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## Secretary Mike Espy.....

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** On July 6 13 USDA employees and one employee of the Bureau of Land Management (U.S. Department of Interior) were killed while battling a wildfire on Storm King Mountain—which is called the South Canyon incident—near Glenwood Springs, Colo. 26 USDA employees and 10 BLM employees survived the fire. Six days later on July 12 two USDA employees and one contracted employee were killed in a helicopter crash in the Gila National Forest near Silver City, N.M., while fighting a fire in that national forest. Two other USDA employees survived the crash.

The 15 deceased USDA employees were all with the Forest Service.

The names and duty stations of the 14 persons killed in the line of duty fighting the South Canyon fire were: **Jon Kelso** and **Tammi Bickett**, Hot Shot Squad Leaders, Prineville, Ore.; **Kathi Beck**, **Scott Blecha**, **Levi Brinkley**, **Doug Dunbar**, **Terri Hagen**, **Bonnie Holtby**, and **Rob Johnson**, all Hot Shot

Crewmembers, Prineville, Ore; **Don Mackey**, Smokejumper, Missoula, Mont.; **Roger Roth** and **James Thrash**, Smokejumpers, McCall, Idaho; and **Robert Browning** and **Richard Tyler** (Bureau of Land Management employee), West Slope Helitack Crewmembers, Grand Junction, Colo.

The names and duty stations of the three persons killed in the line of duty in the helicopter accident were: **Sean Gutierrez** and **Sam "Vinagron" Smith**, Gila Helitack Crewmembers, Mimbres, N.M., and **Bob Boomer**, contract pilot, Van Nuys, Calif.

On July 9 Secretary **Mike Espy** toured the Colorado fire area by helicopter, met with fire fighters, and visited **Eric Hipke**, a North Cascades Smokejumper stationed at Winthrop, Wash., who was hospitalized with injuries. Espy also ordered the flags at all USDA offices to be flown at half-staff from July 8 to 21.

In addition, the Department is holding a memorial service on Aug. 8 at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. for those 17 persons who died in the line of duty in those two incidents. Espy also signed a letter dated July 22 which is a tribute to the above individuals and to those who continue on the firelines.

Copies of that letter, with an accompanying purple ribbon to be worn during the week of Aug. 8, were sent to all USDA employees in their Earnings and Leave Statements for Pay Period 15.

On July 7 and July 8 Espy offered the following two statements, followed by the July 22 letter:

**[July 7 statement:]** ...our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the 14 heroic individuals who died Wednesday [July 6], and to the families of the two fire fighters who were injured while battling a wildfire near Glenwood Springs, Colo.

These extraordinary individuals were specially trained and experienced fire fighters. Some of those who lost their lives were USDA Forest Service employees. The loss of all of these fire fighters is a tragedy to their loved ones, fellow workers, and to the fire team to which they belonged. These people were dedicated to the mission of saving lives, property and resources.

On behalf of all USDA employees, I offer my sincere expression of sympathy.

**[July 8 statement:]** The courage and dedication of these men and women,

... AMPS continued from page 2

Sixth, selecting officials have the option to interview some, all, or none of the applicants. "Current procedures stipulate an 'all or nothing' scenario which requires that a

selecting official either interview all of the candidates or none of the candidates," Pugh recounted.

Seventh, selecting officials have the option of deciding on the most appropriate method to use in further distinguishing among candidates.

Examples include the use of rating panels, reference checks, writing samples, peer reviews, interviews, or some combination of these.

"AMPS is not a requirement; it's an option that a program agency or staff office may adopt if it wishes," Carter

... Centers continued from page 1

Waters acknowledged that services which the Center can currently provide to field office employees are somewhat more limited, but emphasized that the Department plans to establish similar Centers in field locations with large concentrations of USDA employees.

She noted that, in fact, the first such USDA Career Transition Resource Center at a field location opened in June in Kansas City, Mo. According to **John Alldredge**, Personnel Division branch chief with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Kansas City and manager of its Center, the field facility offers either the same services or services comparable to those available at the Washington Center.

He added that the completion of

their field facility was another 'Team USDA' effort. "Two USDA unions, as well as ten USDA agencies with offices in the area, provided—and are still providing—assistance on behalf of our Center," he noted.

**George Huhtanen**, Personnel Division branch chief with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation in Kansas City and Center deputy manager, added that they are servicing a geographic area which includes the estimated 1,800 USDA employees in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"We're relatively new, so you might say that employees are still basically checking us out," he acknowledged. "But it's a positive step, and as we get further along in the transition, we'll be helping out a lot more employees."

So how long will USDA's Career Transition Resource Centers stay open? "It probably depends," Waters observed, "on how effective we're ultimately able to be in servicing the 'career transition' needs of USDA employees." ♦





# You say you don't connect rural development and child care? Then read on

*Some bought bricks with their names on them*

by Laurie Ray, FmHA Information Staff, Des Moines, Iowa

Here's the contradiction:

There is a great—even a crying—need for safe, dependable, quality child care centers in communities throughout this country. But in many financial circles—both in rural and urban communities—child care centers have been labeled a “risky business.”

USDA has found a way—through its Rural Development Administration—to help sort out this contradiction. As part of the Department's increasing efforts in rural development, RDA is providing community facility loans—under certain conditions—that help finance child care centers.

“But there are some key requirements,” emphasized **Shirley Stroud**, chief of RDA's Program

Development Branch. First, RDA may provide financial assistance *only* if other financing is not available. Second, she underscored that there must be formal community sponsorship—as well as bona fide community involvement in both the planning and management aspects—of any child care center receiving USDA financial assistance.

RDA community facility loans are handled through Farmers Home Administration state offices.

“We require,” she added, “that long-term community support be built into the child care organizational structure, before we approve a loan for such a rural facility.”

In addition, she noted that local employers, city, county, and school officials, and parents all need to be

represented on the organizational structure to ensure the community's child care needs are met.

“If all the community is represented and involved,” she affirmed, “then the community usually will make the project successful.”

Finally, a financial feasibility study must be completed, prior to approval for USDA financial assistance.

According to **Dorman Otte**, FmHA's chief of community and business programs in Iowa, all those pieces fell neatly into place in the small rural community of Baxter—population 938—in central Iowa. The end product was that in August 1992 Baxter's local child care facility, called “Kid-Ville Child Development Center,” opened its doors for business.

“A start-up committee was organized back in 1989 when the idea began to form,” he recounted. Then, with the help of USDA and the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the idea started to turn into a reality.

**Gene Crosby**, community and business programs specialist in the FmHA State Office in Des Moines,

*continued on page 5...*

## USDA to play a paramount role in new initiative— “the domestic Peace Corps”

by Katherine Gibney, director of communications, AmeriCorps/USDA

When Secretary **Mike Espy** took broom in hand to help clean up alongside a team of young people at a Chicago housing development recently, he was symbolically clearing the way for the launch of the Department's newest initiative: AmeriCorps/USDA.

