

Grounds for history

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the nearly 300 people who attended, were individuals including Dr. Jim Shames, Kenny Houck, and Len Lea.

Shames in 1973 began the Takilma People's Clinic, forerunner to SCHC. Houck, a former SCHC chairman, "cut through the bureaucracy" to help set the stage for new clinic development.

Lea, who served as master of ceremonies Thursday, is current board chairman. He was cited for his vision and leadership by Carol Meyers, SCHC development director, organizer of the groundbreaking event.

Also singled out for recognition was Sue Terran, a physician assistant, who came to the valley as a student nurse in 1971. She noted the continuing progress to improve and expand medical care for the valley, citing many staff members and others in the community who have given their time and talent through the years.

She stated that health care is a right that should be available to every human being, and not just those in urban areas.

"This is really happening," she said, "and we're going to watch it happen."

Recognition also went to longtime office manager Sheila Mason, and physician assistant Joe Patton. They were among many asked to help break ground after the initial shovelfuls of dirt were turned by Lea, Janke and Scheufele.

Agnes Pilgrim, last surviving member of the Takilma Tribe, gave a blessing for the site and development. The benediction was by Pastor Dennis Webber of Parkways Christian Church in Grants Pass.

Chris Conroy, from the office of Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), read a congratulatory statement from DeFazio calling the event "wonderful for the valley."

In addition, a laudatory comment was read on be-

half of Sen. Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point).

Susan Scheufele, CEO of SCHC, began her comments by stating she was afraid that she might burst into tears because of the significance of the event, recalling the dedicated efforts of many.

She said that SCHC will continue to strive to provide medical care, noting, "We believe that our role is to serve you."

"Cave Junction and Illinois Valley are set to grow rapidly," said Meyers. "This new center will allow us to serve more people with more capabilities."

"By September 2006," she said, "we should be able to have a ribbon-cutting for the new facility."

Also as part of the ceremonies, Cave Junction Mayor Tony Paulson read a proclamation designating Aug. 11 as "Siskiyou Community Health Center Day."

SCHC acquired the 7-acre site on the east side of 199 several years ago. There will be nine exam rooms and two procedure rooms in the structure, which will contain 10,000 square feet of space.

The new SCHC is designed to allow expansion as the valley population grows, and to bring specialists and specialty services to the community. Having more medical services under one roof, without having to travel to Grants Pass, is part of the overall planning.

SCHC has been conducting fund-raising to meet the \$2.6 million cost for the facility.

A "Choose to Care" capital campaign is still under way, as more than \$1.5 million has been raised. Donations are tax-deductible, and can be paid during a three-year period. Information is available from Meyers toll-free at (866) 667-2870, or (541) 955-6053, Ext. 1140.

House passes 'Vet Net'

Enhanced care and services for Oregon Guard and Reserve members and veterans are in the final two pieces of the "Vet Net" package of legislation unanimously passed by the Oregon House.

Senate Bill 1100-B will establish the Oregon Military Emergency Financial Assistance Fund for the Oregon Military Dept. to provide hardship grants and loans to members and immediate family of Oregon National Guard members on active duty.

The bill also establishes a program in the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to enhance and expand the services to be provided by county veterans service offices. Senate Bill 5629-A will provide \$2.6 million in state general funds to support that effort.

Rep. Donna Nelson (R-McMinnville), who chaired the House Veterans' Affairs Committee this session, said, "This is the session the Legislature made Oregon's veterans a priority. The passage of these bills rounds out our 'Vet Net' package, providing assistance to Oregonians who have risked their lives to protect ours."

"Our work on behalf of veterans this session is the

most attention we have given to our veterans in Oregon's 146-year history, and it is long overdue."

Senate Bill 1100 builds on legislation already passed this session that will:

*Create a Wounded Solider Relief Program for Oregon National Guard and military reserve members called to active duty for more than 178 days.

*Increase the education benefit program in the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to \$150/month (from \$50/month).

*Grant a property tax exemption of up to \$60,000 of assessed value on the homes of Oregon National Guard members, military reserve members of active militia members who have been called to active duty for more than 178 days during the tax year for which the exemption is claimed.

*Establish the Oregon Troops to Teachers program within the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to pay tuition to veterans attending college who agree to teach in Oregon.

*Require the Oregon Military Dept. to reimburse active members of Armed Forces and certain retirees the cost of hunting and angling licenses.



Among those invited to shovel dirt as part of the groundbreaking ceremony were (from left) Kenny

Houck, Sue Terran, Sheila Mason, and Joe Patton. (Photo by Dale Sandberg)

Domestic violence addressed

A bill to protect victims of domestic violence was announced by Republicans in the Oregon House.

House Majority Leader Wayne Scott (R-Canby) announced passage of SB 850, which creates Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) within the Dept. of Justice (DOJ).

It's for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking who have relocated because of threats to their safety and desire to have their addresses be confidential.

"This legislation is just one more step we can take in Legislature to protect victims from their attackers," said Scott. "It is important legislation, and I'm pleased that we are able to pass it through the Legislature in these final days of session."

Senate Bill 850 allows the Dept. of Justice to seek, solicit, receive and administer grants, donations and gifts to operate the ACP program. Under the measure, the attorney general will designate a substitute address for certified program participants and act as the participants' agent for the purposes of all legal proceedings.

The AG also will receive and forward the participants' mail.

"Seventeen other states have measures that protect victims in this situation," said Rep. Andy Olsen (R-Albany), a sponsor of the bill. "From a former police officer's perspective, this bill will help save lives."

"I used to work in the district attorney's office, and seeing the victims of this type of abuse is heartbreaking," said Rep. Patti Smith (R-Corbett). "This legislation is extremely important in protecting the victims of domestic violence."

SISKIYOU COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER SAYS THANK YOU

To the Individuals and Organizations Who Have Made *Your* New Cave Junction Medical Clinic A Reality

Janet and David Bianco	CedarBrook Homes
Jim and Karen Frick	John and Joan Kaichen
Christopher Matthews	Larry and Gloria Osborn
Bob Stellflug	Scott and Deelia Warner
Bethany Presbyterian Church	
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Taylor's Sausage Inc.	
Three Rivers Community Hospital	
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians Foundation	
Four Way Community Foundation	
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Siskiyou Community Health Center Board and Staff	

For more information, please phone Carol Meyers, Development Director 541-955-6053, ext. 1140



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You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others -- something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.

Therefore search and see if there is not some place where you may invest your humanity.

Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.

- Albert Schweitzer -

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