

Tummies rumbling less here

Oregon was the only state with a statistically significant decline in its hunger rate during recent years, according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Nationally the report found that between 2003 and 2004, "food insecurity and hunger worsened."

"The national hunger rate increased from 3.5 percent in '03 to 3.9 percent in '04, while the food insecurity rate rose from 11.2 percent to 11.9 percent," said Silverton-based Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCP).

The organization said that "Oregon's improvement demonstrates the effectiveness of its efforts to expand access to food stamps. Oregon's expansion of food stamps, and gains against hunger, may be reversed by cuts to the program being proposed by the U.S. House of Representatives and the Bush administration."

The USDA report, using Census Bureau data, found that 3.8 percent of Oregon households included members who went hungry at times during 2002-'04. This compares to a 5.8 percent rate in 1999-'01 and a rate of 6.0 in 1996-'98.

"Oregon's hunger rate is now not statistically different than the national rate," said OCP.

Oregon is now about in the middle of the pack among the states.

Because of the high hunger rate in 2000, Oregon raised the income limit for families to be eligible for food stamps. A family now can earn approximately \$35,800 per year and remain eligible for food stamps.

DEQ seeks comments on water

The Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has extended the deadline for public comment on an updated list of Oregon water bodies that do not meet state water quality standards.

Due to several requests from the public for more time to respond to the list, DEQ has extended the public comment deadline to 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7. The previous deadline Oct. 24.

The full report and list of water quality-limited waters are available on DEQ'S Website at deq.state.or.us/wq/303dlist/EQ2004IntgrRpt.htm.

Written comments to DEQ can be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. Comments may be mailed to Karla Urbanowicz, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, 811 S.W. Sixth Ave., Portland OR 97204.

Comments may also be faxed to her at (503) 229-5408, or by e-mail to urbanowicz.karla@deq.state.or.us.



LORNA BYRNE HONOREES - October Students of the Month were recognized last week. (Rear, from left) sixth-graders Xenia Velesco and Zachary Kay, and seventh-graders Ryan Andrews and Mason Roberts. (Front, from left) eighth-graders Desare Foster and Clinton Robertson, and (from September) seventh-grader Andrew O'Grady. The students were selected based on attendance, deportment and attitude. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')



ILLINOIS VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER completed a successful season Saturday, Oct. 29, and used full teams for the first time in the season. The league is for younger students and uses volunteer coaches. A number of businesses sponsor teams and provide shirts. (Photos by 'Illinois Valley News')



Fake power employees on the loose

A recent fraud incident in Southern Oregon serves as a reminder that customers should be on guard when approached by people asking for money and claiming to be from the utility.

In Eagle Point, two people recently posed as Pacific Power employees and offered to install weatherization measures for a customer for a down payment of \$125.

"We're dismayed that anyone would try to defraud our customers using our good reputation," said Monte Mendenhall, Pacific Power's regional community manager, "but it's important for people to be aware of anything that seems unusual."

Pacific Power offers the following suggestions for customer safety:

*Pacific Power employee wear identification badges when performing

work in the field. If the ID is not visible and you don't see any other Pacific Power logo, you should ask the individual to show you their badge.

*All Pacific Power vehicles are marked with the company's name or logo. If you are approached by someone claiming to be from Pacific Power, check to see if their vehicle is clearly marked and ask for ID.

*Pacific Power employees will not demand immediate payment for damaged or broken electrical equipment or any other service. Be suspicious of anyone who approaches you and asks for on-the-spot payment, especially if they ask for cash.

*If Pacific Power contacts a customer, the representative will always have the customer's account number. Also, if a customer phones Pacific Power to ask

questions or pay their bill, the customer will be asked to verify his or her identity to protect access to their account.

*Customers should immediately report an attempted scam by phoning Pacific Power at (888) 221-7070, as well as contacting the Consumer Protection Agency in their state.

*If a customer doubts that the caller or visitor represents Pacific Power, they should phone Pacific Power at (888) 221-7070 to confirm the person's identity and role with the company before proceeding with any transactions.

For additional information phone, Pacific Power toll-free at (888) 221-7070 or visit pacificpower.net.

Reducing youth suicide aided by federal grants

Youth suicide prevention efforts in Oregon received a significant boost through three new grants amounting to \$550,000 from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA).

The new dollars will build programs that will enhance current suicide education and prevention efforts already under way, according to Dr. Mel Kohn, state epidemiologist who oversees the statewide youth suicide prevention program in the Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS).

SAMSHA administers the grants, made possible by the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act named for Sen. Gordon Smith's son.

"Every dollar that helps heal those battling life-threatening depression brings us closer to saving our children and families," said Smith (R-Ore.). "These awards will complement the activities of Oregon's state youth suicide prevention program and provide resources to build on existing efforts at the local level."

The grants are: *\$150,000 for campus-based prevention activities. Of that, \$75,000 will go to a

coalition of eight state universities led by Robin Holmes at the University of Oregon at Eugene, and \$75,000 will go to Blue Mountain Community College at Pendleton.

*\$400,000 to the Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest program for suicide prevention among Native American youth.

In December 2000, DHS unveiled a statewide youth suicide prevention plan, developed through work with communities and national experts and based on best practices defined in professional literature. The plan emphasizes comprehensive approaches: public education, targeted health education, community-based intervention skills, social connection and educating primary-care providers.

Kohn said that the two new grants will fund programs based on strategies from the statewide plan.

Youth suicide is the second-leading cause of death among children and young adults 10-24. During 2003, DHS recorded 922 attempts treated in emergency departments across the state, Kohn said.

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IVCDO Meeting Schedule

Making Things Happen!
November, 2005

Day	Date	Meeting	Time	Location
Thur	11/3	Workshop Meeting	7:00-9:00 PM	County Bldg
Tues	11/8	Executive Committee	5:30-6:30 PM	IVCDO
Wed	11/9	Operational Oversight & Projects & Programs	5:30-6:30 PM	IVCDO
Thur	11/17	Board Meeting	7:00-9:00 PM	FRC
Mon	11/21	Community Relations	5:30-6:30 PM	IVCDO



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