

less. Every year, about 2,000 homeless children enroll in Lane County schools, about 1,000 in Eugene, according to the city.

About half of Eugene renters pay more than a third of their income for housing. About 20,000 local poor households are eligible for subsidized housing, but only about 4,000 units are available.

The inadequate supply of affordable housing has many hidden costs, a city fact sheet lists. Those costs include: \$362 for the average emergency room visit, \$858 per day for a psychiatric hospital bed, \$189 a day for detoxification and \$359 per day for the Lane County Jail. In contrast, subsidizing the construction of local affordable housing costs an estimated 67 cents per day per person, according to the city.

About 16 percent of the homeless are considered "chronic." Some of these people have multiple problems including physical or mental disabilities, post traumatic stress and/or self-medicating addictions. Other homeless people are young runaways with a history of abuse at home, women fleeing domestic violence, financially stressed families with children or those pushed over the edge by big healthcare bills, according to a city of Eugene profile.

The Eugene City Council has launched an initiative to help the homeless. But so far, local governments have not committed major increases in funding to combat the problem.

In contrast, Portland recently got 1,000 of its 2,500 chronically homeless people off the street by spending \$7 million to subsidize 18 months of rent. Additional funding comes from dedicating a third of urban renewal funds to affordable housing. The rent subsidy is a "pretty big gam-

ble," Portland Commissioner Erik Sten said, but, "it's actually cheaper for us to house these folks than running them through the jail." — Alan Pittman

HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI PEACE WALK

Buddhist monks plan to lead a walk from Eugene to the nuclear submarine base at Bangor, Washington, to commemorate the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed at least 154,000 people.

The walk begins July 16 with a 9 am ceremony welcoming the monks from the Nipponzan Myohoji Temple on Bainbridge Island at the Japanese American Art Memorial at the Hult Center.

The ceremony will be followed by a day-long walk through Eugene and end with a 6 pm community potluck at St. Mary's Episcopal on 13th and Pearl. At 7 pm a film about nuclear victims, *Hibakusha — At the End of the World*, will be shown. Organizers include CALC, WAND and Taxes for Peace Not War. Call 543-0112 for information.

CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

Regarding a letter to the editor last week, "Don't Buy Bud," writer Jean Schauerma tried to send a corrected version, but it arrived too late. She says Hansen's sodas are *not* distributed by Western Beverage.



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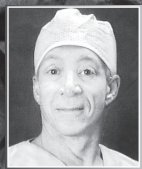
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