Middlefield Oaks Senior Living 'was there' when local senior needed a home

Rebecca Higley nev- Grove. er imagined she would homeless at age 66. "When I was 20, I thought I'd be with my husband going through our golden years together. I never thought I'd be homeless," Higley said.

Higley raised three help." children and did not acquire the security that employment or a professional career might have provided to her for support as she aged.

"I was a housewife," Higley said. "I didn't think my life would end up this way. Becoming homeless didn't sneak up on me, it jumped up at

Nearly five years ago while traveling on a Greyhound bus to visit her daughter in Roseburg, Higley fell and broke her hip. She received treatment while hospitalized and planned to recover at her daughter's home.

Plans changed when conflict with her daughter's father prompted Higley to reach out to

"They invited me to stay in their RV, and I was thankful to Mark Walker and Nancy Atkinson," Higley said. "We have been friends for 26 years, it showed true friendship when they offered to

Higley lived in her friends' RV for over three years until recently, when they all moved to a different property — at which point Higley found herself living in a tent.

"I lost everything. My COPD was getting worse, there was mud, and I couldn't get through the mud," Higley said.

She struggled to survive without proper hygiene and a warm place to sleep. Her health declined and her friends community knew she needed help.

They drove her to the Emergency Room Grove Hospital.

"I couldn't breathe. If my friends hadn't tak- get me into a place. She



Rebecca Higley, once homeless, now in her new residence at Middlefield Oaks Senior Living.

ter," Higley said.

Manager at PeaceHealth, spoke to Higley about her options and began reaching out to several resources, including Senior & Disability Services, Middlefield Oaks Senior Living,

en me to the hospital, I called lots of places and

facilities.

Middlefield Oaks offered Kat Rio, the RN Care me an apartment. I wanted to cry when I saw my new home. It's beautiful, and it's huge! I have a key to my own front door, and I have my own bathroom, kitchen, full refrigerator and microwave." Heather Arnason,

at PeaceHealth Cottage and other long-term care Executive Director for Middlefield Oaks Senior "Kat was gung-ho to Living, responded to Higley's need.

"When we heard Reprobably wouldn't have no one had a room for becca's story, we couldn't to PeaceHealth Hospital friends living in Cottage made it through the win- me," Higley said. "Then say no. She needed help, in Cottage Grove who

and we could provide the provided a continuum of level of care she needed," said Arnason. "Our mission is to provide safe, quality long-term care for seniors so they can live their lives to the fullest, and we were grateful to have an available apartment to offer Rebecca." PeaceHealth Care

Manager Elizabeth Sawyers remembers working on behalf of Higley years ago. "It's good to hear PeaceHealth and Senior & Disability were able to offer assistance, and Middlefield Oaks was there when she needed a safe home. I'm so happy she's finally living in a healthy, beautiful apartment with 24-hour care," Sawyers said.

Ruth Tracey, the Community Relations Director for Middlefield Oaks, credited the new trajectory of Higley's life as a heartfelt collaboration and community effort.

"It all came together beginning with Rebecca's friends who helped her,

care and communicating with Senior & Disability Services for multiple reasons, including acquiring a bed for Rebecca," Tracey said. "Then, watching the department heads at Middlefield Oaks gather items and furniture needed to set up Rebecca's apartment was truly service from the heart. It was a team effort, and it took every person involved to make this hap-

"To be able to serve this deep of a need in a person's life is an honor. It is the core of why I choose to be in this field."

Renowned civil rights leader Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The measure of a country's greatness should be based on how well it cares for its most vulnerable populations."

Higley said she appreciates the care and support she received.

"I'm so thankful to the hospital and everyone. Oregon has been kind to me. Oregon takes care of their people," she said.

Crow-Applegate-Lorane School Board names superintendent/principal finalists

The Crow Applegate Grove, OR). Lorane (CAL) School three finalists for further consideration to be the next superintendent/principal for the Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District. The selected finalists are:

• Heidi Brown — Currently, Brown is the principal of the Harrison elementary school in the South Lane school district (SLSD, Cottage

Board has announced the co-facilitator for the since 2012. First as the ter's degree in Education-SLSD Equity committee. Director of Elementary Previously, she worked in Education and currently the Triangle Lake school as the Director of School district for 11 years in Improvement. a variety of roles, including athletic director and middle/high school teacher.

master's degree in Educational Leadership from

has worked in the Sa- cipal. Additionally, she is lem-Keizer school system

signment, she worked for the Lane Education Ser-Brown received her Improvement program Eugene, Ore. administrator.

Price earned her masal Leadership from the University of Oregon.

• Wayne Reposa — Prior to her current as- been the assistant professor for the Bushnell University (Northwest will begin background

• Sandra Price — Price tary/Middle school prin- anon (Ore.) Community Wednesday, March 10.

school district. He was an elementary teacher members of the commuin Springfield for eight years prior to his work in Lebanon. Reposa has a master's degree in Edu-Since 2018, Reposa has cational Leadership from the University of Oregon. The CAL school board

vice District as a School Christian University) in and reference checks for the finalists over the the Previously, he was a next few weeks. Each fi-From 2004-2007, she middle school principal nalist will be invited for the University of Oregon. was the Yoncalla Elemen- for eight years in the Leb- a "day in the district" on

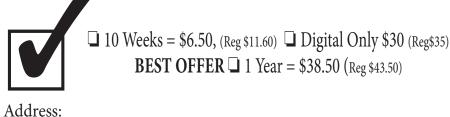
At that time, staff and nity will have an opportunity to meet the candidates.

The staff and community "meet and greet" will be held from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the Applegate Elementary School. Comment cards will be provided for participants to share thoughts with the school board.

COVID-19 protocols will be strictly enforced.



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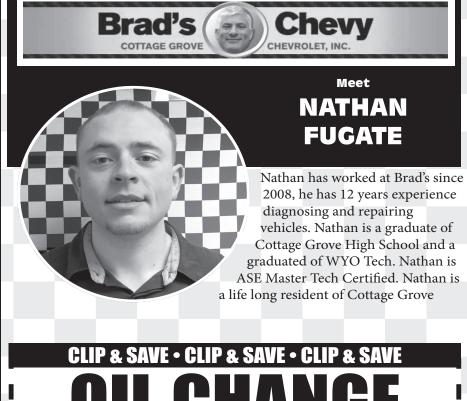
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