a simulator program or assign medics to work shifts in a trauma ward of a hospital.

But the participants liked using animals, the report said: “When asked whether previous Army training had covered the procedures and skills taught in the course, the live animal lab scored significantly higher than the simulator portion of the course.”

The scope and frequency of the use of live animals by local medics couldn’t be determined Thursday.

Scott Fontaine: 253-320-4758, scott.fontaine@thenewstribune.com, blogs.thenewstribune.com/military

This Goat Isn’t The Slightest Bit Gruff

Therapy goat a comforting presence
Gracie has been to Lloyd Center, retirement facilities, Oregon City Healthcare and to the state penitentiary — which is somewhat surprising, given that Gracie is indisputably a goat.

Then again, Gracie is no ordinary goat. The registered mini-Nubian is a certified therapy goat.

Gracie, who will be 6 years old this month, is the only goat ever to be certified by the Dove Lewis Animal Assisted Therapy and Education organization, noted owner Sandy Amos, an Oregon City resident.

Another first for Gracie is coming up this Friday, when she walks the runway at Boutiques Unleashed, an event to benefit the Dove Lewis Pet Loss Support Program.

Although Gracie has not been a “supermodel” before, she is used to attracting attention wherever she goes, Amos said.

Her usual venue is a retirement community where she offers unconditional love to residents, but she definitely turned heads during her trip to Lloyd Center’s Barnes and Noble for a Christmas event.

(Cont Pg 7, Col 1)
Amos took Gracie into the restroom at the bookstore, in order to empty her "pellet bag," and said she wondered what people thought when they saw goat hooves in the stall.

"It was just hilarious—we got a lot of weird looks, and as we walked through the mall camera phones were going off," she said.

Jim Amos, Sandy's husband, said one person even asked him what kind of dog Gracie was.

A Favorite with Seniors
The goat has a following in local retirement communities, Sandy Amos said.

"She seems to instinctively know that people in wheelchairs are her target. She goes right up to them and nuzzles their leg. If they bend over, she gives them a kiss. She seems to sense they really need her."

One of Gracie's favorite people is a man named Bill, who lives at Marquis Care in Oregon City, Amos said.

"He loves Gracie; he's been moved to the Alzheimer's wing, and he's fading fast. He doesn't [recognize] too many people now, and sits in his chair almost asleep. Gracie goes in and finds him and starts nuzzling his hands, and he wakes up and says, 'It's the little goat.'"

"He doesn't know anyone else, but he knows the goat," she said.

A new resident recently moved to the same facility and caregivers told Amos that she had not spoken very much. When Amos asked her if she wanted to pet the goat, the woman nodded, and began to pet Gracie.

"Then she started telling a story about her own goat as she petted Gracie, and [the caregivers] said that was the first time she had talked," Amos said, adding, "There is something magical about therapy animals — they bring out the smiles."

Gracie's story
The goat was one of quadruplets born during spring break nearly six years ago.

"By morning, three of them were dead, but Gracie survived. I picked her up, wrapped her in a towel, took her home and put her in front of the fire — she was very frail. It took her two days to stand, and when she walked down the hall it was a red-letter day," Amos said.

When Gracie was strong enough, Amos returned her to the farm where she was born, and she entered "the nursery" with other young goats that were being bottle fed. There Gracie met Dove, who became her great friend, Amos said.

The two young goats eventually joined Amos's small herd, but a friend kept telling her that Gracie should become a therapy goat.

"So I called Dove Lewis and took her in to meet Heather Toland, director of Dove Lewis's animal assisted therapy program, who said Gracie had the right personality to be a therapy animal."

Amos did have to solve one big problem, in that Gracie could not be housebroken. She invented what she calls a "pellet bag," that she straps onto Gracie's backside. "It's very sanitary," she said.

As for what makes Gracie so popular, Amos thinks it is the "novelty" factor. Although most people have had some contact with a goat, many don't realize that the animals can behave themselves.

Amos added, "Goats can have gentle personalities and I always say that Gracie has been very well trained."

And Two Slide Shows from Cornell University
Disbudding kids
Jan 29, 2007, 12:22pm
Cornell series on kid care shows disbudding techniques for removing horn buds.
http://www.anosci.cornell.edu/4H/meatgoats/disbudding/disbud.htm

Castration
Jan 29, 2007, 12:19pm
Slide show pictures for castration of goat kids:
http://www.anosci.cornell.edu/4H/meatgoats/castrating/castrate.htm

A Neat Article on Goatpacking from Deseret News
Latest Trend, Goatpacking
http://www.deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,595070824,00.htm

Drug Created From Genetically Engineered Goats
Associated Press
Updated 8:54 a.m. MT, Wed., Jan. 7, 2009
Anti-clotting medication moves closer to approval for use in people
WASHINGTON - In a scientific first, an anti-clotting drug made from the milk of genetically engineered goats is moving closer to government approval for humans.

