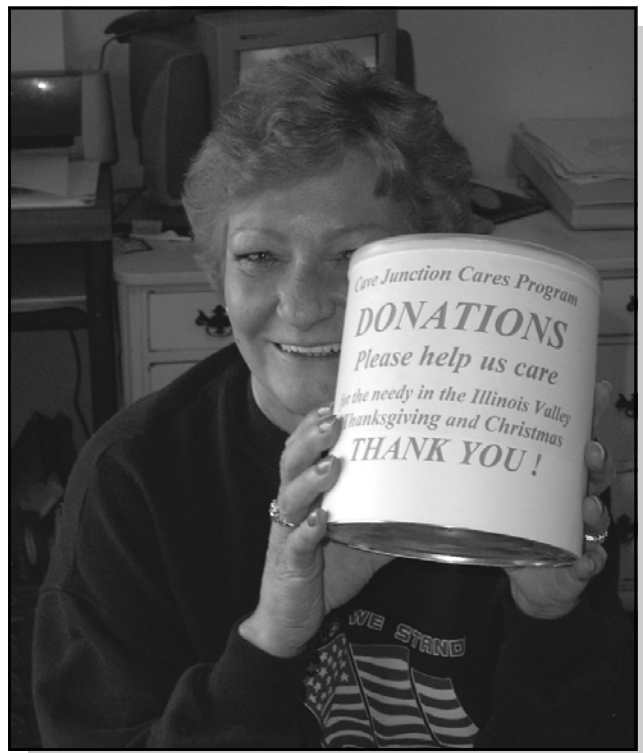


10 minutes with...



Lynn Boucher

Coordinator of Cave Junction Cares Program
Resident Manager of A+ Mini Storage
Lived in Illinois Valley: 14 years

How long have you been involved in the Cave Junction Cares Program?

Since 1989. We thought up the name the first year we did it. I used to serve food on Thanksgiving and Christmas at the mission in Union Station in California. When I got here they didn't have a program like that so we started that.

What exactly does Cave Junction Cares do?

We secure the pavilion at Jubilee Park and solicit donations. On Thanksgiving Day we serve about 300 people an all you can eat complete Thanksgiving dinner. Meals on Wheels does not deliver on holidays so we get their list and deliver Thanksgiving dinners to those homes. On Christmas we do the same thing with breakfast. We have a Santa Claus on Christmas that passes out more than \$1,000 worth of toys.

Where do the Christmas toys come from?

Everybody in the valley donates them. It's wonderful. I already have 12 brand new bikes and I haven't even started Christmas. We have one Santa that delivers to people that can't make it to our Christmas event. Churches and the welfare office lets us know who is down and out. We don't want last names. We just want the children's name and age. Santa delivers their gifts and a hot breakfast. My other Santa sits on a stage in the pavilion and hands out gifts.

Do other service clubs besides Cave Junction Cares help with the holiday events?

I'm totally involved with all the service clubs: The Veteran's of Foreign Wars, I.V. Bikers, Cave Junction and Illinois Valley Lions and they support me too. We all help each other. Whatever toys I have left after Christmas I donate back to the Lions and they give them out at the Easter egg hunt.

How long does it take to get this all together?

We work all the time. We have donation cans around town. When I find a sale I buy all the paper plates and things. Most of the food is donated.

Is it heartbreaking for you to see people in need every year?

No. We've seen kids that never even knew of Santa Claus. One year we had a 9-year-old boy that had never even received Christmas presents. All the volunteers were crying because it was just so neat. Everybody that has ever volunteered with me comes back and usually they bring somebody new with them. It's heart warming.

What drives you to give up your family holiday to do this?

This is not a very wealthy valley. By the grace of God It could be me in that line. It's just an automatic thing.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Pistachio.

— Interview by Steve Fairchild

First Oregon industrial land council forms

To strengthen Oregon's competitive environment for economic development and job creation, business professionals, community leaders, and development experts from throughout the state will join together to establish Oregon's first Industrial Lands Advisory Committee.

The advisory committee, created pursuant to House Bill 2011, adopted by Oregon's 72nd Legislative Assembly, has the mandate of identifying 25 industrial sites of "statewide significance" that offer in particular a high potential for job creation.

These premium "opportunity sites" will be chosen from an inventory of identified locations prepared by regional development offers with Oregon Economic and Community Development Dept. (OECDD).

"Communities with assets in place like "shovel-ready" industrial sites have strategic edge when it comes to attracting and retaining business," said Marty Brantley, OECDD director. "The advisory committee has deep expertise and experience in economic development, which will guide them in selecting Oregon's most advantageous business sites of the future."

Members of the task force represent all parts of the state and include city and county leaders.

