

UCAN News Articles – February 2017



Wednesday, February 1, 2017

February food drives in Douglas County for the UCAN Food Bank network of food pantries

The following organizations and businesses will be collecting nonperishable food items for the UCAN Food Bank network of emergency food pantries. Food drives will take place from today through Feb. 28 at the following locations:

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, Umpqua Disc Golf Association, Ice Bowl XXVIII, Millsite Park DGC, Myrtle Creek. Bring nonperishable food and watch.

6 to 10 p.m., Friday, Feb. 10, Douglas County Father Daughter Dance, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, 2110 Frear St., Roseburg. Bring a nonperishable food item and get a free 2017 Keepsake.

Tuesday, Feb. 14, Dutch Bros. Roseburg locations. \$1 from every beverage sold benefits UCAN. Dutch Bros. Sutherlin, \$1 from every beverage sold benefits Sutherlin Oakland Emergency Pantry.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, TKR Outdoors, 271 S.W. Main St., Winston. This drive ends Feb. 28.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Rife's Home Furniture, 2455 W. Harvard Ave., Roseburg.



Friday, February 3, 2017

Several local locations to drop off food donations (RSVP)

By Rebecca De Greyt for the Daily Courier

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

● **WHERE TO DONATE FOOD.** If you are looking for a drop-off site to donate food to the Josephine County Food Bank, the following sites have permanent barrels: Brookside Living, 1357 Redwood Circle; Compassionate Dentistry, 568 N.E. E St.; Kelly's Automotive, 1661 N.E. Sixth St. St. (Kelly's is having a special food drive — bring in a large 32 ounce jar of peanut butter and receive free windshield wipers); Mountainview Family Practice, 741 N.E. Sixth St.; OSU Extension, 215 Ringuette St.; UCAN, 125 N.E. Manzanita Ave.

● **LEND A HELPING HAND.** The Salvation Army Food Pantry needs volunteers who can assist clientele with emergency food supplies, dispense shopping carts, organize clothing and household items, and stock and rotate food.

For other volunteer opportunities visit volunteer.usawest.org or contact Billy Lovejoy or Nancy Sykora at 541-955-1017. In Grants Pass the food pantry is located at 1377 Redwood Ave.

● **ANIMAL SANCTUARY VOLUNTEERS.** Sanctuary One, located on 55 acres in the Applegate Valley, needs more volunteers to help care for rescued domestic and farm animals and to grow gardens to connect with the earth. In turn, by providing the opportunity to volunteer on a real working farm, the sanctuary helps people of all ages experience nature's power to heal. The daily to-do list includes weeding and walking to mucking and mopping.

Volunteer shifts are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For more information and to fill out an application, please visit sanctuaryone.org or call 541-899-8627.

● **DO YOU LIKE TO BE THE FIRST TO WELCOME PEOPLE?** Do you have administrative skills? Do you like to answer phones and be a resource for others in the community? Are you familiar with computers? Are you available to volunteer for full or partial days?

If so, we would gladly welcome you to come to the UCAN offices at 125 N.E. Manzanita Ave. to fill out an application. Please specify on the form that you would like to serve as an "RSVP receptionist" and you will be contacted within five business days. Call 541-956-4474 for more information.



Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Southern Oregon Veterans Stand-Up event set for this Friday



Last year's Stand-Up was at the Josephine County Fairground's Floral Building. This year's event has moved to the larger Pavilion at the fairgrounds.

The third annual Southern Oregon Veterans Stand-Up and Employment Fair is set for Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Josephine County Fairgrounds Pavilion. Veterans, homeless veterans, and family members are invited to attend.

The first Stand-Up was held in 2015 and attendance has been growing each year, with 179 veterans and 30 spouses attending last year's event.

"Nine-hundred service points of contact were made at the 2016 Stand-Up," said Mike Whitfield, community outreach coordinator for Rogue Valley Veterans and Community Outreach.

Friday's event promises to be bigger and better with a long list of employers, veteran and community service providers participating. Sixty-five vendors have

registered.

"This will be the first time we have legal services on hand," said Whitfield, "and we have a veteran benefits administrator coming down from Portland."

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about VA eligibility, VA homeless programs, VA justice outreach and veterans benefits as well as VA medical and mental health services.