An evaluation by the Food and Drug Administration released Wednesday says the medication works and its safety is acceptable.

Called ATRyn, the drug is intended to help people with a rare hereditary disorder that makes them vulnerable to life-threatening blood clots.

Its approval would be a major step toward new kinds of medications made not from chemicals, but from living organisms genetically manipulated by scientists. Similar drugs could be available in the next few years for a range of human ailments, including hemophilia.

ATryn is made by Massachusetts-based GTC Biotherapeutics.

And for a little fun, Tom T. Hall sings, "What Do You Say to a Baby Goat?"
You Tube Video...
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSbyQIUkHXk&feature=related
San Dimas Gets Their Goats
By Yusuf Shariff, Correspondent, Posted: 07/04/2009 04:33:59 PM PDT

A goat chomps on some grass in the Walnut Creek Habitat in San Dimas. (SGVN/Staff Photo by Keith Birmingham)

San Dimas has hired a new group of employees for lawn care at the Walnut Creek Habitat - goats.

To save thousands in landscaping costs, the city is using about 200 goats to reduce vegetation on 15 acres of its new wildlife preserve.

The rest of the 60-acre preserve is sensitive wildland that cannot be disturbed.

“It would have cost the city $35,000 to hire a group, where the goats cost $6,700,” said Ann Garcia, administrative aid for San Dimas.

She hired goat-keeper George Gonzalez after hearing about his work in other cities.

The goats will spend three weeks on the hilly slopes eating vegetation.

During a recent day at the Walnut Creek Habitat, the goats were hard at work chomping on weeds, well most of them. Some were caught lounging under trees.

The bearded landscapers are protected with high-security electrical fences, two professional security guards, park rangers and Great Pyrenees dogs.

The goats are placed in pens at night, and are guarded from coyotes by the dogs.

Goats: Nature’s Lawnmowers
One landscaping outfit said taming the park’s weeds would cost far less than $35,000, but would still be more expensive than the goats.

But because of the hilly, dangerous terrain, it would still cost at least $10,000, said an official from Reynolds Gardening and Landscaping.

The area was originally slated to become a housing development with 75 to 250 houses, city officials said.

San Dimas paid $1 million for 6 acres of the preserve and the San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy paid $8 million for the other 54 acres.

“Six acres of the preserve will become a passive park and the other 54 acres will be open land with the exception of hiking and equestrian trails,” Councilman Denis Bertone said.

The city plans to have community meetings to determine exactly how the park will be used.

news.tribune@sgvn.com, (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2911

What You Do Not Know Could Hurt You
By: Mary Robinson, Google Queen

I would not have thought that I would be “Goo-goo-googling” all over the computer at this age! Sounds like a baby, doesn’t it? However, I have found that I have become a little wiser from it and do not intend to stop the habit.

My latest issue is a growing one with many of my friends and acquaintenances. Most people are growing more and more concerned about what they eat and what they put on their skin. That’s where I jump in and start exploring my own make-up, lotions and soaps.

The “nastiest” word seems to be PARABENS, yes, and these are chemicals that many feel should not be there anyway. Reports have shown that 60% of what you put on your skin is absorbed. Parabens include these, but many more: methyl, propl, ethyl, and anything that ends with “ben”.

The FDA has not been conclusive about the evidence, but if we waited for them to find out, we would all be dead! Most people want to be on the safe side and avoid things that have been shown in lots of tests and research to be unhealthy.

Paraben chemicals are shown in many reports to be estrogen-mimicking and when absorbed through the skin affects people with allergies and organ system toxicity. I am watching products and reading all the time, seeing many new products identify themselves as Vegan, Natural, Paraben-Free and Organic. This will steer you towards the products with out the culprits.

You may find out that there are some foods that naturally have a minute part of a paraben (as in blueberries) to protect it from bacteria. This is a natural thing created by God and is teeny. I have found in my own search that natural things differ greatly from man-made.

If you are using home-made lotions and soaps, please use a recipe that will not only enhance your product healthy-wise, but keep it up on the market in a great spot with the competition!