

101 ...
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In a Dec. 16 editorial, the *Oregonian* estimated the assessment would affect 1.25 million Oregonians, while leaving 727,000 unaffected people enrolled through their self-insured employers and hundreds of thousands of seniors and veterans enrolled in Medicare or plans for veterans, due to federal restrictions on such state-imposed taxes.

Both newspapers, however, stressed the need to continue both expanded OHP and expanded CHIP, but through other funding means.

Rep. Esquivel, in an interview with the *Illinois Valley News*, stressed his view that the state has other funding sources available to it, although he would not state whether or not the two programs should be continued.

The voters’ pamphlet estimates that, if Measure 101 is defeated, there will be a total reduction in state revenue of \$210-\$320 million, resulting in a loss of \$340-\$960 million in matching federal funds. The combined loss to the 2017-19 state budget would be anywhere from \$840 million to \$1.3 billion.

This vexing question now goes to the voters.

Valley nonprofits bring home the cash

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

Four Illinois Valley nonprofits were recognized Dec. 14 in Grants Pass.

Each organization received funds from The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) during their autumn grant cycle.

Along with other Josephine County nonprofits, the four I.V. groups were hosted by the Rogue Gateway Rotary Club and Rotarian Steve Roe.

OCF, the largest foundation in Oregon, currently manages over 2,000 charitable funds that award grants and/or scholarships. Founded in 1973 with \$63,000, OCF’s assets are now more than \$1.9 billion.

OCF Senior Program Officer Amy Cuddy stated, “Thanks to the generosity of our donors, The Oregon Community Foundation awards grants to nonprofits and scholarships to students in every corner of Oregon. We are particularly pleased that recently our board approved five grants to nonprofits that are working to improve life in the Illinois Valley.”

Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCanDO) was the biggest winner,

garnering both a “K-12 Student Success Fund” grant of \$35,694 as well as a “Community Grant” of \$22,800 from the Daryl L. and Patricia L. Swenson Fund.

The K-12 grant will support the RiverStars Performing Arts after-school program, an IVCaDo project. “SuperReal,” a play performed by over 50 students at Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS) Dec. 9 and 10 is part of this program.

The Community Grant will go toward a weekly RiverStars Radio Hour, giving I.V. students an opportunity to produce their own program on KXCJ-LP.

A \$5,000 grant from the John S. and Frances W. Winslow Fund went to Illinois Valley Family Coalition (IVFC) to replace worn-out chairs and tables. The mission of IVFC is to connect low income and isolated families to community resources.

Two Valley arts organizations each received \$3,500 from the Fred W. Fields Fund for general operating support.

The grant awarded to Southern Oregon Guild of Artists and Artisans will go toward activities at the Guild Gallery and Art Center, located at the Rogue Community College Kerby

campus.

The grant awarded to Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC) will support “Learning Through Arts,” an enrichment program designed to enliven the standard curriculum at LBMS and Evergreen Elementary through hands-on projects.

In response to the OCF grant, IRVAC President Linda Corey stated, “I’m so proud of our Arts Council and this recognition of our work by OCF. Our primary mission is to provide arts education in the schools and this grant will enable us to

do just that.”

Additional grant certificates were awarded to College Dreams, Barnstormers Theater, Friends of the Josephine County Food Bank, Josephine County Historical Society, Maslow Project and Wildlife Images Rehabilitation Education Center.

The grand total of grant awards for all the programs honored Dec. 14 came to \$192,494.

This year in Josephine County alone, OCH has awarded 38 grants totaling over \$486,000 and has also

awarded 27 scholarships totaling \$295,450.

Last year, OCF distributed more than \$108 million in grants and scholarships statewide.

In addition to Steve Roe, Josephine County residents who currently serve as volunteer members of OCF’s Southern Oregon Leadership Council include Hyla Lipson, Josh Welch and Chuck Womer.

The Southern Oregon office in Medford serves Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties.

For more information, visit www.oregoncf.org.



(Photo by Judy Hoyle, *Illinois Valley News*)

I.V. Family Coalition board members Kissandra Nelson (left) and Stacy Yanase accept a grant certificate from OCF Leadership Council member, Josh Welch.

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JOBS ...
Continued from A-1

George Herring, Chief of Interpretation at the Oregon Caves National Park, said that they’re doing their best to keep things running with the tools they have available to them. “There hasn’t been funding for quite a number of years,” Herring said, further

explaining that some of the park’s infrastructure hasn’t been replaced since 1981.

The park’s primary method for maintaining their facilities is through an “amenity fee” which is paid by park visitors. Fifty-five percent of the money generated is used for repairs while the remainder goes toward paying the park’s tour guides. However, it’s simply not enough for the park to sustain itself in perfect working order.

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