

## news Briefs

Multicultural Services Center. The agency will offer services to a wider population while continuing its established programs.

The Amigos board decided to remodel the organization because all immigrants — from Latin America and elsewhere — face a host of challenges once they cross the border into the U.S., from poverty to discrimination to language barriers. Immigrant life has become even more difficult since the toughening of immigration policies following the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. The Amigos Multicultural Service Center will address these issues by offering counseling, case management and skill-building workshops to immigrants. Amigos also provides transitional housing for youth, a youth leadership program and diversity trainings.

The changes came with the hiring of a new program director: Viviana Martinez, who for 20 years worked with homeless people in the San Francisco Bay area. "Coming here to Eugene, it seems sad that the populations are very divided," Martinez said. "We now want to provide social support services to all marginalized and low-income populations, regardless of ethnicity."

The nonprofit is based in Springfield, where there is a large population of low-income, uneducated Caucasians who also need assistance,

Martinez says. Amigos will now serve that population as well as local Latinos, connecting clients with other social services organizations. "What we are becoming is a bridge," Martinez says. "Instead of talking about diversity, we want to talk about unity, and we want to work towards that."

Amigos plans to host a fund-raising event — an international food festival, to be held at a local restaurant — during the second week of April. To contact Amigos, call 484-2450.

— Kera Abraham

## CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

Our News Brief last week on the coup in the Cal Young Neighborhood Association said it was unclear whether Charles Biggs would have to give up his two-year "appointment" to the Neighborhood Leaders Council. We hear from Majeska Seese-Green of the NLC that Biggs was automatically on the NLC as the elected leader of his neighborhood association. But if leaders can't or don't want to attend NLC meetings, another person from the group can be appointed or designated to attend. The Cal Young group is expected to meet this week to resolve who will be the representative to the NLC.

## Happening people

BY PAUL NEEVEL

### JUDY FRANZEN

Philadelphia native Judy Franzen headed west in 1969 after earning a fine arts degree from Antioch College in Ohio. "I did my hippie-bus thing and came out here," she recounts. "I spent many years trying to learn what to do with my art." Franzen returned to school in her early 40s for a masters in developmental psychology from the UO and an art therapy certification. She worked with local agencies, including the Center for Family Development — "fabulous training for working with children" — and set up a private practice in art therapy. Eleven years ago, she and her "comfort dog" George answered a call to volunteer for Courageous Kids, a new PeaceHealth program designed for children ages 6-18 who have recently suffered the loss of an important person, often a parent. "We do lots of art therapy," she says. "It helps the kids understand and express their feelings, and to memorialize their loved one." CK groups meet weekly during the school year, plus a four-day annual camp in August. After nine years as a volunteer, Franzen was hired as part-time staff two years ago. Courageous Kids relies on volunteers and donations. Call 461-7577 for details



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