

# Levy may aid extension service

By Meg Dedolph  
Emerald Reporter

Lane County may stand to lose its agricultural extension service if the extension service levy on the March 23 ballot is not passed.

The Lane County extension service provides training and advice to the public on issues relating to the home, the garden, farming or forestry.

Janet Calvert, Lane County extension agent and staff chair, said the purpose of the extension is to "provide and offer research-based information to people in ways they can use."

The proposed property tax levy costs about five cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value and is expected to raise \$560,032 each year for five years, about \$30,000 more than the current levy.

Under federal law, the county is responsible for providing administrative support for extension services, which includes secretarial help, rent and educational materials.

There are only eight full-time agents working out of the county office, meaning that much of the extension's services are pro-

vided by trained volunteers.

"We cover a wide range of activities and rely on volunteers to extend that knowledge further," Calvert said.

Extension volunteers staff telephone hotlines, answering more than 1.5 million questions each year about food preserving, gardening and woodland management, and teach community workshops on leadership, communication and group management.

More than 425 volunteers serve as leaders in the 4-H youth development program, working with 6,300 children in the county each year, including those in homeless shelters.

The 4-H program includes after-school programs, classroom projects and long-term project clubs that function for several months.

Volunteers also staff the Parent-Friend cooperative program with Sacred Heart Prenatal Clinic, where new parents are paired with volunteers who answer questions about child development and baby care.

Calvert said strong local support may also be why the Lane County extension service receives federal funding for pro-

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— Janet Calvert,  
Lane County extension agent

grams like the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, which offers nutrition instruction to low-income families with children.

"If there weren't a local presence, those federal funds would go elsewhere," Calvert said.

Calvert said the strongest support for the two previous extension levies came from cities like Eugene, which, although an urban area, uses the extension service often.

"It's just as important for a backyard gardener to know how to use pesticides properly as a farmer," she said.

Within Eugene, Calvert said, very few students use the extension service, except for foreign students who may ask for help adjusting to American cooking.

# Gay students to take silence vow

Some gay, lesbian and bisexual students will wear pink triangle pins and remain silent for 24 hours beginning tonight in celebration of the University's Pink Triangle Day.

Historically, the pink triangle was a symbol of hatred, said Doug Knecht, a student who organized the day's activities. Nazi leader Adolf Hitler made gay people wear pink triangles, just as he made Jewish people wear yellow Stars of David.

Pink triangles now symbolize empowerment and are a show of visibility, Knecht said.

"It's not an act of radicalism," he said. "It's a

public affirmation of who we are."

A rally will take place tonight at 8 in Room 100 Willamette. Speakers will discuss the history of the pink triangle. Thursday at 8 p.m., a rally will be at the same place. People who wore the pins will take them off and will "be given their voices back," Knecht said.

The free pins will be available at the University Bookstore and the Dean of Students Office. Pink Triangle Day is part of Hate Free Week, sponsored by the Standing Committee of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns.

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