

# Eugene, Lane County help fund another winter camp

By Meg Dedolph  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The city of Eugene, in conjunction with the state and county, is funding another winter car camp for the homeless similar to the one operated last year near Autzen Stadium.

The camp will be located in the same city-owned parking lot as last year, near Willamette Sciences and Technology Center, the Lane ESD Planetarium and Autzen Stadium, said Richie Weinman, a member of the homeless task force that helped plan the camp site.

Unlike last year's camp, this year's camp is expected to open after Nov. 21 and operate through May 31.

Weinman said the city is hoping White Bird Clinic will provide 24-hour staffing for the camp, as it did last year.

Bob Dritz, White Bird's clinic coordinator, said the clinic has not yet agreed to staff the camp, but "we've told the city if they have no other options, we'll staff it."

Dritz said White Bird has a list of improvements they would like to see at the camp. These include adding more space to accommodate more vehicles and a communal area where campers could gather to get warm or socialize.

Dritz also said he would like to see hot water and

shower facilities made available at the site as well.

"It's hard when you're trying to get a job and you can't clean yourself," he said.

A low fence around the area would also be helpful, he said, because it would make it clear to the public where the campground began, and it would keep the children staying at the car camp from running into the street.

The car camp's total cost of operation is estimated at \$70,000, half of which will be paid by the state through a grant submitted by Lane County.

"We more or less have to go through with putting in the application," Weinman said. "We've already got verbal consent from the state. Part of what the state was looking for was local participation and funding."

The city of Eugene and Lane County are each expected to contribute \$15,000 to the car camp. The Springfield City Council, which was asked to contribute \$5,000, is unenthusiastic about the proposal.

"We don't think very much about it," said Springfield Councilman Stu Burge. "Most of us just don't feel that a car camp in a parking lot is very forward thinking."

Burge said he and other council members were also concerned that the car camp might be used by people who were not from the area.

Last year's statistics on the campers, gathered by White Bird Clinic, showed that 49 percent of them had lived in the Eugene-Springfield area for more than a year.

"We can't afford to support those who are out of the area," Burge said. "The more we give to others, the less we give to our own."

Furthermore, Burge said he believes sleeping in a car is not a good solution to a lack of housing.

"It gets as cold inside the car as it does outside the car," he said. "Sleeping in your car in the dead of winter is not very humane."

Dritz disagreed, saying that the car camp was intended to provide a legal option for people who were forced to camp out.

"This gives them a place to be which is legal and it gives them some support," he said. "Someone has to take care of the problem. I thought it was very fair this year because it was shared between the county, state and city."

Burge said he and Springfield's council were looking into other options, including the possibility of some Springfield churches providing emergency shelter.

"We have a lot of churches and a lot of good people in these memberships," he said.

## UPDATE

- Oregon Food Bank has scheduled a holiday food and fund-raising drive Saturday at Safeway stores in Oregon and southwest Washington. People are asked to donate non-perishable food items and cash from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the nearest Safeway.

- State Sen. Shirley Gold will speak about the proposed sales tax Monday at Lane Demo Forum.

Gold is chairman of the Oregon State Senate Revenue Committee and will explain why it is important for voters to approve the measure. The forum is free to the public and begins at noon at Defrisco's Restaurant, 99 W. 10th Ave.

- Lane County Waste Management is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup Saturday.

Residents who have a hazardous substance around their homes can get rid of the waste at no charge at the Glenwood Dump, 3100 E. 17th Ave. Hazardous waste items include pesticides, paint, degreasers, varnish, pool chemicals, poisons, batteries, gasoline and aerosols. Items that will not be accepted are containers larger than five gallons, radioactive materials and non-hazardous items. For more information, call 687-4120.

- "Planning in Advance for Health Care Decisions" is the title of a free seminar offered by Sacred Heart General Hospital Wednesday.

A physician and other experts will explain choices related to treatment. The seminar is scheduled from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart's auditorium, 1255 Hilyard St. To pre-register, call Sacred Heart's Senior Class, 686-7250.

- The Eugene-Springfield branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has scheduled its 1993 Freedom Fund Dinner for Nov. 13 at the Eugene Hilton.

Judge Carl B. Stokes, the former mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, will speak at the group's annual fund-raising dinner. Emmett Williams and the Bethel Temple Church of God in Christ gospel choir will provide the evening's entertainment. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at Graphic Innovators, 26 E. 11th Ave., or through the mail by sending a check made payable to NAACP, P.O. Box 11484, Eugene, OR 97440.

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