

"Project Lifesaver" can help track people who may wander off

The Washington County Sheriff's Office is implementing "Project Lifesaver," a program that allows law enforcement personnel to track people who are prone to wander due to conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, autism, or other disorders affecting memory.

Every year the Sheriff's Office is called upon to help find people who have wandered

away from their homes or care providers and are unable to find their way back. People who suffer from conditions such as Alzheimer's disease can be in serious danger if they become lost and are not able to care for themselves. Often times they are too embarrassed to ask for help and may continue to try to find their way home until they are found by law enforcement

or citizens. These cases can become tragic if the person is not found and becomes a victim of exposure to the weather, or if they have a medical condition that requires medication they do not have with them.

The Oregon Chapter of the National Alzheimer's Association estimates that more than 6,400 seniors living in Washington County suffer from dementia or other memory loss-related conditions. Because of the thousands of people living with memory-related illnesses,

the Sheriff's Office has implemented this new technology that allows searchers to quickly locate a lost individual.

The program uses a plastic bracelet that recipients can wear on their wrist or ankle. Each bracelet contains a waterproof radio transmitter, which is assigned a radio frequency that is unique to both the individual and their geographical area. Searchers are equipped with receivers that are able to locate the bracelet in a short amount of time. Searches that once

take hours or days can now literally take minutes once the deputies are on scene.

The initial cost of a Project Lifesaver bracelet is \$300. There is also a quarterly maintenance fee of \$75 to pay for the monthly replacement batteries and wristbands. There are scholarship funds available to assist those who are unable to cover the cost of the bracelet; however, at this time there are no funds available to cover the quarterly maintenance fee.

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City holds Banks Library rededication

The Banks Public Library held a rededication ceremony on July 1. Banks Mayor Teri Branstitre and Christine Fore, Chair of the Library Commission, spoke about how far the library has come in its 12 years of operation, from being part of the Junior High School with one staff member, to having a dedicated facility, a staff of five and the support of the Washington County Cooperative Library Services.

Branstitre presented certificates of appreciation to some of the supporters for their donations of time, energy and mon-



Denise Holmes, library director on the left and Teri Branstitre, mayor of Banks on the right, shown during the Banks Library rededication on July 1.

ey over the years. Honorees included Stephanie Jones, Fran-

Todd, Margaret Holland, Joyce Krull and Sheila Day. Branstitre also presented library director Denise Holmes with a certificate. Holmes talked about the early years of the library and credited its success to the support of the community and the City of Banks.

A copy of the original dedication plaque was unveiled and will remain on display in the library.

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