

Count

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ity. "Sometimes people just like to pull the blinds," McLaughlin said of a common out-of-sight, out-of-mind perception of homeless.

This effort seeks volunteers who will do the opposite; survey and count unsheltered families or individuals living in the general Silverton, Mt. Angel, Woodburn and Scotts Mills areas.

"There are something like 20 cities in Marion County, and yet people seem to think of it as just Salem," McLaughlin said.

Many think of homeless populations concentrating in cities. Hughes' experience is otherwise, and she's very familiar with the difficulties of finding and counting homeless populations in rural areas, many of whom find camps well away from populated areas to make a bed at night.

"That's why we are doing it this way this year," Hughes said of the connect event. "Organizations that do these counts all realize that (the tally) is a fingernail of what the actual count is."

Getting the data as accurate as possible is important, since it's provided to HUD and examined for trends, determining how severe homeless problems may be in given areas. Hughes said HUD requires the count every other year, but many agencies working hands-on with the problem prefer to do it annually.

The connect approach, she hopes, will not only lure numbers into Silverton for the count, but hopefully enlighten people dealing with homelessness of resources available to help their particular situation.

"If we build it they will come," Hughes said.

The group seeks donations and volunteer help. Donations include socks, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, blankets, coats, flashlights, batteries and new underwear.

"Socks are No. 1 on our hit parade," Hughes stressed.

Volunteers are near the top of that parade as well. Helping hands are needed for everything from surveys to serving food and helping direct people to various services, including haircuts, veterinary care, bicycle repair or a hot meal.

Donation locations include Trinity Lutheran, Live Local Market & Café, 111 Water St.; Gear Up, 430 McClaine St.; Bledsoe Santana Team Realty, 206 Oak St.; Books-N-Time, 210 Water St.; Main St. Bistro, 201 E. Main St.; Silverton Jewelers, 205 Oak St.; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 745 W. Main St.

For information, visit www.ochh.org or call 971-283-0983.

Mother Son Fun Night

A busy Silverton mom running errands downtown, **Angela Rose**, stopped into the Creekside Chat to announce the latest fun development at Bethany Charter School, where she serves as chairwoman of its booster club.

The club is hosting "Mother Son Fun Night" from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, in the Silverton Middle School gymnasium. It's a first-time event, especially for moms and sons, and the theme is Sports Night Out.

"We will encourage moms and sons to come dressed as a team," Rose noted, providing a list of activities: laser tag, contests, games, a special craft, music, photos, tattoos, a sundae bar.

The event is a fundraiser for the booster club, which in turn helps to fund



Karolle Hughes, left, and Lori McLaughlin stopped in for a Creekside Chat at Live Local Cafe on Jan. 17, to impart the game plan for the upcoming Silverton Homeless Connect, on Jan. 31, at Trinity Lutheran Church.

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field trips, school programs and teacher and student appreciation functions.

Event organizers welcome new sponsors or supporters, and for a \$250 a donor can sponsor and advertise at a given game or competition.

Tickets are \$30 per pair and \$10 for additional kids if purchased by Feb. 7, and are available through Eventbrite.com. Tickets can be purchased at the door at \$40 per pair and \$15 per child.

For information, call Bethanycharter-schoolboosters@gmail.com or call 503-991-0323, or look the school up on Facebook.

Care Fair & taxes

Silverton Senior Center Executive Director **Dodie Brockamp** said the center is hosting two upcoming events that are open to the public: a resource fair and tax-preparation help.

The Care Fare is described as a "resource fair for making caring connections" designed for caregivers and those in need of care. It is scheduled for 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the center, 115 Westfield St., Silverton.

The idea is to make connections, share resources, information and educational opportunities. There will be representatives from Northwest Senior and Disability Services along with a number of home health agencies, including ComForCare, Wellness at Home, New Horizons, First Call, Providence Benedictine Home Health and Senior Helpers.

The center is compiling a list of resources for referrals which will include certified and non-certified caregivers.