The summer project in Chicago is a prototype of the 42 national service programs that the Department will be running nationwide beginning in September. USDA's program, funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, will be the largest single federal agency component in terms of numbers of participants in what is being called the President's “domestic Peace Corps.”

AmeriCorps is President **Bill Clinton**'s national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational

and technical school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs.

Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA programs.

“President Clinton has made it clear to members of his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities, and I am especially pleased that USDA will be playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program,” Espy said.

“The Corporation will pay each of our 1,200 participants \$4,725 through an educational voucher on completion of a year's service,” said **Joel Berg**, director of the Department's national service effort. “The national service program is like the G.I. Bill—without the G.I.”

Berg said that most of the participants will receive the equivalent of the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) wage, about \$7,600 a

year, with the Corporation providing health care and child care.

“I really want to stress to USDA employees that the AmeriCorps/USDA members are not taking positions away from—or replacing—any career employees,” he said.

“The participants are not federal employees and therefore do not count as FTEs. In addition, the national service legislation mandates that AmeriCorps members not replace workers.”

Berg noted that current USDA employees may have sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, associates, or others who might be interested in applying to the Corporation to participate.

Although the work of the AmeriCorps participants must advance the missions of the USDA agencies involved, the members will be engaged in tasks not normally performed by USDA employees. “For example,” he said, “the Forest Service estimates that there currently exists a backlog of work, on the San Bernardino National Forest alone, that could keep a 200-person program busy for the next five to ten years.”

*continued on page 5...*



affirmed that—as required by USDA in order to receive financial assistance from it—the community showed a significant commitment to supporting a child care center in Baxter.

An early childhood education committee in Baxter then initiated a community survey to gauge bonafide interest in such a center. Among the over 25 additional factors which were evaluated was an assessment of available structural facilities which might accommodate a child care center.

A board of directors, composed of local officials, school board representatives, local employers, and parents, held various fundraisers. “They sold bricks to be cemented in the sidewalk of the center with the contributor’s name on them,” Crosby recalled. “They also held a casino night, and even had a talent show to raise money for the center.”

**Teresa Bomhoff**, district loan specialist in the FmHA/RDA district office in Indianola, Iowa, added that various local businesses donated kitchen appliances, dinnerware, food, toys, and cots for naptime.

She noted that since this state-licensed facility opened its doors not quite two years ago, it has accommodated a capacity of 52 children. “Of equal importance,” Bomhoff said, “it has made all its monthly loan payments to USDA on time.”

“Child care in Iowa is considered economic development,” underscored **Ellen Huntoon**, Iowa’s state director for FmHA/RDA. “Because of child care, employees are able to devote their full attention to the job, and the employer has a dependable, stable environment, so there is less absenteeism.”

Otte observed that those points could apply equally well in an

urban and a rural environment. But what is unique about a rural environment, he advised, is that child care facilities help a community maintain its population base.

“A child care facility does this,” Otte explained, “by helping a community keep, in its fold, young families who might otherwise have to move to a larger community to obtain similar child care services.”

“In short,” Huntoon affirmed, “child care facilities help provide a good working environment for both the employee and the employer—and in rural America, that’s all part of rural development.” ❖



He added that the AmeriCorps Public Lands and Environment Team on the San Bernardino National Forest in southern California will rehabilitate trails in wilderness areas. “Trail work is needed,” he pointed out, “to prevent erosion and provide for hiker safety.”

Besides the Public Lands and Environment Team, the Department will run an Anti-Hunger and Empowerment Team and a Rural Development Team in 32 states at 42 sites nationwide. The Anti-

Hunger Teams will help advance the Food and Nutrition Service’s programs and its food stamp outreach effort.

The Rural Development Teams will work through the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Rural Development Administration, Farmers Home Administration, and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in such activities as protecting watersheds, improving housing, and promoting rural economic development.

“Our program is a model for the Team USDA concept,” Berg said.

“An interagency task force has been working together for more than a year developing plans for the program, and many members of the task force will now implement the projects.”

“In fact,” he added, “the interagency cooperation necessary to implement the AmeriCorps/USDA efforts should lay a vital groundwork for overall reorganization.”

According to Berg, the philosophy of the new initiative is to avoid creating another unwieldy bureaucracy. “The legislation caps administrative costs at five percent. The projects are being run by career employees who are on detail. We have no new hires.”

Berg said that other USDA agencies which will play significant roles in managing this program include the Food Safety and Inspection Service, Rural Electrification Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Economic Research Service.

Berg said that he hoped Departmental employees would help spread the word on the AmeriCorps/USDA program to would-be recruits. “Call our AmeriCorps office here at USDA headquarters at (202) 720-6350 for more information,” he suggested. ❖





# Editor's Roundup on USDA People in the News



**Jim Schroeder** was appointed as deputy under secretary for international affairs and commodity programs, focusing on international trade, and development services and programs. This position was last filled by **Ann Veneman**, who held it from June 1989

until June 1991 when she was sworn in as [then] deputy secretary of agriculture. Before joining USDA, since 1973 Schroeder had been a practicing lawyer in Washington, D.C., with two law firms, most recently with Whitman and Ransom, a 250-lawyer firm headquartered in New York. He specialized in international trade, commercial, and administrative law matters. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C. in 1973, he practiced

law in Denver, Colo. for eight years, primarily in the areas of natural resources and rural and resort area development. He served as a line officer in the U.S. Navy from 1958-61. A native of Elmhurst, Ill., Schroeder holds a B.A. degree in international and public affairs from Princeton University in Princeton, N.J., and a law degree from Harvard University Law School in Cambridge, Mass. ♦



**Dallas Smith** was selected as deputy undersecretary for international affairs and commodity programs, focusing on commodity programs. He succeeded **Randy Green**, who held that position from Jan. 1992 until Jan. 1993 and who is now a member of the Republican minority staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

From Dec. 1985 until his recent selection Smith served as director of the Tobacco and Peanuts Division in the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, where he was responsible for the administration of price support and production adjustment programs for those two commodities. He was deputy director of that Division from 1977-85, after having served as chief of the Division's Peanut Branch from 1976-77. From 1969-76 he worked as a cotton marketing specialist in ASCS's Cotton Division. Smith began his career in 1965 as an assistant agricultural Extension agent in Cumber-

land and Bladen Counties, N.C. He worked there until 1968, when he was selected from among Extension agents nationally to be one of six agents to participate in the 1968 National 4-H Fellowship Program. During that time he served a three-month internship with the Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives. A native of Columbus County, N.C., where he was raised on a tobacco farm, Smith holds a B.S. degree in agricultural engineering from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. ♦



