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\$ 1.00

VETERAN SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE ON WHEELS



PHOTO BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Disabled American Veterans invites Mobile Vet Center to Florence

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Once a month, the Florence Disabled American Veterans (DAV) hosts a Mobile Veteran Center (MVC) at its 21st Street office.

The DAV wants to highlight services that help veterans make the difficult transition between military and

Carl Robertson and Jack Bornstedt bring a Mobile Vet Center to Florence every Wednesday and Thursday of the second week of each month.

civilian life. Providing the MVC to the coastal community is one way it does that.

The commander of the DAV, David "Skip" Stitt, said, "We requested for this service to be here because this is a big benefit to the people."

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides MVCs that offer readjustment counseling and information resources to veterans.

Carl Robertson and Jack Bornstedt, based in Salem, drive the large bus.

"You always hear in the news that there aren't a lot of services out there. There are," Robertson said. "We're

here, providing the service. People just need to know and want the services."

Robertson and Bornstedt bring the MVC to Florence every Wednesday and Thursday of the second week of each month. Then they travel to Newport on Friday and Saturday. Their MVC also covers The Dalles and Pendleton.

The next time they will be in Florence is Wednesday, March 11, and Thursday, March 12.

However, Robertson and Bornstedt may not continue to serve Florence.

See **VETS 6A**

County drives vehicle fee to voters

If passed, \$35 fee would provide funds for county and city roads

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Following decisions in Dunes City and Florence, the Lane County Board of Commissioners voted to pass a \$35 vehicle registration fee (VRF) on to voters in the May 19 Special Election.

On Dec. 11, Dunes City Council voted against sending a letter in support of the bill to the county. Florence City Council, however, moved to support it Jan. 20.

The proposed \$35 annual VRF would pay for maintenance of county and city streets, roads and bridges in Lane County. If approved by voters, 40 percent of the revenue would be split proportionally among the county's 12 incorporated cities.

Based on population, Florence could receive \$143,000 per year and Dunes City could receive \$22,000 per year.

"Remember, the county has 1,400 miles of roads and 417 bridges, many in the Florence, Dunes City and Mapleton area," said West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich.

Besides speaking with Dunes City and Florence, county commissioners also visited other cities in Lane County.

Bozievich said, "Several members of the Florence City Council supported this because it will bring money exclusively for roads to Florence."

According to Oregon Revised Statutes and the Oregon Constitution, revenue collected from the VRF must be used for road projects. If approved, the county and cities would use the resources for the maintenance and preservation of roads, streets, bridges and sidewalks.

"If it does pass," Bozievich said, "we'll be able to maintain our roads in years to come. If it doesn't pass, we'll have to cut back on our maintenance fund. It won't affect us much right away, but it will create an expensive backlog of maintenance for future years. I hope people see it will be a lot cheaper to pass a small fee now, of about \$3 per month, than it will cost to replace damaged roadways in the future."

He added that residents can expect more information in the months ahead in a voters' pamphlet distributed with the May ballot.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN WENZEL

Volunteers for the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (from left) Wendy Wells, Jo M'Gonigle, Shirley Boyett, Dick Smith and Chrisleen Cooper prepare a hearty meal, ready to use during the next cold snap. The shelter provides a warm dinner, place to sleep and breakfast on frigid nights for homeless persons at the Florence Masonic Lodge.

WARM WELCOME

The Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter is in need of volunteers and donations to help operate

the shelter, located inside the Masonic Lodge, 84910 Highway 101, south of Florence.

According to Jan Hirsch, the shelter's volunteer coordinator, volunteers may choose to serve in one of six basic areas.

Food and hospitality involves food preparation and serving for either the dinner or breakfast meal. Guest intake greets and makes sure guests understand the routine and schedule for the night. General supervision oversees the premises throughout the night. Shifts for the general supervision are: 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., and 4 to 9 a.m.

Transportation involves driving the shelter's van for either the evening pick up, or morning drop off run. The last volunteer category is resources, logistics, supplies and equipment support.

The shelter will offer training to all volunteers.

Each general supervision shift requires two volunteers, one man and one woman, because the shelter is open to both men and women. In addition to the volunteers, a paid manager, Julian Laney, stays on site throughout the night.

Volunteers have a place to sit and read during the shift when the guests are asleep.

Once the decision has been made to open the center, usually a day or two beforehand, Hirsch phones the volunteers and tells them they will be needed.

"If we were open four nights in a row," Hirsch said, "we would need 20 more volunteers."

According to shelter committee chairman Bob

EMERGENCY COLD WEATHER SHELTER SEEKS VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

DuBose, doctors have told him that at least once a year someone in the Florence area dies from hypothermia when there is wind and rain mixed with the cold weather.

"They freeze to death," DuBose said.

In addition to volunteers, the shelter is in need of a small covered trailer to store items such as bedding and first-aid equipment.

"We are hoping that someone could donate it to the shelter," Hirsch said.

The trailer needs to be completely enclosed and capable of being locked.

Cash donations also are needed to pay for food, insurance, gas, laundry expenses and the cost of the shelter manager.

The shelter website is interactive. Visitors can click on the "Volunteer" button and fill out and submit the volunteer application online. Paper volunteer forms also are available at many local churches.

For more information, call Jan Hirsch at 541-590-3146 or go to the website coldshelter.org.

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