The veteran representative from WorkSource Rogue Valley has arranged for many local employers to be on hand including Timber Products, ExpressPros, Home Depot, Concierge Home Watch and A Grower's Resource.

"Come dressed like you're going to a job interview and bring a resume if that's what you're after," said Whitfield. If you don't have a resume, there will be help provided in developing one.

Organizers have been gathering men's and women's clothing for veterans and are still accepting donations locally at the Rogue River VFW, Chapel of the Valley Funeral Home in Grants Pass, , KAJO/KLDR on Rogue River Highway, the two Banner Bank branches in Grants Pass and AllCare.

Said Whitfield, "There has been such a huge outpouring of support from the community with the clothing donations. Everything that is left over will be donated to the ROC food pantry for distribution to anyone in need in Josephine County."

Pet food and supplies as well as personal hygiene supplies will be distributed.

Nonprofit organization Tools4Troops will give away free tools for the home and workplace for veterans. "We'll be handing out \$5,000 worth of tools on Friday," said local contact Rob Lee.

Free lunch, refreshments, haircuts and massages will be also be available.

All veterans are invited, not just veterans of Josephine County. "See old friends, meet new ones. This will be just as much a social event as a resource fair," said Whitfield.

The list of sponsors, partners and vendors is too long to list but includes: Rogue Valley Veterans and Community Outreach, Josephine County Public Health, City of Grants Pass, Department of Motor Vehicles, UCAN, 211, Old Guard Riders, Easter Seals, Department of Justice, AllCare, Aspire and Disabled American Veterans.

For more information contact Mike Whitfield at 541-821-0532 or email at mwhitfield@rvvco.com.

If you go

- When: Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Pavilion building, Josephine County Fairgrounds
- **Who:** All veterans and family members
- **INCLUDED:** Everything is free for veterans, including: Employment fair; legal, social, medical and mental health services; clothes distribution for veterans in need as well as other necessities; pet food and supplies; lunch and refreshments; free haircuts and massages.



Friday, February 10, 2017

Salvation Army is in need of helping hands (RSVP)

By Rebecca De Greyt for the Daily Courier

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Friday, February 10, 2017

Vol Ops: Greeting visitors one of many volunteer options available

ADA DUNCAN For The News-Review

The first signs of spring not only bring out the primroses but they also inspire us to think of summer vacations. That will bring an influx of visitors looking for the natural beauty of our state and its many outdoor activities.

A good place for them to get acquainted with what this region has to offer is the Roseburg Visitors Center and it is actively recruiting volunteers to greet those visitors and direct them to area attractions and places to stay and dine. Volunteers can also share with the visitors the quality of life and livability of our community. Morning and afternoon hours are available on a weekly or “on call basis.” Training is provided. Applications are available at the Visitor Center, 410 S.E. Spruce St., in downtown Roseburg. For more information contact Wanda at 541-672-9731 Ext 14 or e-mail her at volunteers@visitroseburg.com

If that opportunity does not appeal to you, there are many others listed below.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Douglas County is looking for volunteers 21 and older willing to represent the best needs of neglected and abused children in foster care. Canyonville, Myrtle Creek and Tri City training begins this coming Thursday, Feb. 16. Roseburg training begins Saturday, Feb. 25. Once a week information sessions are from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at the Garden Valley Starbucks in Roseburg. Go to www.casaofdouglascounty.org to learn more about CASA or contact Catherine at 541-672-7001 or info@casaofdouglascounty.org

RSVP/AARP Tax Aide Program provides free income tax service and needs many volunteers to assist as receptionists, providing onsite support at the Tax Aide location and in various other ways. Volunteers must be 55 and older. Call the volunteer hotline at 541-492-3526 to apply or get more information.

Head Start and Early Head Start is looking for volunteers to help children of low-income families achieve education readiness and to help parents grow with their children. Volunteers

are needed for classroom support, assisting with nutritional needs, administrative support and more. Volunteers must be over the age of 18. Call the volunteer hotline at 541-492-3526 for details.

Senior Companion Program wants volunteers over 55 to provide assistance and friendship to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Volunteers may also take them to community outings, assist them with daily activities or provide respite for family caregivers. A tax-free stipend and mileage reimbursement is available for a minimum of 15 hours of service weekly. For more information contact Colleen at 541-492-3520 or email her at colleen.may@ucancap.org

UCAN Food Bank needs able-bodied volunteers 18 years and older to help in the warehouse and to repack food boxes. Drivers are also needed to pick up donations from area grocery stores. Jeanine will give you details at 541-492-3524.

