

HOMELESS

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can be attributed to the nature of the county itself. It takes place over the course of one night in January with volunteers visiting homeless shelters and locations around the city or county known for attracting homeless populations. The volunteers ask individuals their ages, race and other personal questions including how they became homeless and if they have been diagnosed with mental illness. If individuals refuse to answer, the information cannot be recorded. Moreover, the answers the individuals give are not fact-checked.

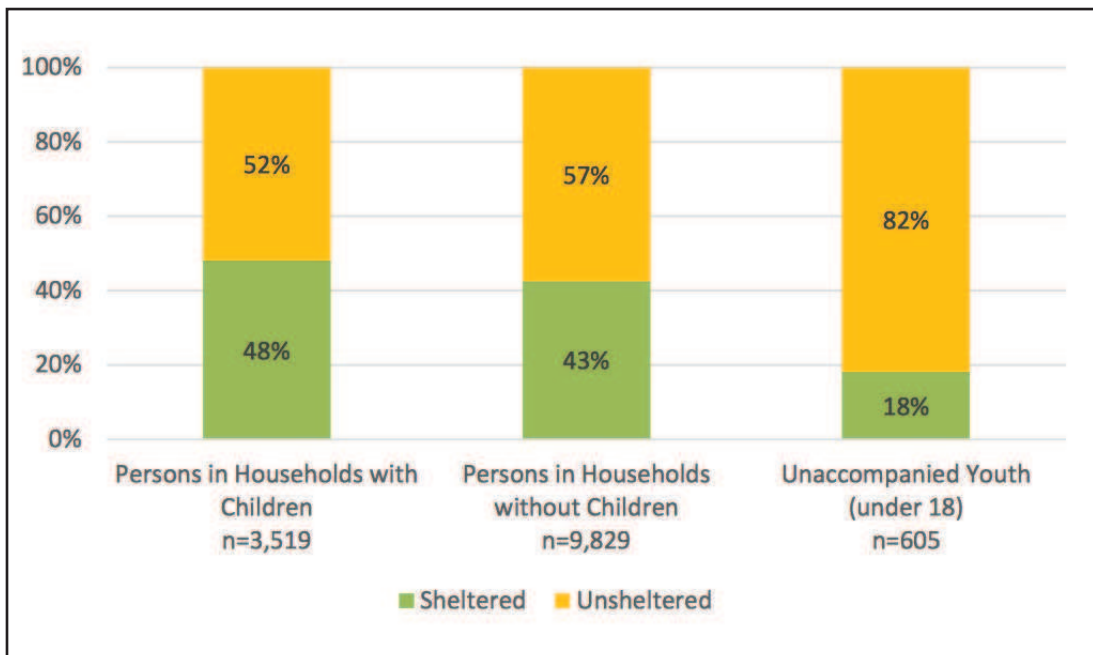
Observations made by volunteers are corroborated through questions asked of the individuals being recorded as homeless.

Myths surrounding homelessness continue to flourish despite statistics like the ones presented in the point in time count. According to the data provided in the county, a larger percentage of the homeless population suffers from mental illness (14 percent) than addiction (12 percent).

Of those with a mental illness or addiction, 68 percent were unsheltered, rather than considered sheltered homeless meaning they sought lodging in places HUD defines as not traditional living quarters. Individuals living in cars, on the street, in parks and abandoned buildings are considered to be unsheltered. To be considered sheltered, individuals must be seeking lodging in emergency shelters, transitional shelters or otherwise being housed in lodgings meant for people to live in.

164 veterans were counted as homeless in Lane County, ranking the county second behind Multnomah—which includes Portland—and 444 homeless veterans.

For more information on the data contained in this year's point in time count report, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/ISD/RA/2017-Point-in-Time-Estimates-Homelessness-Oregon.pdf>.



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The point in time homeless count yielded a six percent jump in individuals considered homeless between 2016 and 2017. Above, the chart illustrates the percentage of households reported as sheltered and unsheltered during this year's count.

