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Rural Advocate offers homeless assistance

Door-to-door bus noted for elderly, disabled

*You're homeless or stranded in Illinois Valley -- do you know where to go for help?

*You're an I.V. resident



Maureen Goodrich

-- do you know where to send the homeless or stranded for assistance?

*And if you're an I.V. resident and want to help organizations that aid them, do you know how to go about it?

People in all three categories will be helped by a forthcoming brochure from Illinois Valley Family Coalition (IVFC), with funding from the Medford-based Carpenter Foundation, said Maureen Goodrich, hired March 23 at IVFC as a rural advocate.

The brochure for businesses, residents and those in need will include information on where to go for hot meals, clothing, mental health help, a hot shower, transportation, groceries and other needs, such as where to wash clothes.

As well, Goodrich -- working with IVFC Executive Director Vikki Miller -- will include insights on:

*Scheduling door-to-door service, such as rides to medical appointments, banking or shopping, for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

*How to connect with available resources for those without pharmaceutical coverage.

*How to access resources throughout Josephine County for low-income housing.

Also, she wants to begin a story hour for children at the IVFC location on E. River Street in Cave Junction. And

County looking at low ledger

Less income, higher expenses.

That's the gist of a "State of the County Report" given Tuesday night, April 12 by Josephine County commissioners during a town hall meeting in Anne Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass.

Using a series of graphs, the board demonstrated the county's continuing struggle to stay afloat financially. "A lot of people don't realize that

Disabled busing grant slated

A \$77,686 grant to continue providing transportation service to disabled people in Josephine County was to be considered by the county commissioners.

The item was on the board's agenda for its meeting Wednesday morning, April 13 in Grants Pass.

she would like to develop computer-based literacy activities, as the center has several computer terminals available for use at no charge.

Regarding use of the door-to-door service that's available, Goodrich and Miller noted that the number of people from Selma using the service is quite low.

Eva Rathburn has been hired part time through a grant to coordinate transportation, and can be contacted at 592-6139.

Senior citizens and those with disabilities have priority for the bus. It is available Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The fee is \$2 per round-trip, and side-trips cost 50-cents each. The area the bus covers is from Selma to O'Brien. The driver is "Charlene."

Miller said that last year a study was conducted through a partnership with Options of Southern Oregon Inc. to determine the needs surrounding homelessness in Illinois Valley. That study is providing the basis for the brochure.

In addition, Miller cited the Carpenter Foundation for its continuing financial assistance.

Regarding Goodrich, Miller said, "We couldn't be luckier to have such a bright, warm, friendly and easy-to-talk-to advocate. She is very interested in helping those with special needs, and she is an exceptional problem-solver."

"People in need of services," said Miller, "are sure to receive her full attention and energy."

Goodrich, whose husband, David, is pastor of Immanuel United Methodist Church in CJ, previously has worked as a special education teacher at Illinois Valley and Hidden Valley High schools.

"There are a lot of church people in this valley," she noted, citing the 13 churches in I.V., and many are willing to share their resources; to make a dent in the needs affecting the homeless."

They and others, she indicated, will find the coming brochure a useful tool.

a small percentage of their tax bill goes to support county operations," said Commissioner Dwight Ellis.

The board also indicated that should the county lose its O&C "safety net" funding, some drastic changes would have to be made.

Following the fairly brief presentation, questions were received from the audience, who wrote them on 3-by-5-inch cards.

It was anticipated that commissioners would OK the continuing grant from Oregon Dept. of Transportation to Options for Southern Oregon Inc.

Land eyed for future B&G Club

Clarification as to whether a 1.45-acre parcel of vacant land could be used for construction of a Boys & Girls Club facility for Illinois Valley is requested by the city of Cave Junction.

The land lies between Junction Avenue and Old Stage Road. The clarification was requested by I.V. resident Chris Freedman, of Fire Mt. Gems, for the club.

