Personal saving rates razor thin

The number of Americans with no emergency savings is up over last year despite an improving economy. Thirtyfour percent of adults lack the ability to fix a car, replace an appliance, or offset the loss of a job. Last year the rate was 29 percent. This is why NeighborImpact is getting the word out about Financial Capability Month to let families know there is local help available.

Throughout April, NeighborImpact is partnering with The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), a national nonprofit organization that empowers low- and moderateincome households to build and preserve their financial future. NeighborImpact's HomeSource program provides opportunities to learn about credit and budgeting, money-management skills, and the importance of saving for a rainy day.

"NeighborImpact's goal is to help families build the necessary tools to avoid a major financial disaster," says Lynne McConnell, NeighborImpact's associate director of HomeSource and assets. "None of us can predict when a crisis might hit, so it's essential to be prepared."

While low-income families are often hit hardest, even higher-income earners lack adequate savings. The survey found that 50 percent of families earning less than \$40,000 a year have no savings, 34 percent of families earning between \$40,000 and \$60,000 lack savings, along with 21 percent of families making up to \$100,000 per year, and 17 percent of families earning more than \$100,000.

> **NeighborImpact's** goal is to help families build the necessary tools to avoid a major financial disaster. Lynne McConnell

CFED also uses a mapping tool that shows the poverty asset rate of households in Central Oregon. For example, 34 percent of households in Deschutes County lack liquid assets (money in bank accounts, stocks, mutual funds or retirement accounts) to live at the poverty line for three months in the absence of income. That rate jumps to 44 percent for both Crook and Jefferson counties.

M c C o n n e 11 s a y s

NeighborImpact recognizes the need in the region and makes workshops and oneon-one coaching available in all three counties: "With the economy improving, now is the perfect time to learn the importance of saving so that when the next recession hits or medical emergency occurs, families have something to fall back on.'

For more information on NeighborImpact's HomeSource program, visit the website at http://www. neighborimpact.org/services/ skills-for-success/ or call 541-323-6567. Download a PDF with a list of HomeSource classes at http://www. neighborimpact.org/FF_ Schedule_2015.pdf.



On litter patrol...

Gayla Nelson was out with her dog, Louie, and her horse, Splash, on an Oregon Equestrian Trails/Sisters Trails Alliance litter clean-up mission earlier this month. The organizations are active in keeping Sisters Country clean.



Thursday~April 16

Faith Hope & Charity Vineyards Live Music with CinderBlue 6 to 9 p.m. \$5 cover. For additional information: 541-526-5075 or faithhopeandcharityevents.com.

Sisters Community Church Women's Spring Event 7 p.m. Free! Enjoy dessert and hear guest speaker Leslie Smith, director of Redmond's Pregnancy Resource Center. For info call 480-390-3638.

Faith Hope & Charity Vinevards Live Music with Derek Michael Marc 6 to 9 p.m. \$5 cover. And Fondue Friday is \$15 per person! 541-526-5075 or

oves & location to clean

Monday~April 20 The Open Door at **Clearwater Gallery Live** Music with Michael Howard 7 p.m. No cover! For info call 541-549-4994 or go to theclearwatergallery.com

Tuesday~April 21

The Belfry Frontiers in

Science 6 p.m. Free! Will Brendeke & John Bailey on sustainable forest management practices. For more info go to sistersscienceclub.com

Fundraiser for Pepperling 6 p.m. To raise funds for a "bucket list" Yellowstone trip for Gary Pepperling, with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Enjoy Bingo (\$1/card or 6/\$5), with raffles, for \$10. Free coffee & iced tea. For info call 541-306-0856.

Thursday~April 23

Hood Avenue Art Live Music with Benji Nagel for 4th Friday Art Stroll 4 to 7 p.m. For additional information go online to hoodavenueart.com or call 541-719-1800

Sisters Art Works "My Own Two Hands" Open House 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information call the Sisters Folk Festival at 541-54 9-4979 or go to sistersfolkfestival.org.

Faith Hope & Charity Vineyards Live Music with Jeff Jackson 6 to 9 p.m. \$5 cover. And Fondue Friday is \$15 per person! For more info: 541-526-5075 or

Saturday~April 25

Aspen Lakes, Black Butte Ranch & Eagle Crest courses Central Oregon Shootout **Golf Tourney** 13th annual event over 3 days! Register online at aspenlakes.com. For information call 541-549-4653, 541-595-5884, 541-504-3877.

Symposium on Lake