News from Lorane

Well, it is hard to believe, but school is back in session next week. CAL School District returns on Tuesday, September 5. Buses will run on their normal times. For further information, call district office- 541-935-2100.

A warm welcome to all district staff. Among them, are a few new teachers.

Mr. Steve Gillespie will teach Health and P.E. in Crow middle/ high school plus serving as the new Athletic Director. He has been seen volunteering as an announcer at the Eugene Emeralds.

Mr. Mark Heater has been hired to be the YTP coordinator and the Agriculture Mechanic instructor. He has extensive mechanic experience,

loves small schools and will be the new head football coach.

Also a warm welcome to all returning students and any new students.

Lorane Grange meets on September 7 at 7 pm. Bingo at the Grange returns on Friday, September 15 with dessert at 6 pm and bingo at 6:30 pm. Talk of a potato bar in October. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Crow Booster Club works for the benefit of all grades, K- 12 and are planning a Fall Fund-raiser on Saturday, October 14. More information to follow. All parents are invited and welcome to join.

"Mystery shoppers" in CG

By Caitlyn May
cmay@cgsentinel.com

On Monday, August 14, Cottage Grove was being watched. They went into businesses. They went into restaurants. They went into city hall.

Every interaction was documented and with the results in, it looks like Cottage Grove gave its best, first impression.

The decision was made by visitors from Oakridge, Oregon who were part of the First Impressions program, paid for by a grant through Cycle Oregon. The program, which Cottage Grove volunteered to take part in, sends residents of one community to assess another.

According to Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers, the "mystery shoppers" from Oakridge found Cottage Grove to be charming.

"They didn't really have a lot of negative things to say," he said. "They did say that some of the signage directing you around town was difficult but they said everyone was so nice." According to Meyers, at a debrief session held at city hall with city officials, the mystery shoppers relayed a story in which random Cottage Grove residents pulled off the road when they noticed the group admiring a historic building. "They said the person started telling them about the history of the building, unprompted."

While the mystery shoppers may not have prompted the residents, Meyers sent out a notice in his weekly Friday Update asking residents to, essentially, be on their best behavior on August 14, warning the city of the impending visitors.

Cottage Grove is expected to visit Oakridge in the coming months while the official report from the mystery shoppers isn't due back to Cottage Grove for weeks.

20-page Fall Sports Preview coming Wednesday, September 6 in The Sentinel

Ice Cream

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the carnival games. Roberts was joined by city manager Richard Meyers, City Planner Amanda Ferguson, Planning and Development Manager Faye Stewart, Mayor Richard Gowing and other community notables like Cindy Weeldryer and Joanne Gray who volunteered their time to run carnival games.

"It was a little slow at 1 p.m.," Weeldryer, a former county commissioner and current Bohemia Mining Days head and KNND volunteer. "But since about 2 p.m. it's been a steady flow of people."

The event served as an opportunity for community members to tour the building, purchased by the city in 2004.

"They read the headlines about the restoration and construction but they don't know what it has to offer the community," Roberts said.

By 3 p.m. the armory's drill hall was filled with visitors sampling the free ice cream and playing games like ring toss and plinko.

"It's children and adults," Gray said of her booth, a mini-golf style game that awarded winners their choice of pencils or candy.

The armory has garnered a lot of ink in the last six months after accusations of improper lead testing on the facility circulated the community. It was revealed that the city was using over-the-counter test strips to test for lead as it performed renovations on the building. However, both OSHA and the EPA noted that the strips were an adequate method of testing and Meyers stated the city operated under the assumption that every surface contained lead and took the proper precautions with licensed contractors.

A test conducted earlier this year revealed an elevated level of lead in the drill hall when compared to initial tests. The city's stance was that the stairs leading into the armory—painted with lead paint—were the culprit and began renovations at the beginning of August.

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