**Scott Shearer** was named deputy assistant secretary for congressional relations. He succeeded **Gary Madson**, who held that position from July 1989 until January 1993 and then retired after 23 years of federal service and is now a hereford cattle and hay farmer in Culpeper County, Va. Before joining USDA, since April 1993 Shearer served as director of legislative

affairs for Zeneca, Inc., a bio-science, agricultural seed, and pharmaceutical firm in Wilmington, Del. From 1990-93 he was director of government relations in the Washington, D.C. office of Halfpenney, Hahn, Roche & Marchese, a Chicago-based law firm. He was the executive director of the National Corn Growers Association in St. Louis from 1984-90. From 1981-84 Shearer worked as a legislative assistant for [then] U.S. Sen. **Alan Dixon** (D-Ill.), concentrating on domestic and international agricultural issues. He was director

of vehicle services for the state of Illinois from 1978-81, after having served as chief fiscal officer for the state treasurer of Illinois from 1973-78. From 1970-72 he worked as the assistant Extension advisor for 4-H & youth in Carroll County, Ill. A native of Villa Grove, Ill., Shearer holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. ♦



**Ken Ackerman** was appointed manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. He succeeded **Jim Cason**, who held that position from July 1991 to Jan. 1993. Before joining USDA, Ackerman served since July 1988 as special counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. In that capacity he was a developer of crop insurance legislation connected

with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and helped draft the portion of the 1990 Farm Bill dealing with crop insurance. He also specialized in financial markets oversight and played a major role in controversies involving allegations of fraud at the Chicago commodity futures exchanges, stock-index futures, and the off-exchange financial derivatives market. From 1981-88 Ackerman served as counsel at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, after having been minority staff counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on

Governmental Affairs from 1976-81. Ackerman has published a number of articles on financial and historical topics and wrote a book covering the 1869 gold market crash, titled "The Gold Ring: Jim Fisk, Jay Gould and Black Friday, 1869." A native of Albany, N.Y., Ackerman holds a B.A. degree in psychology from Brown University in Providence, R.I., and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. ♦



**Evelyn "Evie" White** was selected as USDA's director of personnel. She succeeded **Larry Slagle**,

who served in that position from April 1990 to Feb. 1994 when he retired after 35 years of Federal service. From May 1992 until her recent selection White served as deputy director of person-

nel at the Department. The June 1992 issue of the **USDA News** carried her complete biographical sketch, following her selection to that position. ♦



**Ira Hobbs** was selected as director of the Office of Operations. He succeeded **John Kratzke**, who served in that position from Dec. 1991 until he retired in April 1994 after 33 years of federal service.

From April 1989 until his recent selection Hobbs was director of the Information Systems and Communications Division in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. He had served as deputy director of the Division from 1988-89. From 1983-88 he was a branch chief and then deputy director of APHIS's Administrative Services Division. He began his career with USDA as a Presi-

dential Management Intern with APHIS in 1978 and worked in the personnel area for APHIS from 1980-83. A native of Tallahassee, Fla., Hobbs holds a B.A. degree in political science from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, and a master of public administration degree from Florida State University, also in Tallahassee. ♦

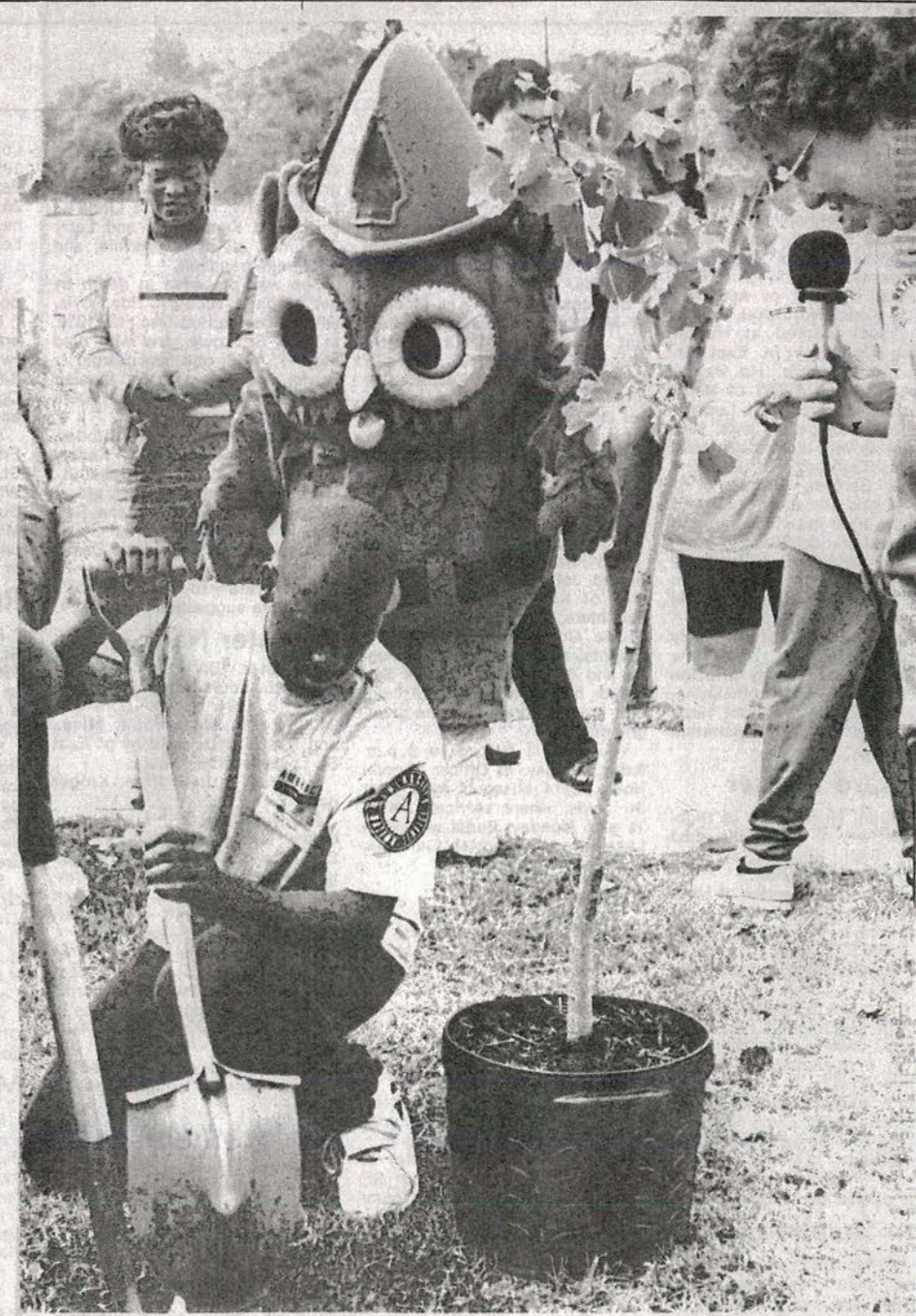




## Kickoff to beautify



A kickoff ceremony was held on Friday for the United States Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps program in East St. Louis. Thirty area residents have been selected to take part in the program that will provide a variety of beautification programs and flood recovery efforts in the Metro East area. Clarence Ellis, left photo, a regional vocation director, addresses a gathering of local dignitaries. Sam Indorante, photo above, of the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service gives a presentation during the AmeriCorps kickoff ceremony. Obie Bell, right photo, a member of the AmeriCorps program, plants the first tree during a beautification project at State Community College.