UCAN/RSVP volunteers are needed to deliver meals to seniors and the disabled; bring clarity to recipients about their Medicare benefits; assist seniors with their medication costs and access resources that can help them. Call the volunteer hotline at 541-492-3526 to apply.

UCAN/RSVP is looking for three volunteers to help place volunteers in appropriate programs, provide creative and design support in developing volunteer materials and promotional information, work with social media, assist with data collection of volunteer hours and volunteer stats vital to grant and program operation, and assist with volunteer recognition events. Volunteers must be 18 years and older. Karen can give you more information at 541-492-3917.



Thursday, February 16, 2017

'Wipe Out Hunger' collects 775 peanut butter jars



LISA WHITING/Daily Courier
Three tables loaded with peanut butter donations of all sizes share the Grants Pass Kelly's Automotive showroom with a classic Ford Mustang. The donations are heading to the Josephine County Food Bank, from the fifth annual "Wipe Out Hunger" food drive.

Kelly's Automotive Service collected a record 775 jars of peanut butter during its fifth annual "Wipe Out Hunger" drive.

In exchange for peanut butter, the automotive service installs new windshield wipers for free at its locations in Grants Pass and Medford during the four-week drive, which ended Friday.

The company times the food drive for January to help offset a drop off in donations to local food pantries after the holidays.

The huge haul of peanut butter ranged in size from 16 ounce to 64 ounce jars and included all brands and types — smooth, chunky, and natural.

Many customers brought in much more than the minimum requirement of 36 ounces, said Christina Benevento, an employee at the Grants Pass shop.

"And, they would bring in a variety (of styles) so people would have a choice," she added.

Josephine County Food Bank will be receiving the donations collected in Grants Pass. In Medford, the donations go to Access Food Share.

Kelly's Automotive co-owner Lisa McCleese-Kelly said the wipers-for-peanut-butter program was inspired by her gratitude for the federal WIC nutrition program when she was a struggling single mother years ago.

"I know what it is like to need a little bit of help," she said.

Kelly's Automotive Service is located at 1661 N.E. Sixth St. in Grants Pass. The Medford shop is located at 2990 Biddle Road.

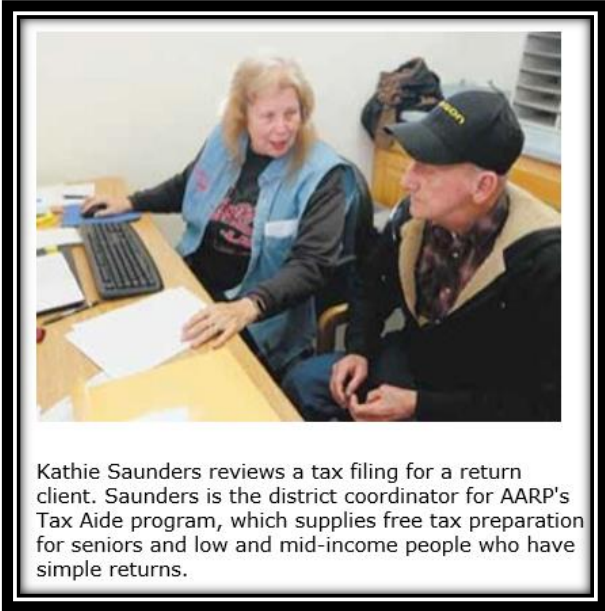


Thursday, February 16, 2017

Tax Aide program provides free help for those who need it

Whether you owe taxes or expect a refund, few feelings of relief are as heartfelt as those experienced the moment you know your taxes are filed for the year. Even better is knowing someone extremely well qualified did them for you. Best of all, that they did them for free.

"Thank you SO much," says a client at the Tax Aide program, as Kathie Saunders, who has spearheaded the program for many years, moves through the hallway.



Kathie Saunders reviews a tax filing for a return client. Saunders is the district coordinator for AARP's Tax Aide program, which supplies free tax preparation for seniors and low and mid-income people who have simple returns.