Freedman asked the city to correspond with Ora May Meyer and find, regarding her late husband's will: "Did his directive that the 1.45-acre plot, donated to the city, for park purposes only include use of the property as a clubhouse of the Boys & Girls Club of the Rogue Valley?"

The city accepted the property by resolution in 1991 from the Meyer Loving Trust. City Recorder Jim Polk wrote a letter dated April 5 this year to Mrs. Meyer to determine whether the property could be transferred to the Boys & Girls Club for construction of a facility.

Polk said that the land is basically land-locked, although there is an easement only for emergency vehicles. The parcel is surrounded by homes and businesses; the latter being Ron Versteeg's law office and Family Tree Garden Center on Junction Avenue.

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

- Bill Cosby -

Following are the high-low temperatures and rainfall recorded by O'Brien residents Cheryl and Harry Johnson.

- *Mon., April 4: 57-33, .04
- *Tues., April 5: 66-40
- *Wed., April 6: 66-34
- *Th., April 7: 50-37, .98
- *Fri., April 8: 41-37, 2.36
- *Sat., April 9: 62-36
- *Sun., April 10: 63-33

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, April 13
Rain with slush, Overnight clearing High--49, Low--33.

Thursday, April 14
Partly cloudy, Cool evening High--53, Low--33.

Friday, April 15
Mostly sunny, Mild evening High--63, Low--40.

Saturday, April 16
Variable moisture, Decreasing late High--61, Low--41.

Sunday, April 17
Scattered sprinkles, Light evening rain High--55, Low--38.

Monday, April 18
Cloudy & cool, Rain increasing late High--58, Low--36.

Tuesday, April 19
Still raining, Pouring through night High--61, Low--39.



'The Claw' versatile in removing small brush including berry vines
Former Illinois Valley resident Tom Vallejo, who operates Vallejo Land Improvement from Rogue River, demonstrated 'The Claw' last week to the U.S. Forest Service in Cave Junction. The tool was developed by Vallejo and Pete Eresh. Vallejo uses low-impact equipment that doesn't damage the ground, but does a great job removing small brush, especially blackberry vines. Using flat-track equipment, he can work on a 50-degree slope, and get close to riparian areas with little damage. He can be contacted at 472-5042. (Photo by Dale Sandberg)



'LEARNING THROUGH ARTS' is the title of a program sponsored and conducted by Southern Oregon Arts Guild of Cave Junction, which currently is working with Lorna Byrne Middle School students on a project linking Cave Junction, salmon and the Illinois River. Anastasia McCleary (left) is among eighth-graders involved, as well as (bottom from left) Trinity LaRue and Tracie Losey. Guild members including Cate Bendock, Reni Schaeffer and Linda Naydol are working with all grade levels. The salmon renditions (from top clockwise) are by Jessica Cooper, Brittani Loucks, Aleena Anderson, Jeff Evans, and Tonya Tyler. 'Learning Through Arts' began three years ago involving artists and educators in the community and includes the annual 'Dia De Los Muertos' project.

Sheriff seeks more money; sues on promotion

Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel is sticking to his guns on two money issues, including one for which he is suing the county board of commissioners.

Daniel told commissioners last week, as initial data were presented for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, that unless the sheriff's office receives another \$1.2 million, he will lose 18 deputies.

The \$1.2 million represents a 13 percent rise from the \$9.7 million budgeted amount for the current fiscal year that will end June 30. His new budget, if approved, would total \$10.9 million.

Without additional funding, Daniel said, his force would shrink to 71 deputies. During the past five years, the sheriff's office has lost 29 deputies because of budget

issues cited by Daniel, who took office in January 1999.

In addition to the sheriff's office, budget increases also are proposed for the district attorney's office, and the Community Service Dept.

D.A. Steven Campbell seeks another 10 percent from his current budget of nearly \$2 million. He wants to hire an additional secretary and a

(Continued on page 7)

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