(Staff photos by MIKE VIOLA)



**Your** 9-25-94  
**Environment**

By Fred Thomas



## AmeriCorps Volunteers Go to Work

Their uniforms haven't arrived, but AmeriCorps volunteers have begun tackling community-improvement projects in the Omaha area.

They have picked up litter along a highway, cleaned two parks, studied an outdoor environmental education area that could become a model for schools, and volunteered to help resolve a neighborhood erosion problem.

They also have begun planning other projects, including one that will help members of the Winnebago Indian Tribe raise more buffalo to improve tribal members' diet.

"Things are starting to happen," said Marilyn Anderson, AmeriCorps' Omaha supervisor.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new national service initiative for volunteers who will work in environmental, education, social service and anti-crime programs.

The Omaha AmeriCorps team, working on environmental and public lands projects, is based in the U.S. Soil Conservation Service's office at Chalco Hills Recreation Area overlooking Wehrspann Lake.

Mrs. Anderson said she and team members began work last week. They picked up litter at Orchard Park and Zorinsky Lake Park and removed trash along Sorensen Parkway near 30th Street.

She helped mediate a solution to an erosion problem in a housing area near Cunningham Lake and agreed to bring her team there to clean up litter on vacant lots.



# AmeriCorps volunteers sworn in

Sept.  
13, 1994

WASHINGTON (AP) — Surrounded by hundreds of youths on the front steps of the White House, President Clinton swore in the first recruits to his national service program Monday and urged all young Americans to join the cause.

"You are no generation of slackers," he declared.

AmeriCorps, approved easily by Congress a year ago, gives Americans a chance to earn tuition or work off college loans by participating in a collection of old and new community service programs.

Using satellite hookups, the White House planned to celebrate the fulfillment of one of Clinton's key campaign pledges by giving the oath of service to 15,000 recruits simultaneously.

But the crash of a small plane into the back of the White House early Monday prompted Clinton to conduct the satellite hookup separately, and move the live event from the South Lawn to the front steps.

The change of plans did not seem to dampen the spirits of Clinton, who lingered 45 minutes after his speech to shake hands with the 800 AmeriCorps recruits and enjoy the rocking, live musical group.

"Service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty," he said. Drawing a comparison between AmeriCorps and President Kennedy's Peace Corps, Clinton said, "The people of AmeriCorps are the next generation of heroes."

AmeriCorps is a \$360 million program paying 20,000 Americans to work in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety. If Congress extends the program, the White House hopes to spend \$1.5 billion over three years to pay for 100,000 workers.

Some in Congress have questioned the cost of the program. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, accused Clinton of creating "a large and costly bureaucracy."

The workers, many of whom are in their late teens and early 20s, will receive minimum-wage pay, free health care and a \$4,725 educational voucher for one year of work. The money can be used for college, vocational education or to pay off college loans. The recruits can work up to two years.



# Are you in the market for a job?

## AmeriCorps program needs volunteers for next year

By Doug O'Loughlin  
of the Daily Courier

The AmeriCorps program for Southwest Oregon is recruiting possible members for next year's crew.

AmeriCorps is a public-service program initiated by President Clinton two years ago. Similar to the Peace Corps, it brings volunteers together to work on community improvement projects such as watershed health.

The Southwest Oregon program, organized out of the Department of Agriculture Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office in Grants Pass, currently has five members stationed in different locations. Members are working with rural development groups in Coos, Curry, Douglas and Jackson counties.

Dave Jacob of Grants Pass is working as an assistant to the water resources program of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments out of Central Point.

He said he enjoys his work writing handbooks on how to improve water quality.

"The water (in Bear Creek) doesn't meet federal standards, so anything we do is an improvement," Jacob said.

AmeriCorps workers perform 1,700 hours of service during a period of nine months to a year, starting in September. Crew members receive a stipend of \$12,000 for their time of service, and afterward receive an education award of \$4,725, to be used for future education or to repay student loans.

Applications are available at the Southwest Oregon RC&D office, 576 N.E. E St., or for more information, call 476-5906. Marlene Daniels, a program organizer, said plans are afoot to have eight members next year.

AmeriCorps applications can also be used for other programs, such as the environmental team of 35 people working out of the Rogue River National Forest.



# Community

Smyth County NEWS Page 8:  
Wednesday, April 26, 1995

## Gathering down by the river

### Riverwalk opens tree identification program

By BRIAN SEALS/Staff

In September 1993 the Grassroots Conservancy celebrated the grand opening of Phase I of a Riverwalk running along the Middle Fork of the Holston River in Marion.

Since then, the group had been working to enhance the .6-mile section of trail while developing other segments.

Saturday, the Conservancy celebrated another milestone by unveiling its tree identification program during ceremonies at Riverbend Park.

About 50 people, including some federal and state forestry and conservation officials, attended to see new tree identification markers along the trail, some informational booths set up by various agencies and to enjoy a sunny Earth Day with temperatures in the 70s.

What those walking the trail saw was the fruits of labor from many people. Conservancy President Shirley Blackwell harked back to the formative stages of the trail in 1993 when machetes were used to carve through the vegetation.

The group decided the river area was an area worth reviving for recreational purposes. With the blessing of the Marion Town Council, the group proceeded with its plans and adopted the name "Grassroots Conservancy." Nobody has to hack through the brush anymore. The trail is now used regularly by runners, bicyclists and fishermen.

"What other town has a trout stream running through the center of town?" Blackwell said.

Many were credited with the walk's progress thus far. However, the focus of the day's festivities was the tree identification program and many pointed to the work of AmeriCorps as being crucial in marking vegetation along the trail. AmeriCorps is a program initiated by President Clinton that allows college graduates to earn tuition money or pay off college debts.

"I think this is an example of the success of that program," said Dave Olson of the U.S. Forest Service.



Brian Seals

**DID YOU KNOW?:** Local historian Mack Sturgill gave walkers some insight into community history while strolling down the Riverwalk.

AmeriCorps worker Mindy Clark worked on identifying and developing markers for vegetation along the trail and was aided in implementation of the markers by AmeriCorps workers Adrienne Perkins, Audrey Biggs, James Pratt and Delton Alderman.

This group enlisted the help of the Science Club at Marion Intermediate School in setting up the markers.

Working with the local school system, the trail will be incorporated into the science curriculum as an outdoor classroom for students at the school. "Now our kids can grow up enjoying the trail and knowing what these trees are," Blackwell said.