They are: Lindsay Berryman, mayor of Medford; Greg Specht, president of Specht Properties of Portland; Tom Zelenka, vice president for environmental and public affairs with The Schnitzer Group in Portland; Mike McArthur, Sherman County Judge; Jean Wood, vice president Mhi Real Estate Development and Asset Management in Redmond; Steve Clark, president and publisher of Community Newspapers in Beaverton; Jim Mark, CEO of Melvin Mark Companies in Portland; Dick Sheehy, Manager of Site Selection with IDC-CH2M Hill in Portland and Chuck Rouse, formerly of Pioneer Bank in Baker City.

Please all and you will please none.
- Aesop -

Counties receive 'Rural Schools' funding

Oregon counties will receive more than \$110 million through the first installment of the 2003 county payments funds provided by The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) wrote the law in 2000 to secure a stable source of funding for rural schools and counties.

"For many of our rural communities, this money helps preserve jobs and build roads and infrastructure, as well as funding education statewide," Wy-

den said.

The county payments legislation directs \$1.3 billion over six years from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to Oregon counties for education, roads and county services.

Today's \$110 million is only the BLM portion of the funding and represents a more than 65 percent increase in BLM monies from before Wyden's bill was enacted; the forest service portion of the payments will be released to counties later this year.

The Wyden-Craig bill establishes a locked-in dol-

lar amount for rural schools and counties by averaging the three highest receipt producing years between Fiscal Years 1986 and 1999.

Under this proposal, 80-85 percent of funding will be reserved for traditional county schools and services supported by federal revenues, and 15-20 percent of monies will be set aside for national forest land or forest-related cooperative projects.

Josephine County will receive \$13.39 million.

The county payments will provide funds through 2006.

Rules set protecting nation's food supply

By Dec. 12 more than 1,000 licensed food processors and 50 animal feed producers in Oregon must register with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

And those importing food products will need to give prior notice as part of the effort to safeguard the nation's food supply.

In the next few weeks, officials will try to make those affected aware of the new requirements.

"The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 is designed to bolster the safety and security of America's food supply by enabling more targeted efforts to inspect imported

foods and by allowing the quick identification of food processors and other establishments in the event of deliberate or accidental contamination of specific items of food," said Alan Bennett, public affairs specialist at FDA's Portland office.

Two provisions of the act -- the registration requirement and prior notice of imported food -- have an immediate impact of food facilities in Oregon and the rest of the nation.

Registration pertains to facilities that process, pack, or hold food for consumption in the U.S.

Each registration must

include the name, address, phone number, and related information.

The registration information will not be available to the public.

After Dec. 12, all firms receiving imported foods are required to notify FDA no more than five days and no less than two hours prior to its arrival if it is arriving by road, four hours by rail or air, and eight hours if it is arriving by water transportation.

The prior notice will allow FDA to inspect product if it needs to before it moves on to processing or directly to the consumer.

The Savvy Senior

By CAROL MARTIN

Americans 45 and over were judged average, with potential for improvement, when it comes to consumer issues based on findings from AARP's new 2003 Consumer Experiences Survey that examined individuals' experiences with financial products and services. The survey looked at credit behavior, fraud and financial planning. These consumers are attempting to protect their financial security, however, their lack of basic financial knowledge can make their planning more difficult.

Although consumers age 45+ are lacking knowledge of basic financial and investment terms, they do understand some aspects of personal credit, including such things as how failing to make timely credit card payments can impact their credit rating. While acknowledging room for improvement, 45+ consumers also report managing their

debt levels well, with only 7 percent saying that they have more debt than they can financially handle.

There is good news in this report. Ninety-eight percent of all 45+ consumers surveyed have taken steps to protect their identity and credit situation. Some of these steps include ordering a copy of their credit report and limiting the number of identification cards they carry. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S. today and AARP encourages older consumers to protect themselves from this invasive crime.

The percentage of 45+ consumers reporting bad purchasing experiences in the past year has increased over the past four years. And while more consumers took some type of action, including complaints to the Better Business Bureau, in 2003 compared with 1999, overall respon-

dents are slightly less satisfied in 2003 with the action they took. Of those people who say they had a bad experience in the past year, 37 percent say they were victims of a major swindle or fraud.

Other key findings include:

* Sixty percent of consumers own a 401(k) retirement plan;

* Thirty-nine percent invest through a mutual fund account;

* Thirty-six percent own individual stock;

* 45+ consumers are least prepared for future expenses;

* Thirty-eight percent report having enough set aside for retirement;

* Twenty-four percent report having enough set aside for long-term care expenses;

* Fifteen percent have "none at all" set aside for retirement. (DBR Media)

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SOUTHERN OREGON SANITATION
and GRANTS PASS SANITATION

will be closed

Thanksgiving Day, November 27 in order to be with their families. Regular Thursday and Friday routes will be one day late.

Also... **KERBY TRANSFER STATION** and the Josephine County Recycling & Transfer Station will be closed Thanksgiving Day, November 27.

We would like to give our sincere Thank You to all of our customers who made the past year of serving them an outstanding one.

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