

Tiny-home village at The Salvation Army moves forward

By DAVID RUPKALVIS
The World

Another small step to find housing for those struggling was achieved last week when the Coos County Board of Commissioners voted to give \$480,000 to The Salvation Army to build eight tiny homes to get families off the streets.

The money was part of a grant awarded to Coos

County and the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend as part of a pilot program aimed at addressing homelessness in the county.

Combined with funds from the Coquille Indian Housing Authority, The Salvation Army will have financial support to cover the cost of construction and operations through the end of 2025.

Major David Kauffman presented his proposal to the

county commissioners less than a week after presenting it to the Coordinated Office on Houselessness.

He said the goal will be to have construction begin in March with the first families moving in around June. Construction costs are estimated at \$703,500 with operating costs running \$350,000 yearly.

The vote by the supervisors will fund the construction

of the actual tiny homes themselves.

Under the plan released by The Salvation Army, the eight homes would measure 400-square feet with an emphasis on families and couples. Individuals would only be accepted if there were not enough families in need.

In partnership with the Coquille Indian Housing

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Hospital employee charged for mishandling cash

By TONY REED
Country Media

Little has been disclosed about a case being handled in Douglas County involving charges filed against a hospital employee.

Lower Umpqua Hospital District released a statement Oct. 18, saying an unnamed employee was placed on administrative leave for "mishandling of patient cash payments."

"The District also immediately notified Law Enforcement of the alleged criminal activities," the release states. "As of Oct. 6, the employee identified in this matter has been officially charged."

No further information was provided.

"Lower Umpqua Hospital District appreciates the efforts of the Reedsport Police Department and Douglas County District Attorney's office," the LUHD release states. "We look forward to the due process of law in court."

On DA Rick Wesenberg's behalf, staff at the Douglas County DA's Office refused to give any information about the case or disclose the legal cause for withholding the information. Therefore, it is not known if the alleged "mishandling of patient cash payments" is being handled as a felony, if the subject was arrested or jailed, or what specific charges have been filed. An arraignment is set for Nov. 7.

Oregon, U.S. history brought back to life

Memorial recalls journey that ended tragically near Reedsport

By DAVID RUPKALVIS
The World

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The men, led by Jedediah Smith, started their journey in San Diego, moved through what is Del Norte County, California, continued through current Curry County and Coos County. In July of 1928, they founded themselves near what is now Reedsport, when their trip came to a sudden and disastrous end. While camped out near the mouth of the Smith River, later named after Jedediah Smith, the group broke up briefly. Smith took two men to scout a route into the Willamette Valley, while the remaining 16 waited. While waiting, the men decided to trap for beaver along the river.

After a successful trapping venture, the men sat out their furs to dry and camped out. What they didn't know was a much larger group of Native Americans, members of the Coquille Indian Tribe, were watching.

"The men were drying out their materials from a rainstorm," said Bob Zybach, a local historian and a member of the Umpqua Memorial Committee. "On a

signal, 110 Indians attacked the men, killing 15 of them and one escaped."

Zybach said the Natives were angry for several reasons — one being the beavers that were trapped — and they destroyed the men, leaving only their bodies behind.

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Larry Hager shows off the memorial plaque he helped design that will forever remember the 11 men who were killed in July 1828 at the mouth of the Smith River.



Bob Zybach and David Gould at the finished memorial stone, designed to remember 11 men who were killed in an Indian attack in 1828.

Boice eager to run for full term as state representative



State Rep. Court Boice was thrown into the fire after being appointed to his seat in the middle of the legislative session. With many lessons learned, he is eager to serve a full term representing parts of Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

By DAVID RUPKALVIS
The World

After being thrown into the fire by being appointed in the middle of the legislative session, Court Boice is hoping voters will give him a full term as state representative in House District 1.

Boice, who moved the Legislature after serving six years as county commissioner in Curry County, said the lessons he learned during his first legislative session have prepared him to be an effective lawmaker representing parts of Coos, Curry and Douglas counties.

Boice officially filed to run for election a few weeks ago, saying it was honor to serve.

"It was enjoyable to walk from the Capitol across the street to

the Secretary of State recently. I wanted to re-file for public office in a traditional way," Boice said. "As we head toward 2024, I look for solid and continuing success as my job is to do everything possible to improve the quality of life for everyone I represent.

With all required, this past nine months has been very intense, which of course, included the summer fires. However, what a privilege it is to be a public servant for our three counties."

Boice said he is eager to move to the short session in the coming months and is ready to continue to fight for his district.

"I'm in the fight," he said. "I'm full of energy, I have health. I built the right relationships. I love people. I have eight to 10 Democrats I

work with. We need to save the state. We're in trouble."

One of the big issues facing the state is the homelessness crisis and an overall lack of housing. As a member of the Housing and Homelessness Committee, Boice said he is working with both parties to find solutions.

"I'm on the opposite party, but the governor is doing a great job on this," Boice said. "She's got good people around here. She treats me with respect."

Boice said one of the toughest votes he made in the last session was in support of Gov. Tina Kotek's plan to provide funding to only the largest counties to battle homelessness. Boice said while most

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Historical

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able to then tell the story of what had happened.

On October 28, 1928, a group of men returned and buried the remains of the 15 men who were killed. Zybach said their journey and their story is one that should be remembered, not just because of the men who were killed but because of the impact of history.