The efforts of all involved in developing the walk did not go unnoticed by representatives of state officials attend-

ing. Work on the trail represented more than just a forestry enhancement project, said James Cook of the Virginia Department of Forestry.

"This shows what we have in our natural world is worth saving and worth making better," Cook said.

With the work and funding coming from many sources, Assistant State Conservationist Patricia Raul said this type of project shows the importance of linking federal, state and community resources. "Through these partnerships, we're able to achieve a great deal," she said.

With the initial speeches finished, attendees toured the Riverwalk to see an example of the accomplishments of which Raul spoke.

While touring down the gravelled

trail local historian Mack Sturgill noted the river hadn't always been named the "Holston."

The Indians called it the "Hogohoe gee," the French called it the "Chero kee," and the English referred to it as the "Indian River."

Prior to 1750, Stephen Holston lived at the headwaters of the river. In 1750, the river had been named explorer, Sturgill said.

While the Conservancy has accomplished much in its goal, it isn't slowing down. A middle section of trail running by the Marion Town Pool now features an informational kiosk and some new landscaping. A third section of trail runs near Campbell Avenue and Brunswick Lane. □

PHOTOGRAPHY  
PRESERVATION



# Residents balk at parking lot idea

By BRIAN SEALS/Staff

Ask residents along Campbell Avenue and they'll say they're all for the Riverwalk - a multi-use trail running along the Middle Fork of the Holston River in parts of Marion. They just don't want a paved parking lot for the trail in their neighborhood.

But the Grassroots Conservancy, a group developing the walk, wants to make the trail convenient to use for the whole community. TVA is drawing plans and that may involve some type of parking area in a grassy lot adjacent to the trail, just behind the former Domino's Pizza building. Conservancy members say they want to work with the residents for a solution suitable to all parties.

About 40 neighborhood residents and Conservancy members gathered at the Marion Recreation Department Wednesday night to voice concerns and discuss the future of the walk. The three-stage trail runs along the Middle Fork of the Holston River in parts of Marion, with one of those stages being the old Wilderness Road Garden Club Trail running the length of Campbell Avenue.

Most people living in the area favor the concept of a recreational trail that will enhance Marion's beauty. However, for a trail to be used, it has to have access. And that's what concerns Campbell Avenue residents - what form that access will take.

People who live in the area want to keep land adjacent to the trail "green." They fear a paved parking lot will not only be environmentally insensitive, but will also attract traffic in an area where children play.

"We would be directly affected by any paving plans," said Doug Johnson, who lives across the street from the area where a parking lot may be planned.

Johnson submitted a petition with 30 signatures of residents opposed to turning the area into a parking lot. He said there was ample parking in the vicinity of Marion Middle School on Wilde Street, which adjoins Campbell Avenue. Neighborhood resident Dana Chamberlain agreed.

"If you look back at the history, not many people want to park there," he said. "I don't think you'll need it."

Liz Johnson said a paved lot would invite loitering and could increase problems with noise, trash, and transients. She urged the conservancy to finish that section of the trail then determine if a parking area is needed. "To do it before seems like putting the cart before the horse," she said.

Aside from traffic and loitering problems, paving the lot may raise environmental problems especially should the river flood, she said.

Additionally, residents were concerned the Conservancy may want to place a lot further down the street. Denton St. said these areas

would be harder to police than the section of trail closer to downtown.

Conservancy members said plans are incomplete at this point. The Conservancy's Shirley Blackwell said the group wants to work with the public and noted the goal of the group is to promote environmentalism. "We are first and foremost environmentalists," Blackwell said.

She invited the residents to meet with the club after preliminary plans are completed.

Because the river is in the TVA watershed, the state and TVA would have to approve any surface used on the trail or the lot, according to Blackwell. "We've not made a decision yet," Blackwell said. "It's not paved in asphalt."

The Grassroots Conservancy was formed in February 1992 by a group of citizens interested in preserving the area's natural resources. The Riverwalk is the group's primary project. The first section stretches .6 miles from Riverbend Park on Cliff Avenue and stretches to North Church Street. A second section runs by the town pool and the third section begins at Campbell Avenue. Information bulletin board have been placed at each section. The project has been funded through a variety of donations and grants. Future work will be funded by a \$115,000 ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act) grant administered through the Virginia Department of Transportation. □



# AmeriCorps works for people and communities

By BRIAN SEALS/Staff

Audrey Biggs says that at one time the thought of sitting down and talking to a government official intimidated her. Although she earned a master's degree in communication from Radford University, dealing with government agencies was not one of her strong points.

That was before her experience as an AmeriCorps worker began about eight months ago.

"I'm a lot less intimidated in dealing with a municipal structure," Biggs said.

Part of her service has been to help organize meetings and events for agencies such as the Resource Conservation and Development, the Grassroots Conservancy and the Middle Fork of the Holston River Water Committee. She has also aided those organizations in writing press releases and speeches. This has not only given her practical experience in her field, it has allowed her to help communities such as Marion and Wytheville.

That's the goal of the AmeriCorps program — allowing individuals to perform public service while gaining experience and money to pay for college.

Joel Berg, AmeriCorps program manager from Washington, was in Marion

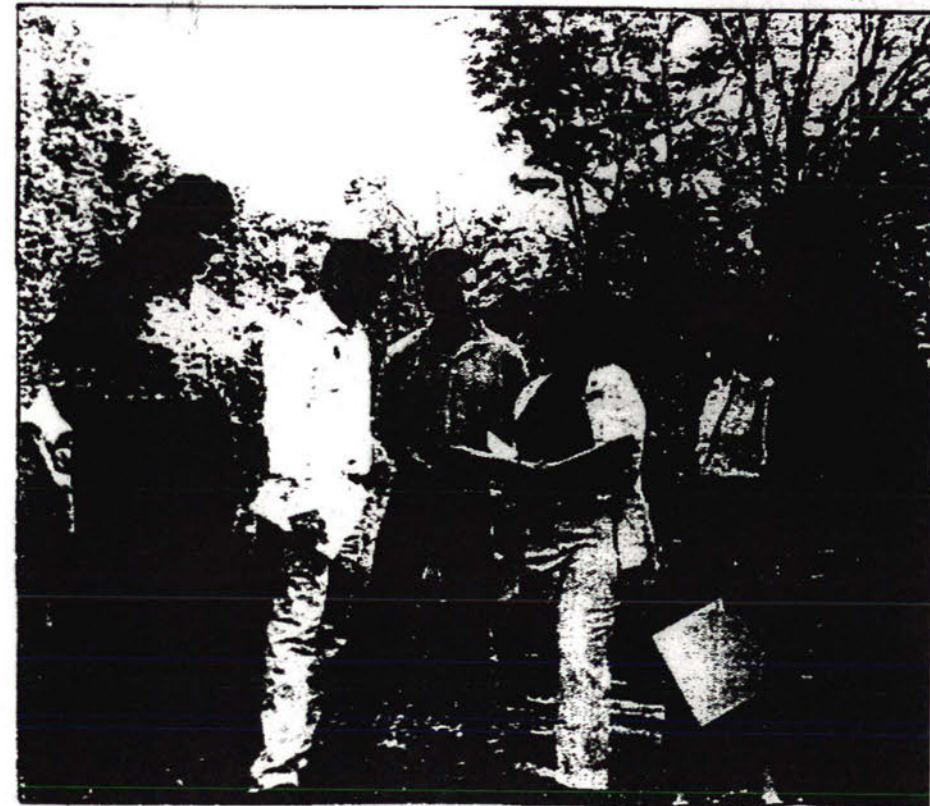
Thursday to see what the program has meant to the town. "You can't understand what's going on in the country sitting behind a desk," Berg said.