The Tax Aide program is sponsored by the AARP and the United Community Action Network in Grants Pass and the Illinois Valley. Last year it served about 2,600 taxpayers. What began as a way to help seniors with taxes has spread into one that helps not only seniors, but low-income and working people as well.

"We're still not getting enough younger people — the basic wage earner types," says Saunders. "We keep trying to grow the program. We have eight stations available" in Grants Pass.

The volunteers are using a suite of offices at the RSVP and UCAN building, located at the corner of Northeast Seventh Street and Manzanita Avenue. The program is available in Cave Junction at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River St. on Wednesdays.

Rogue River residents are welcome to come to Grants Pass. One new thing for the program this year is an online appointment system for Grants Pass.

"The easiest way is to go to the website and make an appointment," Saunders says. "They'll get an email confirming it and an email reminder. It's wonderful."

She credits new Local Coordinator Dorothy Yetter with "pushing us ahead in technology," says Saunders, who is the District Coordinator for the program.

Patrons can get an appointment and find other important information at joco-freetaxes.com. Patrons may also call the offices: 541-956-4450 for Grants Pass and 541-592-6139 for Cave Junction.

The volunteers are using a new computer program this year, so long-time clients may notice it takes a bit longer, Saunders says. They have to re-enter some information for returning clients. Returns are filed electronically and the information is not kept on-site, making it especially safe, Saunders says.

As always, each return is prepared by a volunteer, then reviewed. "We always have two sets of eyes on each return," Saunders says. The only real limit on who uses the service is the complexity of their taxes. Basic individual taxes and even small businesses without employees can file using Tax Aide.

For a list of the tax forms the volunteers are trained to prepare, see the website or call either of the offices. One piece of good news for federal returns: "There really weren't any changes to speak of this year," she says. As for Oregon returns, "They combined the working family credit and the childcare credit into one lump," Saunders says. "And Oregon has phased out the credit for long-term care insurance."

Reach reporter Edith Decker at 541-474-3724 or edecker@thedailycourier.com

Free tax help

- **WHAT:** The AARP Tax Aide program, sponsored in Josephine County by UCAN
- **WHO:** Volunteer tax preparers who have been specially trained will help people of all ages with basic returns.

● **WHERE:** In Grants Pass at the UCAN/RSVP office, corner of Seventh Street and Manzanita Avenue. In Cave Junction at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River St.

● **WHEN:** Grants Pass hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m to 2 p.m. plus Thursdays from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to noon. Cave Junction hours are Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

● **APPOINTMENT:** Appointments are required. For Grants Pass, make an appointment online at joco-freetaxes.com or call 541-956-4450.

For a Cave Junction appointment, call 541-592-6139.



Thursday, February 16, 2017

Volunteers being sought for Raptor Creek clean-up day

The nonprofit Friends of the Josephine County Food Bank is seeking volunteers for a clean-up day on Feb. 25 in order to get the Raptor Creek Farm land on the River Road Reserve prepared for additions to the farm, which grows fresh food for the bank.



Volunteer Doug Walker gathers cinder blocks and other debris in a former hop farm facility located at the Raptor Creek Farm on Upper River Road.

Volunteer Doug Walker has been out on the land for weeks working to knock down an old building that used to be where a hops farm stood. Now, the building is being torn down to make room for more greenhouses and clearing the way for crops to be planted.

Walker says the organization hopes to have at least 40 volunteers come out that day, as organizers need a lot of hands to clear the materials left over from the old building.

But Walker says they need more than just hands.

"We need some tools for some of the work, too," he said. "We need wheelbarrows, hammers and crowbars to pry up nails and planks and things. We could also use angle grinders, shovels, brooms and sawhorses for wood salvage."

Walker also relayed that they do not need people to bring tractors or other vehicles, as they would mostly get in the way of the manual labor.

For their effort, volunteers will be provided lunch by Friends of Josephine County Food Bank. This means people need to call in advance to RSVP for the clean-up day so that organizers know how much to provide.

Raptor Creek Farm Manager Gif Gates said once the site is cleaned up, the Food Bank has plans to build a new greenhouse and prep more soil for growing.

"This March we're building a new greenhouse and we'll potentially have another volunteer opportunity for the community to help with that," he said. "We're prepping the garden for farming veggies, planning some blackberry removal,

and there will be more tree pruning in March."

Gates also said to be on the lookout for more summer planting opportunities.

