

New Location for the Selma Food Pantry

By
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IVN Contributing Writer

The Selma Bread of Life Food Pantry has changed its location from the Selma Center on Highway 199 to the Grange on Lakeshore Drive in Selma, just in time for Thanksgiving.

Officials say seasonal weather is the main motivation for the move. It is also more centrally located to better serve the needs of Selma residents, they said.

In the short time the Bread of Life Food Pantry has been open, they have grown rapidly. They are now serving an average of more than 160 to 230 people weekly. Most of the clients are adults. Although the food pantry primarily serves the Selma area, they are open to everybody in need and people from O'Brien and even travelers from further afar often stop by. There are also two food pantries located in Cave Junction.

The Selma food pantry runs totally on donations and volunteer labor.

"There are about 14 volunteers weekly who genuinely care about each of our clients," said Jennie Reed of the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

These volunteers are responsible for locating food donations, picking them up, the storage and distribution of these foods, and opening and closing the grange. This procedure is very labor intensive, with the volunteers putting in about 115 combined hours each week.

They also provide emergency food boxes. One of their goals is to achieve zero percent food waste. Food goes first to people, then to animals, and if there is anything left, it gets composted.

The food pantry was started by Dodie Vandermark with her husband, Eugene, in 1995. When she passed a few years ago, her Open Door Food Pantry died with her. For the next two years, there was no help for the hungry in the area. The Illinois Valley Baptist Church took up the challenge and established a food ministry. They established the Bread of Life

Food Pantry which memorializes Vandermark's efforts. After several weeks of negotiation, the Selma Center allowed Bread of Life to hold the weekly food pantry under the outdoor farmer's market pavilion. The first Bread of Life Food Pantry was held on April 26, 2014. This worked well during the summer months, but with winter approaching, a better location was needed. That's when the grange stepped up to bat.

On Oct. 17, 2014 the Deer Creek Grange opened their arms and willingly took in the food pantry in order to provide a safe and warm

indoor location for the clients. This is to be the permanent home of the food pantry.

The Deer Creek Grange is believed to be the oldest surviving grange in Josephine County.

It was formed in 1907. After several years of idleness, they are getting active again. For example, they now feature Bingo night weekly.

The Bread of Life wants everyone to know that they are grateful for all the generous donations from Illinois Valley Baptist Church members, Ray's Market in Selma, S.O.O.F, the Josephine County Food Bank, American Steel Masters, and many, many more private and anonymous donors without whom they could not provide for the needy in the Valley.

"As the need for food rises, more donations are needed and are gratefully accepted," Reed noted.

The Bread of Life Pantry is open on Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. They strive to provide an enjoyable and comfortable atmosphere for all. To find out how you can help, call 541-592-9268 for more information.



Selma Bread of Life volunteers settle in at their new digs.

Rotary's Duck Derby accepting applications for 2015 proceeds

The Grants Pass and Illinois Valley Rotary Clubs are continuing to fulfill the mission of Rotary International "To Provide Service to others" with their annual Duck Derby. Every year the four clubs in Grants Pass and Illinois Valley come together to raise money that is then put back into our local Josephine County Communities.

Rotary district 5110 Assistant District Governor Pat Fahey said, "We are excited to partner with a local nonprofit and give back to our communities once again."

The Duck Derby Committee is now excepting applications from Tax Exempt Organizations in Josephine County for the 2015 Duck Derby proceeds. The Deadline for application is December 20.

I. The applicant organization must have current tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

II. Project must be for the primary benefit

of children and families of Josephine County unless otherwise designated by and specifically approved by the Duck Derby Committee.

III. Funding from the Duck Derby proceeds shall not exceed 50% of the total project cost.

IV. Unless specifically designated, funding will not be provided for:

- A. Emergency funding
- B. Political purposes
- C. Debt, retirement or operational deficits

D. Operational expenses (Consideration will be given to non-renewable funds for start-up expansion programs.)

E. Annual fund drive contributions

F. Organizations relying on direct federal or local tax dollars for their principal support unless need for innovative or unusual programs for which direct public funding is not available.

G. Sectarian religious purposes (This does not preclude consideration for education, medical or social service oriented programs undertaken by church affiliated agencies.)

For full application guidelines and to submit an application please contact a Rotarian or one of the local Rotary Clubs.

Meeting times and locations are as follows:

Greater Grants Pass - Rotary Club, Fridays 7:00 a.m. at Taprock Northwest Grill, Grants Pass,

Grants Pass - Rotary Club, Wednesday's 12:00 p.m. at Wild River Pub, 533 N.E. "F" St., Grants Pass,

Rogue Gateway - Rotary Club, Thursday's 12:00 p.m. at Wild River Pub 533 N.E. "F" St., Grants Pass,

Illinois Valley - Rotary Club, Tuesdays 12:15 p.m. at Wild River Brewing & Pizza, 249 N. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction.

Guild sets annual gift show

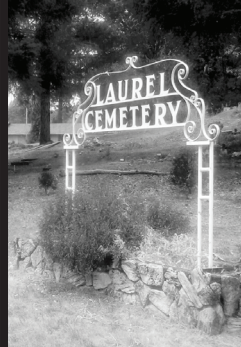
The holiday season will come alive at the Southern Oregon Guild's gallery in Kerby with the opening of the guild's annual Holiday Gift Show from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30.

Art lovers will enjoy a lively new show of art and handcrafts along with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine tasting from the Illinois Valley's local wineries. Anwyn and George Leverett will entertain with Christmas and Renaissance music throughout the event.

A giant Christmas tree will be lit, and handmade ornaments may be purchased from an heirloom ornaments tree. Bidding will open on a silent auction with winners announced on Dec. 19, just in time for holiday giving.

The \$5 admission includes a drawing ticket for a chance at one of three door prizes to be awarded at the end of the day. All other tickets will go into a drawing for the 2014 Grand Prize, Sheila Mason's whimsical sculpture, "Bird's Nest." The drawing for "Bird's Nest" will also take place Dec. 19. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$1.

The Holiday Gift Show will run through Dec. 31. The Southern Oregon Guild's Gallery is located at 24353 Redwood Highway on the RCC Kerby Campus. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For further information, call 541-592-5019.



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