So he has been on a nine-day jaunt through Appalachia inspecting projects the program's members have been involved with.

Locally, AmeriCorps members work out of the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development office in Wytheville. Biggs is one of five AmeriCorps members in that office. These members have worked on projects benefiting local communities. In Marion, the group has spent numerous hours helping the Grassroots Conservancy develop the Riverwalk along the Middle Fork of the Holston River. Mindy Clark, who serves in the program, drew plans for the walk and worked to involve local schools with the walk through an outdoor classroom project along the trail.

This is one of the needs the program addresses. "Everywhere I've gone, the program is working very well," Berg told about a dozen people gathered at the Riverwalk. "It's not make-work. It's doing the things the community needs."

It's a program that will likely need ■ See CORPS, Page A12



Adrienne Perkins, Joel Berg, James Pratt, Audrey Biggs, Mindy Clark and Delton Alderman review the Riverwalk plan.

Brian S



## It works for people and communities

### ■ CORPS, from Page A1

much defending considering the budget-cutting climate in today's Congress. Berg said AmeriCorps is viewed by many in the nation's capitol as a liberal program — an assessment with which he disagrees. The naysayers in Washington "don't have a clue," Berg said.

The program's benefits are several-fold and appeal to conservative and liberal opinions, Berg said. It's liberal in that it allows members to expand their education. It's conservative in that those people have to work for the benefits they receive. "This isn't a liberal or a conservative idea," Berg said. "It's just good sense."

Another criticism Berg has to answer is the accusation the program is just another President Clinton "big-government" program. But Berg is quick to note that projects AmeriCorps works with originate on the local level. "We don't tell you what to do," Berg said. "You told us what you needed and we gave you the resources to do it."

Berg oversees a section of the Ameri-

Corps that works under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA component of the program has 38 projects with 1,200 workers. Overall, AmeriCorps has about 20,000 members working on projects in all 50 states, according to Berg. Projects address three areas: hunger prevention, environmental concerns and rural development.

Despite the criticism of AmeriCorps, Berg said he thinks it has a sound future because tenants of the program appeal to conservatism and liberalism. "Everything in our program has to pass the 'Jesse' test," Berg said, joking that it must appeal to Jesse Helms and Jesse Jackson.

Many community leaders present Thursday needed little convincing of the program's effectiveness. The lush, green vegetation surrounding the trail along the Middle Fork of the Holston River and the tree identification markers were just a portion of the fruits of the program's labor. Clark's work with the program has involved conceptual drawings of the three-part trail and identifying trees and devel-

oping plaques with information on what grows along the walk. AmeriCorps members spent weekends with Grassroots and other volunteers clearing the trail and erecting the markers.

"They work well with the volunteers we have and we're thankful they're here," Marion Mayor Marshall Guy said.

Lawrence Richardson echoed praise for the group, especially for its efforts with the Middle Fork Water Committee. "I've been impressed about the overall enthusiasm and dedication they've given all the projects," he said.

While the group's most visible undertaking in Marion is the Riverwalk, it has been involved in much more. For example, member Delton Alderman has worked on a project to establish "dry hydrants" in rural areas — basically pipes running from ponds or another water source used for fire protection.

Members benefit as much as the community. "I've gained a lot of experience," Clark said. "I've been able to do things I normally wouldn't be able to do." □

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Sarah Huff/News-Sentinel staff

Bill Cook, president of the Hancock County Historical and Genealogical Society, stands in the door of the men's cell inside the former Hancock County Jail, soon to reopen as Hancock County's Melungeon Cultural Heritage Museum.

## 15-year-old idea sprouted with the help of organizers, volunteers, federal grants

By Gina Stafford 6297A1  
News-Sentinel staff writer

RUTLEDGE — A 15-year-old idea finally becomes reality this summer with next month's unveiling of a specially designed driving tour along the back roads of central and upper East Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wilderness Road was developed with a combination of organizers, volunteers and federal grants and includes stops of mostly historical or recreational interest.

It meanders through nine adjoining counties, from Claiborne to Johnson, and is also intended to approximate the route followed by pioneers who traveled through the Cumberland Gap to Kentucky.

Americorps, a Clinton administration initiative and program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provided the expertise and some funding for the project, which has been based in Rutledge and organized by the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Mary Russell, Mikhail DeLong and Jeremy Williams have

formed the Americorps team of project coordinators.

"We started working to get organized in October and met with local tourism representatives in each of the involved counties in December," Russell said. "Tourism was something all these counties were interested in promoting. This kind of idea, in fact, had been kicked around for about 15 years."

Residents were asked to rank what was most important to area tourism. They agreed on sites and proposed a slow but steady development of tourism so the region could retain its character and the residents could control its growth, Russell said.

"The counties are limited economically and have been losing people because of a lack of employment," she said.

RC&D (the development council) has been working on sustainable agriculture initiatives, but the tourism initiative is another viable branch of economic development. One of its benefits is that it can be developed locally and can be owned locally.

Another benefit, DeLong said, is that driving tours are a grow-

ing area of interest for vacationers.

"Studies show that the same kinds of people interested in boating, fishing and camping are interested in learning more about regional or family history, and genealogy researchers are a significant part of tourists who come here."

Selling area residents and volunteers on the concepts of "nature-based" and "environmentally sensitive" tourism also was easy, Russell said.

"Rather than alter the area, the idea was to draw attention to its natural beauty and small-town, personal interaction," she said.

Russell said similar types of "roads" are being developed elsewhere in Tennessee and other states. Some may also focus on regional heritage and history, while others may have a cultural theme and emphasize music or other arts, she said.

The Tennessee Wilderness Road however, is designed to coordinate with others like it in adjoining states, Williams said.

— Please see IDEA, page B4

## Idea

Continued from page B1

"This one isn't a combination with the other states', but it is made to hook up with theirs," he said.

"Kentucky has one that goes to Cumberland Gap. They'll send people here, and we'll send people there. It'll also link up fairly well with ones in Virginia and

North Carolina."

A prototype of the brochure listing all stops and areas of interest along the route gets its final review from officials July 6, Williams said. Once approved, the brochures should be printed and distributed later that month.