Volunteers can typically plant and cultivate food every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from March through October when the harvesting season ends.

For more than a decade, the Josephine County Food Bank has been a program of the United Community Action Network. However, applications reviewed by the city of Grants Pass, which owns the land the Food Bank is located on, will be up for a City Council vote, likely in March, to transfer the lease for the Food Bank to the nonprofit Friends of the Josephine County Food Bank.

The clean-up starts at Raptor Creek Farm, 3658 Upper River Road just west of Grants Pass, at 9 a.m. on Feb. 25. To RSVP, contact the Food Bank at 541-479-5556.



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Friday, February 24, 2017

Dutch Luv raises more than \$15,000 in Southern Oregon

Travis Boersma, co-founder and president of Dutch Bros. Coffee. The company's annual Dutch Luv effort on Valentine's Day raised more than \$15,000 for the Josephine County Food Bank and Access Food Share in Jackson County.



Dutch Bros. Coffee locations in Southern Oregon raised a total of \$15,045 during the company's Dutch Luv fundraiser on Valentine's Day.

Grants Pass and Cave Junction Dutch Bros. raised \$5,895 for the Josephine County Food Bank, while drive-thru locations in Jackson County raised \$9,150 for ACCESS Food Share.

"We are so lucky to have amazing customers who support us when we ask," said Dutch Bros. co-founder Travis Boersma. "When we come together to support our communities it's inspiring how much we can accomplish."

Dutch Bros. locations across the company's seven-state operation raised a total of \$251,671, which will allow local food organizations to purchase up to 1.76 million pounds of food.

"There are so many in our communities that are working and stretching to make ends meet," Boersma said. "If we can help them access nutritious food that makes all of us at Dutch Bros.

smile."

Monday, February 27, 2017

Community turns out to help Food Bank, demolish old hops farm barn

The site of a former hops barn west of Grants Pass was swarming with volunteers on Saturday who pulled nails, stacked wood, hauled debris and otherwise helped out to benefit nearby Food Bank operations.

Several community groups and about 60 people total joined the effort to demolish the dilapidated structure at Raptor Creek Farm, a city-owned site leased for Food Bank operations, at 3658 Upper River Road.



Photo by BOB CARTMELL
About 60 volunteers that showed up to help clean
the old warehouse at Raptor Creek Farm Saturday.

"I'm thrilled with all the different people," project leader and Rotarian Doug Walker said in the early afternoon, after a morning of work gave way to a lunch break, as piles of old wood burned.

Eventually, the below-ground foundation area of the barn will be filled with debris, leveled and used for a parking area. A large Food Bank warehouse and gardens are nearby.

Saturday's work day was the latest example of a community coming together and time marching on.

Volunteer Athena Kliegl marveled at the way volunteers cooperated.

"Talk about community building," she said, after she and her husband put in a couple hours of work.

"It was fun," John Kliegl said.

Lots of young people helped out, including teenagers.

Germaine and Bob Cartmell put in a few hours, too, shoveling and hauling debris in wheelbarrows, despite being not the youngest workers there.

"It took an awful lot of work, by different organizations," Germaine said.

Walker, a blur of motion who stood still long enough to say a few words, hesitated to name all the groups helping out, but tried anyway: They included Latter-day Saints, Boy Scouts, Rotary clubs, Friends of the Food Bank and the parolee-support organization Welcome Home Oregon.

Walker, who has a background in construction and property management, said the project began after Rotarians toured the property last summer. The building had collapsed and the lease with the city required its demolition. Walker used heavy equipment for some of the work in preparation for Saturday's effort.

"It's my way of giving back," he said.

Some of the old timers on hand remembered the days of the hops farm, which began more than 100 years ago as a dairy farm operated by the Lathrop family. The farm was a major operation and employer back then. After the last hops harvest in 1989, the 248-acre farm was sold, used to grow pears for Harry and David in Medford.

Eventually it was sold to the City of Grants Pass in 2006 and is now known as the River Road Reserve. A small upland portion has been used by the Food Bank since 2010.

This year, Friends of Josephine County Food Bank is taking over Food Bank operations from United Community Action Network. More than 10,000 people are served monthly by the Food Bank, which distributes about 3 million pounds of food a year.

A history of the farm, old photos and details about Food Bank operations is available online, at jocofoodbank.org.