

Music man



MELODY CONROY/Emerald

"Peace through music is my motto, music brings people together," sang Eagle Park Slim, a blues singer who shared his music with those passing by Tuesday on 13th Avenue.

Local charity a part of national food drive

■ **NEEDY:** The Christmas CanTree will be displayed in Springfield's Gateway Mall

By Kathy Ewing
Freelance Reporter

The Eugene Association of Realtors and St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County are sponsoring the first annual Christmas CanTree to provide canned food for needy people during the holidays.

The CanTree will be decorated with Christmas lights and will be displayed at Image One in the Gateway Mall from Nov. 13 through Dec. 25. People wishing to participate may drop off cans of food at Image One or at their local realty office.

Nita Bohannon, CanTree chairperson, is enthusiastic about the program. "This is a great way for our community to reach out to others," she said.

The Christmas CanTree program started in California in 1978 and is now a nationwide program. Approximately 3,500,000 cans, or 1,750 tons of

food, were donated statewide in its first year of operation.

Bohannon hopes that the CanTree will generate several thousand pounds of canned food this season, especially items high in protein such as chili, tuna and peanut butter.

The barrels of food are delivered to St. Vincent de Paul's Social Services Office on the corner of Highway 99 and Roosevelt. From there the food is distributed to homeless or low-income individuals and families.

"We make 600 Christmas food baskets for families this time of year," Rebecca Larson, St. Vincent de Paul community resource coordinator, said.

"When you're at the point of wondering where your next meal's going to come from, this donated food helps a lot," Larson said.

University clubs and organizations that want to help St. Vincent de Paul with food or blanket drives can call 687-5820.

Organizations to provide free Thanksgiving dinner

■ **HOLIDAY:** Free food, clothing and blankets will be given out at many locations this week

By Abe Estimada
Community Reporter

Local schools and churches are hosting Thanksgiving meals — with all of the trimmings — for Lane County residents and families looking for a warm meal.

Whiteaker Elementary School is hosting a meal from 12 to 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day for people who are homeless or earning a low income.

The school, located on 21 N. Grand St., will have drivers available to give rides to those interested in attend the dinner.

Eugene residents who want to give food or other donations, or volunteer their time can call the Whiteaker neighborhood organization hotline at 954-7517. People can also call the hotline for transportation needs.

Those who attend the dinner can also pick up tents, sleeping bags, clothing and warm blankets there. Whiteaker neighbors have already bought hundreds of blankets for donation, said a Whiteaker resident.

"We get [donations], we give it, and we help people survive the winter," the resident said.

Last year, more than 800 people took advantage of the Thanksgiving dinner, Eve said.

There will be many other Thanksgiving dinners offered throughout the city.

The Salvation Army will be sponsoring a meal at its Springfield office on 1275 Mill St. The meal, on Thanksgiving day, will begin at 11 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

The Eugene Mission, on 1542 W. 1st Ave., will be offering a dinner on Thanksgiving Day, starting at 11:30 a.m.

St. Alice Catholic Church of Springfield at 1520 F St. will host its annual Thanksgiving dinner Wednesday evening in its meeting room from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Patterson Elementary School, on the corner of West 15th Ave. and Polk St., is inviting Eugene families for a meal on Wednesday night, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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