

Cancer tests offered free by JCPHD

All women are at risk for breast cancer, and the risk increases as women grow older, said Josephine County Public Health Dept. (JCPHD).

"The best defense against breast cancer is regular screening," said Leslee O'Brien, JCPHD administrator. "With regular screening, cancer can be detected early."

"Detecting cancer early gives a woman the best chance of survival. In fact, if breast cancer is confined to the breast, the five-year survival rate is more than 95 percent."

O'Brien added that some women may feel that they can't afford cancer screening.

"But now," she said, "breast and cervical cancer screening are available through the health department. It is offering the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) to women 40 to 64 years of age whose household income qualifies them for the program."

The program provides an office visit with a clinical breast exam, pelvic exam and Pap test, and a mammogram. It also includes diagnostic tests and referral for treatment as needed.

O'Brien issued appreciation to Three Rivers Community Hospital, Women's Health Center of Southern Oregon, and Grants Pass Surgical Associates for participating in this life-saving program.

"So, if you know a woman who is 40 or older and feels she can't afford screening exams for breast and cervical cancer, tell her to phone 474-5325 to find out if she is eligible for the BCC program and schedule an appointment today," said O'Brien.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH for March at Lorna Byrne Middle School were honored Friday, March 24. (Rear, from left) 8th-graders Callie Harland and Wayne Davis and 7th-graders Geneva Vasquez and Travis Hudson. (Front, from left) 6th-graders CeCe Imerti and Fred Hults; and 8th-grader Sonya Hogan, who was a February honoree, but unavailable for the photo. The students are chosen for their overall positive deportment. (Photo by 'Illinois Valley News')

Gold Star moms preach

By OLIVIA
TAYLOR-YOUNG
IVN Correspondent

As the war in Iraq approached its third anniversary and surveys continue to indicate failing support, members of Oregon Gold Star Families for Peace have taken to the speaking circuit.

Michele DeFord and Lynn Bradach, two Gold Star mothers who lost sons in Iraq, recently offered compelling and personal perspectives on the war to a large gathering at the Grants Pass Museum of Art.

The presentation was co-sponsored by Applegate Citizens for Political Change, Southern Oregon Veterans for Common Sense, the Rural Organizing Project and Illinois Valley's Social Justice Alliance. DeFord and Bradach revealed

how the war/occupation/tragedy in Iraq has transformed them into activists and tireless advocates for peace.

They also spoke of their shared experience of being with Cindy Sheehan at Camp Casey last summer. That too, they said, inspired them to become more vocal and bring dialogue about the war to another level.

Also a partner in Military Families Speak Out, Bradach is the mother of Travis Bradach-Nall, who was killed by a land mine in Iraq. Believing a fitting tribute to the memory of her son is to lobby against the instrument of his death, she has since traveled the world working to eliminate existing mine fields and end the use of land mines.

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