Lots of lather

MONICA BATHOLOMEW rolled up her jeans and waded in for a benefit car wash in Sandy last weekend. Monica's labors were for the Pathfinder Club's car wash and bake sale. At day's end, the group reported an $85 profit for their efforts.

Volunteers sought for crisis hotline

GLADSTONE — The Clackamas County Community Action Agency is seeking volunteers it will train for a county crisis hotline it plans to start operating in November.

The trainees will be prepared to handle anything from transportation or food problems all the way up to a suicide attempt, said Richard Craig, CCA coordinator.

The agency is looking for about 40 volunteers to be trained especially to handle the critical calls. Application deadline is Sept. 25. Applicants will be trained during October and will start working in November.

Clackamas County does not have what Craig calls a "psychological safety valve" within reach. Residents must now call Portland numbers for help, and assistance takes longer when coming from Portland than it would from Gladstone where the center would be, Craig said.

The agency is looking for persons 18 years or older who have a desire and ability to "tune into the caller," and know available community services, he said.

In the training course, persons from the CAA's information will review local services, and representatives from rape advocate and suicide prevention will teach trainees how to handle the critical calls including rapes, wife beating, suicides and drug calls.

The volunteers will be taught effective listening and communication skills so they can handle serious calls when callers may not want to talk, Craig said.

"But the fact they called indicates they want to talk," he said. "Deep listening brings those kinds of things out."

The agency plans to operate two lines and put two volunteers working on each four-hour shift. Volunteers will be asked to work two four-hour shifts each month.

The agency plan received a positive reaction from John Renfro, Clackamas County Sheriff.

"The more resources, opportunities, and help, the better," Renfro said of the proposed line and others already in operation. "I don't see anything negative about it."

A line in Clackamas County might aid some persons who might be charged for long-distance phone calls made to Portland hotlines, Renfro said.

The hotline would be a benefit by adding workers to handle crisis situations, he added.

"There are more opportunities for more people to deal with those things if there is a service like that," he said.

Book offers home advice

A new bulletin on how to protect a home against decay and insect damage has been published by the Forest Research Laboratory at Oregon State University.

The 26-page publication was prepared by Theodore C. Scheffer and Robert D. Graham, both forest product researchers at OSU.

Included is information on early detection of decay and insect damage, home inspection and prevention and control of damage. A checklist of specific precautions to help prevent serious decay or insect damage is also included.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs estimates that 40 percent of Oregon houses three years or older are suffering from hidden rot and points out that increased use of insulation is causing more moisture damage. To save energy and avoid rot, Graham emphasized the need for a ground cover and year-round ventilation of crawlspace, good ventilation in attics and the importance of not insulating walls of existing homes.

Copies of the bulletin, "Protect Your Home Against Decay and Insects," are available free from the OSU Forest Research Laboratory, Corvallis, Ore., 97331.

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