"This is a critical event in Oregon and U.S. history and British history," Zybach said. "We essentially secured the land away from the British. It's very responsible for setting up the mass migration to the Willamette Valley."

Despite the historical impact, the story has all but disappeared from the history books. "A lot of people along the coast don't even know who Jedediah Smith was," Zybach said.

Knowing that was wrong, Zybach and others have worked to learn all they could about the journey and their deadly ending. They now want the world to know.

Zybach began researching the story in 1981 and found two men — Wayne Knaf and Don Whereat — with the same interest. Together, they were able to discover what had happened before and after the deadly event of July 14, 1928.

After decades of work with the Jedediah Smith Society and the Oregon Watersheds Project, a public recognition was held last week to remember the 11 men who died at the mouth of the Smith River.

"On Oct. 28, 195 years after the men were buried, we're going to dedicate the monument," Zybach said. "The purpose is to educate the public about what happened there."

The monument came about quickly this year after someone suggested a monument in April. The very next day, David Gould with Coos Bay Timber Operators said he would donate a memorial stone. Larry Hager of Bronzcraft Memorials agreed to make a plaque and Stu Richardson of Richardson Masonry in Reedsport installed the plaque on the memorial stone.

After the story almost disappeared from history, thanks to the volunteers with the Jedediah Smith Society and Oregon Watersheds Project, a memorial will forever be in place where the 11 men were buried.



Stu Richardson prepares to install the memorial plaque on a memorial stone near where the men were buried.

Contributed photo



The memorial stone will forever be in place at the mouth of the Smith River outside of Reedsport.

Contributed photo

Boice

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of the state was left out, supporting the governor in that action helped he and others negotiate a plan to add funding for rural counties.

"We got \$40 million, so that was a win," Boice said.

Boice is also supportive of a Republican plan to overturn Measure 110 that decriminalized almost all drug use in the state.

"110 has brought us an enormous mess," Boice said. "The crime, the homelessness, all the crap. I have grandchildren, and I don't want to leave this mess. Re-criminalize hard drug usage and

mandatory treatment for those stuck in addictions. Our citizens are rightfully concerned and faced every day with a declining Oregon. The far-left has been in charge of our state now for more than 40 years. We need a balance of power with conservative majorities in the Oregon House and Senate."

As it has been for many years, a key issue for Boice remains improving the state's response to wildfires. This summer, he worked around the clock to help local, state and federal agencies fight several major fires in Curry County, and he said it's time to make changes to stop the fires before they turn disastrous.

"We're making some headway," Boice said.

"But we're still not managing our forests very well. They won't let us in to harvest the trees after the fires, and the trees become sticks of dynamite in the next fire. We have parts of Curry County that have burned three times."

Boice has the endorsement of the Oregon Taxpayers Association, Oregon Right to Life, a 100% positive voting record with the National Federation of Independent Business, Oregon Forest Resource Council and many more.

"I'm honored and humbled by the responsibility of representing 75,000 people in my Coos, Curry and Douglas Tri-Counties," Boice said. "We can change

the present mis-guided course we find ourselves in. Our children and

grandchildren are counting on us to make the tough decisions

needed. No will outwork me and no one will care more."



Contributed photo

Tiny Homes

From A1

Authority, two if the units would be set aside for Tribal families.

The 400-square foot units would include two beds, a bathroom with a sink and a small kitchenette. Kauffman said The Salvation

Army would provide one hot meal a day and would provide food and clothing through existing programs.

In addition to transitional housing, Hope Village at the Bay would provide social services such as group and individual counseling, life skills training, assistance with finding jobs and,

ultimately, assistance with finding permanent housing. All residents would have to agree to a sobriety requirement as well.

"We propose establishing an eight-unit micro community under the Hope Village of Coos Bay program," Kauffman said. "The community will cater to families, including Tribal

members, veterans, seniors, couples and singles open to sharing. Our approach is holistic, prioritizing the individual needs of our guests."

The eight homes will be built directly behind the existing Salvation Army facilities in Empire.

Kauffman said The Salvation Army is uniquely prepared to help meet the needs of homeless families.

"We have extensive experience working with unhoused," he said. "We do it every

day in cities across the country."

The tiny-home village is also something The Salvation Army has experience in with many such villages up and running across Oregon and the country.

The Homeless Response Advisory Board supported the project, saying it meets one of their requirements from the state. The Coos County Coordinated Office on Homelessness has been tasked with creating

eight new shelter units, and the project will meet that requirement.

The Salvation Army will also be working with other community organization to ensure the social services needed for residents can be met.

"Homelessness presents manifold challenges, necessitating a community-driven approach to usher meaningful change," said Andrew Brainerd, director of the Coos County Homeless Response Office.

"Together with The Salvation Army, our vision is not confined to merely offering shelter but to pave a path to independence and consistent housing," Kauffman said getting support from Coos County and the homeless advisory board was a key step in getting the project moving forward.

"Addressing homelessness is at the heart of our mission," Kauffman said. "Working towards solidifying this collaboration is a testament to our unwavering commitment. Our goal is to ignite hope, uphold dignity, and open doors for families to rebuild and rejuvenate their lives."

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Oregon, U.S. history brought back to life

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