The center will also have free, in-person tax preparation services available through AARP Foundation Tax Aid. The service is available to anyone, but is specially designed for ages 50 and older who cannot afford tax consultants.

The sessions are walk-ins, no appointment necessary, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, beginning Feb. 3 and running through April 14.

For information, contact the center at 503-873-3093 or staff@silvertonsenior-center.org.

Green

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that's helped nearly 200 schools achieve recognition since the program started 20 years ago.

Silver Falls School District administrators said the old Mark Twain Middle School once earned certification.

"To become an entry-level Oregon Green School, a school must have an effective and permanent recycling and waste reduction program, analyze its energy and water use, do a waste audit and set goals to work on over the next three years," Bates said.

When Butte Creek's leadership team analyzed the contents of a single day's trash, most classrooms had "little to no garbage," Lamoreau said, but his students did find some paper and school supplies, such as pencils, had been thrown away. The trash can in the staff room actually contained the most recyclables.

"The students were definitely tickled by that," Bates said.

"The most important thing (the Green Team does) is just give people an opportunity to reduce and recycle their waste," Lamoreau said. "We try to make it easy for them. People want to do good, and if you give them the opportunity, they will."

His own journey to becoming Butte Creek's environmental advocate began when he advised a group of students who graduated eighth grade in 2014. They started a Random Acts of Kindness Club, which planted the school's garden and did a cleanup at Silverton Reservoir.

In that original club was Tyler Bishop, now a high school student who regularly returns to Lamoreau's class to help with leadership projects. Last year, he helped build the wooden compost bin by the garden; it should yield its first compost this spring.

After that, Lamoreau took a two-year leave of absence to teach at the International School of Panama. From their apartment overlooking the beach, he and his wife could see firsthand the shocking amount of trash floating in the Pacific Ocean.

"You realize how much garbage is out there," he said. "We do a pretty good job of hiding it up here ... it's out of sight, out of mind."

When he returned to Butte Creek in 2016, he began showing his students what he'd seen and learned. At first, a small group worked on environmental measures, while others focused on more traditional leadership tasks. Now everyone in the leadership class, which meets daily, is taking part in the effort to be greener.

When they earned \$900 at a school dance, leadership students opted to spend some of the money to cut down Butte Creek's use of disposable plastic water bottles.

They bought a \$90 water filter to make the school's well water more palatable and designed reusable water bottles, which they sold at a \$2-a-piece loss, to the school community.

A video the class watched about "an island of plastic water bottles floating in the ocean," was an image that stuck in student Zach Kuenzi's mind and continues to motivate him to do his regular recycling jobs in the lunchroom.

"We are trying to help our community and improve our future," said another student, Valya Barsukoff.

"These kids are inheriting a world choking with plastic. I tell them it's not their fault, but they will have to be the ones to clean it up," Lamoreau said.

Avoiding disposable plastic altogether is now more important than ever, as recyclables are stacking up across Oregon. In the past, the state sent much of its recycled plastic and paper overseas. But China banned many such materials from being imported, starting Jan. 1, citing contamination concerns.

Only this month, a dozen Oregon recyclers received permission to send paper and plastic to landfills.

At Butte Creek, students had an impressive recycling system in place before they ever sought Green School status; now they are fine-tuning it and moving onto water and energy conservation, Bates said.

Possible measures include installing sensor-controlled light switches and teaching conservation or even buying solar panels.

"We are proud that the students and staff are focused on these efforts and that they want to educate themselves

about being responsible consumers and recyclers," said Asst. Supt. Dandy Stevens.

The Butte Creek leadership team comprises Richard Vasquez, Jessica Gaspar, Valya Barsukoff, Quinn Kelley, Evan Good, Mark Snyder, Jenna Purdy, Jason Leon, Zach Kuenzi, Isabella Frolov, Rachel Kurns, Andy Alba, Rosa Quintero, Abigail Thompson, Kalyssa Efimov, Jaiden Rablin, Jayden Dewitt and Gaven Stetson.

To learn more about the statewide program, log onto <http://oregongreenschools.org>.

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