DeLong said the brochures will be available "anywhere you find other travel brochures and tourism information, like state parks, welcome centers, AAA, and any other of your favorite convenience stops."

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trator Noe Saucedo.

The "A" applies to teacher attitudes, according to the 180-page thesis formally titled "A Descriptive Study of the Relationship Between Campus Performance, efficacy, and Selected Teacher Characteristics in Elementary Campuses in South Texas."

Sauceda, an assistant superintendent for instruction, recently earned

suming good teacher attitudes translates into improved student performance is a "commonsense approach," Saucedo said several unique indicators emerged in the study.

"One thing that struck me is that the teachers' belief in the benefits of education in general appears more related to high student performance than the teachers' belief in their own skills," he said.

Teachers were rated through a complex survey on how they felt about their abilities as well as their students' ability to learn.

"What I found is that the teachers' expectations that their students can learn is more important than any other single factor," he said.

#### At-risk students

Approximately 75 percent of the Valley students in the Brownsville,

and can learn, even though many come from disadvantaged backgrounds, appears to be the chief indicator of whether a campus is high performing," he said.

"High-performing teachers are not intimidated by their students' abilities or lack thereof. They simply get to work and build enthusiasm for learning," Saucedo said.

In terms of training, the administrator also found that teaching

themselves and their students than teachers who specialized in a specific area," he said.

Sauceda explained that the current state trend is to allow teachers to earn a degree in a specific field such as math or science and then take only a limited number or even no education courses.

Please See 'Sauceda' Page 12A



Noe Saucedo

## Referendum sought to boost spinach production — See Page 1B

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

## UCISD expects additional \$4.5 million in aid

by Bill Cockerill  
Managing editor

Uvalde CISD is expected to receive approximately \$4.5 million

He noted, however, that the groundwork for the increase in state funding was established during last year's Uvalde School Board action





"I would like to thank all of you for attending this grand opening celebration of the completion of our new Wet and Dry Traction Testing Facility," said Proving Grounds manager Randy Ivey. "The completion of this addition to the Proving Grounds is a milestone for this facility."

"For the first time, all of our on-

"It is also a strong indication of the support and confidence our corporation has in our operation, as well as Continental General Tire's continued commitment to our customers," Ivey said.

Ivey introduced Bernd Frangenberg, president of Continental General Tire; Jim

the traction testing and wet pad place Uvalde at the top of worldwide testing facilities.

"This addition today signals another step forward in our quest to be the very best, to be able to change and respond to customer demands," Frangenberg said.

"Change is the order of the day

but people make the difference. I am proud to say that we are blessed with a group of individuals dedicated to making our company vital. I salute all of you, knowing that you are part of a larger team," the executive said.

Please See 'Tire' Page 12A

million in state funding.

The district currently receives about \$14.5 million in state aid as part of a \$25.2 million operating budget for the 1994-95 fiscal year.

"Certainly there is no need to consider any tax rate increase," Harrell said of the prospects for increased funding.

"We lost \$1 million in state aid for the last two years even though we were one of the school districts designed to be helped by this bill. That really hurt," he said.

"Now everything is turned

Please See 'UCISD' Page 12A

## AmeriCorps

### Area residents join efforts to improve communities

by Katie Ford  
Staff writer

Whether it was going to school or working for a general contractor, area residents Armando Gomez, D'Ann Clark and Esmelinda Lopez were leading very different lives until last October when they decided to join AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps, which is in its first year of operation, is a grassroots national service program initiated by President Bill Clinton.

The program addresses the country's educational, human service, public safety and environmental needs by putting Americans to work at the community level.

In return for their nine to 12 months or 1,812 hours of service, the AmeriCorps workers receive a salary plus a \$4,725 grant to be used to further their education.

Gomez, Clark and Lopez serve in the rural development branch of the program and answer to county supervisor J. Annet Wilke of the

Development office in Uvalde.

Gomez, who lives in Eagle Pass, was working for a general contractor when he learned about AmeriCorps through the RECD office.

"I was working for a general contractor at the time, but basically I wanted to get involved with my community and somehow change or modify things for the betterment of the community," Gomez said.

As an AmeriCorps worker, Gomez is managing a city beautification project in Eagle Pass by enforcing city ordinances designed by the mayor and City Council to eliminate condemned properties and dilapidated buildings.

He said he identifies the condemned property and buildings and sends cleanup notices to the owners.

Gomez also helps rural residents apply for loans for home improvements and grants for people living in colonias that need sewage and

Last April, Gomez attended a statewide AmeriCorps convention in Austin that attracted approximately 1,000 workers from across the state.

"That was definitely the highlight of my service," he said, adding that he participated in a city parks cleanup effort while in Austin.

"We got to demonstrate what we could do as a group," Gomez said. "It was really impressive — a coming-together of sorts."

Clark, who lives in Brackettville, was volunteering for the Soil Conservation Service when she learned about AmeriCorps.

"I enjoy working with the community and being out in the field," Clark said. "It is very rewarding. It feels great to be a part of your community."

Since joining the service program, Clark has been working at the Middle Rio Grande Development Council office in Uvalde with



### Making a difference

Rural Economic and Community Development county supervisor J. Annet Wilke (left) stands with D'Ann Clark, Esmelinda Lopez and Armando Gomez (left to right), who are currently working to meet the needs of their communities through a national service team called AmeriCorps.

## Hornby fund is formed

A Harry and Kathryn Hornby Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at Southwest Texas Junior College.

The goal for the fund, which will provide an endowed annual scholarship for a student to attend the school, is \$10,000.

According to SWTJC president Billy Word, the school already has \$3,548 given at the time of Harry Hornby's death in 1978 and approximately \$500 in donations since the death of Kathryn Hornby on June 7.

By combining the separate donations, the fund will begin with about \$4,000, Word said.

Harry Hornby Jr. was a longtime publisher of the *Uvalde Leader-News*, having purchased it from his father and newspaper founder H.P. Hornby Sr. in 1948.

Mrs. Hornby served as the publisher of the paper from the time of her husband's death until it was



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 photo to see them rewarded for their efforts," Garnett said.

The awards were announced Friday during the 116th Annual TPA Summer Convention at the Hyatt Regency on Town Lake in Austin.

#### NRCS UVALDE AD

our half-day kindergarten program to a full-day program and that greatly increases our ADA (average daily attendance) rate," Harrell said.

While he maintained there is no need for a tax rate increase for the 1995-96 budget, Harrell cautioned

PAGE 03

Uvalde CISD is eligible to receive about \$890,000 in state aid, not included in the \$4.2 million increase, for building improvements that must be matched by \$375,000 in local funds.

Those figures are also prelimi-

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## ★Corps

(Cont. From Page 1A)

Ann Vaughan, who is the director of economic and community development.

"I stay on top of all the paper-

work," Clark said, adding that she helps locate, research and secure funding for city maintenance equipment and municipal projects.

