

# UCAN News Articles – August 2018



*Wednesday, August 1, 2018*

## Learn the basics of Medicare at free seminar

A free Medicare 101 seminar, hosted by the Douglas County Senior [Health Insurance](#) Benefits Assistance team will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 16 at the UCAN offices at 280 Kenneth Ford Drive in north Roseburg across from Costco.

If you are new to Medicare or needing to enroll soon, or are an employer or medical [office](#) manager and have questions about Medicare, the seminar can help you answer those questions.

The training is designed to help people make the best choices for their needs and help maximize health care benefits.

SHIBA volunteers host [Medicare](#) 101 seminars throughout the year and volunteers are available by phone to set up one-on-one appointments during the work week.

Seating is limited, so you need to [register](#) for the seminar by calling 541-492-2102 or [emailshiba@ucanap.org](mailto:emailshiba@ucanap.org).



*Sunday, August 5, 2018*

## Local wineries team up with UCAN to help end hunger

The first month of generous donations from Umpqua Valley wineries ended Tuesday. But that's OK, because the program, known as "Pouring Generosity," doesn't come to an end until Aug. 31.

Fourteen local wineries have partnered with the United Community Action Network's Douglas County Food Bank for a two-month campaign to end hunger in Douglas County. Each has contributed different pledges [based](#) on the participation from the community.

Some wineries will donate \$1 per bottle of certain vintages; others promise \$5 when cases of wine are sold. Four wineries have tied donations into summer events they host; another is donating part of their tasting fees. One in particular is devoting its fall grape picker's budget. A full list of participating details can be found at [www.pouringgenerosity.com](http://www.pouringgenerosity.com).

Participation has doubled since last year when the campaign started. Participation has doubled since last year, when donations totaled approximately \$4,500. The goal this year is to raise \$15,000.



*Friday, August 10, 2018*

### Be a big help: Round up donations

Sponsored by the United Community Action Network, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) matches the talents of people 55 and older with nonprofit agencies and [health](#) care facilities throughout Josephine County.

**FRESH IDEA.** Help the Josephine County Food Bank round up donations from local grocers as part of the Fresh Alliance program.

The Food Bank is looking for volunteers who are willing to commit three hours, one day a week. The program operates on weekdays, so available shifts are flexible.

Please call the Food Bank at 541-479-5556 if you are interested or would like additional information.

**CAMPUS CLOSET.** Campus Closet serves students from families with limited income or other emergency needs. Students are welcome to shop at Campus Closet two times per school year, from August to May, and once during the summer time.

Campus Closet is located at the United Community Action Network building, on the corner of Northeast Seventh and Manzanita, 125 Manzanita Ave., in Grants Pass. The entrance to the program is located on the left hand side of the building at the RSVP entrance.

UCAN and community volunteers operate this program. They have the capacity to serve students enrolled in grades K-12. (Sorry no preschooler or infant clothing is available). If you need special arrangements, please call 541-956-4472.

Campus Closet is always in need of clean, gently used school clothes that are in current style. We also accept cash donations and can provide a receipt for tax purposes. We cannot accept used socks, underwear, or costumes, and clothing must be school-appropriate.

Make checks out to: UCAN/RSVP-Campus Closet and mail to UCAN- C/O Kelly Wessels, 125 N.E. Manzanita, Grants Pass, OR 97526. Cash donations are used to purchase new socks and underwear, as well as other items of clothing or [shoes](#).

If you are interested in volunteering with Campus Closet, please contact the RSVP receptionists at 541-956-4472.

**LONG TERM CARE.** Our community is in need of ombudsmen volunteers. Volunteers are certified to inform resident and their families of their rights, and educate facility staff as well as the community about rights and care concerns. Volunteers objectively investigate all concerns and complaints and seek solutions that best address residents' concerns.

To become a certified ombudsman volunteer, you must pass a background check, be available 16 hours a month, attend five-day training, and attend monthly local meetings. Volunteers do get mileage reimbursement.

If you are interested, please visit UCAN at 125 N.E. Manzanita Ave. in Grants Pass (corner of Northeast Seventh Street and Manzanita) and fill out a volunteer application.

