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## Dinner

continued from page 1

she said, "or next to someone who has a big house on the south side of town."

The Whiteaker dinner also draws trained professionals who volunteer their expertise to help the event run smoothly. Ray Sewell, known to Eugene residents as Chez Ray, takes time from running his restaurants to supervise the kitchen. And John Doscher, owner of the private security company Oregon Event Enterprises, donates the company's services to the Thanksgiving dinner.

This is Doscher's eighth year at Whiteaker, and he explained that his role is less about security than it is coordinating and offering direction.

"We see a certain group of people all year long and we have to correct their behavior," Doscher said. "It's really nice on this one day to give these same people pie and tell them where to get another blanket."

Sewell got involved with the effort years ago, when people were hosting community dinners in their homes. When the event moved to Whiteaker, he became a celebrity host who keeps the food flowing. Members of his staff join him now, making it a group effort. That sense of community and togetherness is the point, Sewell said, and it brings out the best in people.

"People come out in tears. They feel so blessed by being involved. At the essence of survival is being part of the pack and being accepted," Sewell said. "The community is never full."

While not full, the Whiteaker dinner is a huge event, and there's little room to grow. Farfan said that they have been referring people to the Springfield Community Dinner, held in Willamalane Senior Center at 215 W. C St. Organizer Jennifer Lang said she worked at Whiteaker for many years, and last year she and other members of New Song Christian Fellowship started the Springfield event.

"We wanted to serve members of

the community and make them feel loved and warm," Lang said.

Lang echoes Farfan's sentiments that the dinner is a community-wide event. A Thanksgiving feast will again be prepared for 500 people, although according to Lang, only 150 attended last year. The church makes the arrangements, but neighbors provide the effort. Local grocery stores and wholesalers, such as Williams Bakery, donate food, and this year Springfield High School students spearheaded the clothing drive and solicited 7,000 pounds of canned food. For more information on volunteering call 744-2604.

The important thing, said the organizers of all these events, is that people eat and spend time with others in their community on Thanksgiving.

"We encourage people to walk around, sit and have dinner," Farfan said. "People coming together to share compassion, caring and respect for each other is what the holiday is about."

## Elections

continued from page 1

The court's decision said Harris must accept amended vote totals until Sunday at 5 p.m. — if her office is open — or else Monday at 9 a.m.

The court indicated it established its timetable to give either Gore or Bush time to protest the certification of the state's 25 electors, yet still leave time for that issue to be resolved so Florida's votes can be included when the Electoral College meets on Dec. 18.

On the thorny issue of manual recounts, the court said, "Although error cannot be completely eliminated in any tabulation of the ballots, our society has not yet gone so far as to place blind faith in ma-

chines. In almost all endeavors, including elections, humans routinely correct the errors of machines."

The high court did not specifically address the question of whether "dimpled" ballots could be counted — those are the punchcard ballots with indentations but not full perforations — but cited an Illinois Supreme Court ruling that the seven justices said was "particularly apt in this case."

"These voters should not be disfranchised where their intent may be ascertained with reasonable certainty," the Florida court wrote, quoting the Illinois ruling.

At the same time, the justices said, "We decline to rule more expansively, for to do so would result

in this court substantially rewriting the code. We leave that matter to the sound discretion of the body best equipped to address it -- the legislature."

It was not clear whether the ruling would pave the way to reopening the issue of overseas absentee ballots that were rejected late last week for lack of postmarks. Republicans have accused Democrats in recent days of cutting off armed forces personnel, and Democrats have retreated, signaling a desire to have the issue reopened.

Tuesday night's ruling came less than 30 hours after the justices heard oral arguments in the case that holds the key to the overtime presidential election, a speedy

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this Thursday.

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...until the Oregon Daily Emerald holiday issue.  
(The last issue for fall term. Advertising deadline is Wednesday, November 29)

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