

Free Teddy Bear Dance to benefit WomenSpace

Moveable Feet will be hosting the Teddy Bear Dance to benefit WomenSpace this Friday, March 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Creswell Grange, located at the corner of Third and Oregon street.

Anyone age 8 to adult are invited, although younger kids can still participate in some of the dances (There will be toys for when they can't). However, the hall is located upstairs and is not wheelchair-accessible.

Bring a new (or like new) Teddy Bear to dance with it and donate to WomenSpace.

The last time this type of dance was held was in 2014. Live music will be provided by Moveable Fingers: Cecily Morris, Art Morris and Ruth Anne Fraley.

The event will include bear-themed snacks along with bear-themed music and dances.

The dance is free, but donations for the hall rental and tips for the band are appreciated.

For more information, contact Sally at 541-895-2254 or visit www.moveablefeet.weebly.com

LORANE NEWS

• Lorane Grange is purchasing new socks and underwear as its project for this year. Clothing will be for area veterans, to be given out at the Stand Down later this year. Anyone who would like to join in or donate to this endeavor can bring items on March 23 during the Grange Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo night, or on April 4 or April 7. There will be more dates to bring those items in the future.

• Lorane Grange's next Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night will be Saturday, March 23. Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by bingo 6:30 p.m. All ages welcome.

• Calling all talent! The RAC/Lorane Grange Talent Show is coming Sunday, April 7, beginning at 3 p.m.

at Lorane Grange. Do you singing, dance, play an instrument, juggle or have any other special talent to share? Any stationary talent will be displayed in the kitchen and everyone is welcome to participate. Text Lil Thompson at 541-520-3637 or email her at lilyhillthompson@gmail.com to submit your name. Those interested can also contact BJ with Rural Art Center. This event is free.

• Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 14, for a moving and inspirational event as the Lorane Christian Church will once again host the "Living Last Supper." Tell family and friends to come to Lorane Christian Church at 11 a.m. to experience this deeply moving event.

Scams of older residents rising, warns IRS, FBI

Elder abuse fraud continues to rise as a major consumer protection issue, with financial losses nationwide totaling \$2.9 billion annually. Financial exploitation of the elderly often goes unreported because in many cases, it is someone closest to the victim who is the abuser.

The prevalence of this issue in Oregon is spurring multiple consumer protection groups to join forces and raise awareness. At Better Business Bureau Northwest + Pacific, reports on elder abuse fraud range from typical romance and IRS tax-scams, to more intricate schemes by caretakers or adult children duping victims into paying for construction that never occurs or is unnecessary.

At Oregon Department of Human Services, the Adult Protective Services unit receives an increase in elder financial-abuse reports every year, according to Billie McNeely with DHS.

For children and family members of the elderly, it is important to watch for signs of financial abuse. If there is a caretaker in the home, BBB recommends that family members check in regularly and, when and where they can, be vigilant about their parents' spending.

The same is true for caretakers who suspect any odd behavior by family members. Warning signs include someone trying to isolate the victim from outside friends and neighbors, or someone

having dubious access to a victim's finances.

"For seniors and their families, it is critical that they watch for signs of financial fraud, neglect and abuse, and report any concerns to authorities," said Steve Goldman, Assistant Special Agent, FBI Oregon.

Steele confirmed that victims 60 and older represent one of the largest demographics reporting fraud to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, and that Oregon experiences a significant amount of these complaints.

To prevent further abuse, outreach, education and prevention efforts are the, "most powerful tools," according to McNeely.

One of the most common ways these victims lose money is to tax scams. "Seniors have lost thousands of dollars and their personal information to tax scams," said Brian Wozniak, IRS Stakeholder Liaison. "The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text message or social media channels to request personal or financial information."

Whether or not the scam is perpetrated by an outsider, or by someone close, it is critical these crimes be reported to any or all consumer protection groups.

For more information, visit:

• IC3.gov

To report suspected abuse to DHS, call 1-855-503-SAFE

Rent *from AI*

school after spending the night in a shelter, a car or a tent. Fewer people will face the silent discrimination and retaliation of no cause evictions. Fewer seniors will skip their medications because they had to make a choice between paying for rent or a prescription."

The American Community Survey estimates there are approximately 1,445,275 tenants in Oregon living in just more than 600,000 units, most of which will be covered by the new legislation.

Oregon's Democratic caucus said of the passage, "The bill would protect Oregon's renters by ensuring they won't face enormous, unforeseen rent increases or be kicked out of their homes after they've

been in their homes for at least a year. Safe and stable housing is a central requirement for healthy families to thrive and for children to excel in school."

SB 608 was passed by a vote of 17 to 11, with all 10 Republicans in the Senate opposing the bill's passage. Scappoose Sen. Betsy Johnson was the lone democrat to vote no on SB 608.

In the House, SB 608 passed 35 to 25, with one of the three Democratic no votes coming from District 9 Rep. Caddy McKeown.

According to Oregon Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, there are some unexpected and troubling repercussions from the current housing situation that directly impacts some of the state's youngest citizens. She said these issues will be reduced with the implementation of SB 608.

"When you have 22,000

kids who experienced homelessness last year, we have to take action now to protect families," she said. "SB 608 is a reasonable approach that prevents both economic and no-cause evictions and I look forward to giving Oregon renting families peace of mind for the first time."

A statement provided to the press by the Oregon House Republican Office makes the group's position on SB 608 clear.

"Oregon is piling on regulation upon regulation which is essentially causing the problem, so the response to failed regulation from this chamber is to add more regulation," said Sen. Tim Knopp (R-Bend). "And when that doesn't work the response is going to be, we didn't go far enough, we need even more regulation on the housing industry. I think the most likely outcome of this bill is negative consequences

for the very people the proponents of this bill want to help."

There are some aspects of the law which answer concerns expressed by the Oregon Landlords Association and others with specific issues regarding the procedures for termination of a lease agreement which were included in the final version of SB 608. According to the bill:

• Landlords could end rental agreements once they have given a written 90-day notice to the tenant and they are exempt if they manage four or fewer units.

• Allow landlords to terminate tenancy with 90 days' written notice and payment of one month's rent under certain conditions.

• Exempts landlord managing four or fewer units from payment of one month's rent.

The complete text of SB 608 can be viewed at www.oregonlegislature.gov.

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Wilson *from AI*

raffle of donated items throughout the night.

"We have some super things donated, like bowling balls, fudge, gift cards, bowling shoes, coffee cards, free bowling and more," said Cardoza.

All proceeds from bowling admission and raffle tickets will go to the Wilson family.

The benefit begins at 6:30 p.m. To reserve a spot or donate a raffle item, call Cardoza at 541-767-2695.

To donate view the GoFundMe page set up for the Wilsons, visit www.gofundme.com/t9u

af-wilson-family-fund.

As of press time, the account had raised more than \$14,000.

"I've had people come in who I know don't have a lot of extra cash but they are more than willing to help," Cardoza said in an interview with KEZL. "It's pretty amazing. It leaves you speechless."

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