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Day will focus on hunger here and abroad

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

Gretchen Shutz of Food for Lane County hopes this year's World Food Day will show county residents that hunger is a problem in the area, and that they can do something to help.

"On World Food Day, we hope that people will look in some depth at the problem of hunger on a local as well as a national and international scale," Shutz said.

Food for Lane County is the food bank for 60 local food-box groups.

The day is an international observance created by The

United Nations five years ago in order to promote awareness of and action toward the elimination of hunger. The day falls on Oct. 16 this year with 140 countries participating.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture co-sponsors the event with 350 groups of diverse origins, ranging from food wholesalers, social-activist groups and Christian groups.

World Food Day is a commitment toward finding ways to reduce hunger by investing within the technical, financial and physical resources already available, Shutz said.

Eugene events for the day will include a canned-food drive, a high school debate tournament on the subject of United States agricultural policy and its implications nationally and locally. The cable access channel will show a one-hour program on international, national and local hunger problems.

Felice Dunham, who is working on the cable television project, said she hopes World Food Day will help to "dispell the myth that only able-bodied people are receiving the free food."

Dunham said that many of the hungry people in Lane County have been residents in the area

for years.

"Children, single parents, disabled people and the elderly are going hungry in Lane County; people need to be aware of that," Dunham said.

"It is not just the transients who stay in the area for a few days who receive food. People who have lived in the area for up to 14 years need to receive the food," she added.

The majority of residents who need food are adults who do not earn enough to completely support their families, single parents who cannot work because they cannot afford child care, and disabled people who are unable to work.

It is important for people to realize they can assist the hungry with volunteer work as well as offer financial support, Dunham said.

Dorothy Sistrom, coordinator for the 4th congressional District's chapter of Bread for the World, said her organization will make publicize the results of an anti-hunger campaign survey on the day. The survey was sent to politicians around the state who were asked to rate the importance of certain hunger-related issues, and whether or not they agreed with

the Bread for the World platform.

"We want to make hunger an important part of the upcoming election," Sistrom said.

"I am, however, distressed that many of the candidates did not respond to the hunger survey," she added.

While immediate relief is needed, the hunger problem should be looked at in a broader sense, said Sistrom, who helped start two area soup kitchens.

"It is critical to understand that while it feels good to be giving food to people, in order for us to feel good, they have to feel bad," Sistrom said.

"That is why Bread for the World lobbies Congress; we want to remedy the need for people to beg," she said.

World Food Day is an important way to introduce people to the hunger problem, Sistrom said. However, people must remember that the problem needs constant attention, she said.

Anyone who wants to donate cans of food or find out about volunteer work can contact Food For Lane County at 343-2822 or 343-3019.

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GWEN

Continued from Page 1

impact statement detailing the effects of the tower.

As a result of the lawsuit, which charges the Air Force with violating the National Environmental Policy Act requiring an impact statement, the Air Force agreed to complete a statement and held a public hearing in Washington, D.C., recently, at which Keller and another No-GWEN representative testified.

But the Air Force, while it will include the effects of the tower on migratory bird routes, land-use laws, ground water supply and other natural phenomena, has repeatedly

refused to include the effects of nuclear war, which opponents say would be a likely consequence of having the tower in Lane County.

"At the hearing (in Washington, D.C.), the Air Force let us know that if we wanted them to include the nuclear war fighting effects of GWEN, we'd have to take them to court," Keller said.

McCluskey said the Air Force will complete its first draft of the environmental impact statement sometime in March, at which time the Air Force will take public comments and respond to them in the final draft, which is scheduled to be completed in June.

Keller said she does not expect to see the effects of a nuclear war included in the first draft.

"The environmental effects of a nuclear war are so mind-boggling...that they've been overlooked by people," Keller said. "They're just too big, and it's those extremely large effects that need to be included."

At the public hearing, 17 people testified in front of the Air Force, 15 of whom said the Air Force should be required to include the effects of nuclear war, Keller said.

But McCluskey said a nuclear war is not considered to be part

of the environmental impact on an area where a GWEN tower is located.

He said the impact statement "has to do only with known impacts. (The effects of nuclear war) are not known."

Despite the furor caused by the project, GWEN should be looked at as a method of deterrence, McCluskey said.

"If the Russians know we have a system...that we can communicate and control our forces even after a nuclear explosion, then they are deterred from attacking us," he said.

GWEN is in trouble not only legally and environmentally as the pressure grows to inform residents close to the towers of their effects, but financially as national legislators begin turning against the project.

The Senate Appropriations Committee, chaired by Hatfield, recently slashed the proposed GWEN budget from \$97.2 million to \$20 million. The project's total funding for 1987 will be determined by a joint Senate-House committee.

The final cost of GWEN is estimated to be between \$800 million and \$1 billion, McCluskey said.

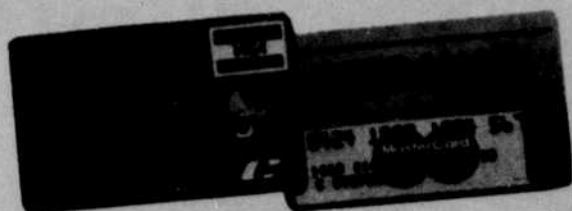
Ann Warner, a field representative in Hatfield's Portland of-

Continued on Page 8

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