----

Prospective volunteers should contact Kelly Wessels at 541-956-4474 or [kelly.wessels@ucan.org](mailto:kelly.wessels@ucan.org).



*Friday, August 17, 2018*

## **Transportation district moves forward, while six candidates have filed for board**



The future Douglas County Transportation District is taking shape.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday to sign an order initiating the formation of the countywide district. The commissioners also scheduled a second public hearing on the district for Sept. 12. A first hearing held Wednesday drew no public comment.

A board of directors will be elected in November to oversee the district, which will operate independently of the county government. The district board will be charged with collecting transportation grant money and determining how that money is spent. No tax dollars will be collected by the district.

The county government has been accepting state and federal transportation dollars and funneling them to the providers of transportation programs like U-Trans and Dial-a-Ride. The transportation district board members will take over that function in the future. They'll be installed just in time to handle a dramatic uptick in the amount of dollars available for transit programs. Currently, the county receives just over \$500,000 from the state every two years. Beginning next year, that amount is expected to swell to between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million, thanks to the passage of a new statewide transit tax of \$1 per \$1,000 in wages.

So far six candidates have filed for seven positions on the Douglas County Transportation District Board. Two, Toby Notenboom and Vic Falgout, formerly supervised the U-Trans public transit system for the United Community Action Network.

Notenboom said Falgout was his [boss](#) for about a year. Notenboom was the director for U-Trans, while Falgout was a program director in charge of several programs, one of which was U-Trans.

"I just want to make sure it gets done right," Notenboom said of his run for a seat on the district board.

He said it's exciting that Douglas County will have a countywide transit district.

“It’ll be good for the county, it’ll be good for county business and it’ll be good for county citizens, just a good thing all the way around,” he said.

Notenboom owned Paul Jackson Wholesale in Roseburg until 2007, before joining UCAN. He lives in Winchester.

Falgout of Roseburg is a retired director of the Douglas County Juvenile Department and helped [create](#) the county’s juvenile detention center. After leaving the juvenile department, he joined UCAN. He said UCAN took over the system from the organization that had run it earlier and stabilized it.

He said some of the other people running asked him to [join](#) the district board.

“They think that together we could work out a better, stronger bus system for the county,” he said.

Sutherlin attorney Mark Hendershott said he has been interested in transit since he put himself through law school as a Portland TriMet bus [driver](#). He was a member of the Transit Advisory Committee of the Umpqua Public Transit System in the 1990s, when U-Trans was operated by the Umpqua Regional Council of Governments. During that time he worked with two other candidates, Falgout and Mike Baker, he said.

Hendershott said he’d like to see transportation services expand so that county residents could make connections with buses going into Eugene.

He also said he’d like to see a board member from South County. Currently, there are two Roseburg candidates, one Winchester candidate and three candidates from North County, but none from South County.

Baker served as a Roseburg city councilor from 2003 to 2006 and 2008 to 2012. He ran unsuccessfully for mayor against longtime Mayor Larry Rich in 2012 and 2014.

Baker is a planning and programming manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation. He is also a previous board president of Umpqua Regional Council of Governments, and served on that board when it ran U-Trans.

Baker said with Roseburg becoming more of a [retirement](#) community, there will be even more need for public transit in the future. Baker suggested more frequent bus stops as well as an expansion of night and weekend services.

“I know they’re going to get a bunch more money from the state, so it would be nice to capitalize on that and increase service in some way,” he said.

Jennifer Bragg is the development officer for North Douglas Betterment, a nonprofit that aims to improve the quality of life for Drain, Yoncalla and Elkton residents. Bragg said one of North Douglas Betterment’s projects is a Dial-a-Ride service for North County. Bragg said her rural experience would be an asset to the board. She lives in the Rice Valley area north of Oakland.

Vince Portulano, of Oakland, ran on the Democratic ticket for state House District 7 in 2016, but lost to Republican Cedric Hayden. He is a volunteer driver for Douglas Rides, a member of the Oakland School District and a substitute teacher for the Douglas Education Service District. Portulano could not be reached for comment.