Most recently, she helped secure funding to reopen the city pool in Brackettville for the summer months.

#### Grassroots program

Lopez, a 1993 graduate of Carrizo Springs High School, said her school counselor informed her of Clinton's new grassroots program.

"When (the counselor) was telling me about it, it seemed very interesting to me," said Lopez, who now works alongside Carrizo Springs County Judge Charles Johnson.

During her service, Lopez has conducted door-to-door surveys on the water and sewage needs of rural residents, gathered signatures for a petition to improve telephone service in the Carrizo Springs area and initiated neighborhood crime watch groups.

Gomez, Clark and Lopez said they plan to pursue higher education once their service contracts end.

in September.

Gomez said he wants to finish his bachelor's degree in either business or public administration.

"I'm very proud of that," Gomez said of returning to school.

Clark said she plans to finish her schooling and apply for a state parks position with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Lopez said she wants to attend Del Mar College in Corpus Christi and study radio technology with a focus on sonograms.

#### Priceless experience

Now that their lives are once again about to head in different directions, the three AmeriCorps workers all regard their service experiences as priceless.

"Through this experience, I have developed a deeper sense of awareness of where we are as a community and where we want or need to go," Gomez said.

"A lot of people aren't familiar with AmeriCorps, but the more they find out, the more they want to know about it," Clark said. "I'd recommend it for everybody ... from pre-schoolers to senior citizens."

"We've seen a lot of changes within our communities and knowing that you had something to do ... she said.

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# Grassley Not a Fan of AmeriCorps

## The AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new national service initiative for volunteers who will work in about 400 education, anti-crime, social service and environmental programs nationally.

■ **Who is eligible?** — Anyone who is 17 years or older, a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and, in most cases, a high school graduate.

■ **How can you join?** — Call 1-800-942-2677 to receive an AmeriCorps National Referral form. Fill it out and mail it back. That will include you in the AmeriCorps National Service Network database, which is used to supplement local AmeriCorps members with national recruits.

■ **What is received in return for service?** — In exchange for one or two years of service, you will be paid \$7,500 a year with health and child-care benefits, and you also will receive an educational award of \$4,725 a year to pay for college or to repay outstanding student loans.

■ **AmeriCorps programs in Nebraska:** AmeriCorps/USDA — public lands and environmental team, 20 volunteers; Community Action of Nebraska, 23 volunteers; and VISTA, 29 volunteers.

■ **AmeriCorps in Iowa:** Association of Farmworker Opportunity program, five volunteers; I Have A Dream Foundation, five volunteers; Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 20 volunteers; Iowa College and Community Action Network, 82 volunteers; Mid-Iowa Community Action, 20 volunteers; AmeriCorps/USDA public lands and environmental team, nine volunteers; AmeriCorps/USDA rural development team, 26 volunteers; VISTA, 60 volunteers.

BY DAVID C. BEEDER  
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Washington — AmeriCorps, a program launched Monday by President Clinton in a White House ceremony, could cost \$30,400 for each of 20,000 participants. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said Monday.

"That's enough money to cover four years of tuition and fees for three full-time students attending the University of Iowa," Grassley said.

He said 20,000 AmeriCorps participants next year will be given a salary and education award tantamount to \$7.27 an hour, plus medical benefits and free child care.

AmeriCorps, which passed Congress by a wide margin last year, will pay participants to do two years of community work in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety.

The workers, many of whom are in their late teens and early 20s, will receive

minimum-wage pay, free health care and a \$4,725 educational voucher for one year of work. The money can be used for college, vocational education or to pay off college loans.

The federal government will pay 85 percent of the costs of the program, with the remainder provided by participating local and state governments.

Grassley said he questioned the need for AmeriCorps, one of the programs directed by Eli Segal, chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service. The agency also administers the National Senior Service Corps.

Segal, in response to questions raised by Grassley, said funding for the program would "buy safer streets, smarter students, cleaner parks and healthier babies."

Grassley has introduced legislation that would restrict \$168 million of the \$418 million appropriated for AmeriCorps until the General Accounting Office certifies that the cost of AmeriCorps would be less than \$15 per hour of service.

# Service Corps Under Way in Nebraska

BY T.L. HENION  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Delegations from Nebraska and Iowa attended Monday's swearing-in ceremonies for the AmeriCorps program in Kansas City, linked by satellite with the national ceremony at the White House.

Nebraska first lady Diane Nelson, honorary chairman of the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service, headed a 90-person contingent from Nebraska.

In Nebraska, three programs will be included in the AmeriCorps mission: AmeriCorps/USDA-Public Lands and Environmental team; Community Action of Nebraska; and VISTA, the anti-poverty program that is being absorbed into AmeriCorps.

About 75 volunteers eventually will be

hired for the three programs, said Christine Vu, interim administrative assistant at the AmeriCorps office in Lincoln.

"Nebraska still is in the process of recruitment of its volunteers," she said.

Nebraska has received \$457,622 in federal funds under the AmeriCorps initiative, which will be used for programs that teach young people how to resolve conflicts without fists and guns.

Craig Derickson, who will direct the AmeriCorps/USDA-Public Lands and Environmental team in Nebraska, said he is looking forward to the project.

"Much of what we will do after we get our volunteers will be work connected with the flood of 1993," Derickson said. "We will be cleaning up public recreation areas, trails and that sort of thing. Our volunteers will collect data on water

quality, water-related issues, as well.

"Our volunteers will do a great deal of 'get-down-in-the-mud' work."

Derickson said his program is nearly finished with the volunteer recruitment phase. All volunteers probably will be on board within two weeks, he said.

"Then, we want to give these people an opportunity to receive training in a broad range of environmental issues before we send them out," Derickson said.

Community Action of Nebraska also is in the process of selecting its volunteer force. The organization's long-range mission is to develop and implement conflict resolution and peer mediation programs for youth ages 10-15 in a multisite, statewide youth violence prevention program.

Gov. Nelson said that 800 to 1,000

students eventually will be reached through the Youth Mediation and Conflict Resolution program.

Volunteers in Service to America — VISTA — has volunteers and programs up and running, said Director Anne Johnson of Lincoln.

"We have them all over — Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney, Norfolk," she said. "Mostly, our volunteers are working in community poverty situations. Of our volunteers, I would say that more than 75 percent have a bachelor's or master's degree, and the rest have at least a high school education."

"The average age of our volunteers is 36, which is a bit higher than the national average. That is in the low 20s, I think. And the majority of our volunteers are women."





**AMERICORPS MEETING IN HOLLY GROVE:** Eight AmeriCorps participants and other officials met in Holly Grove last Wednesday with U. S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg. Each of the participants told of specific areas of work in which they were involved. In some way, they have all been involved in the work at Holly Grove. AmeriCorps participants include from left: Vivian Jones of North Little Rock; Loyda Stith of Batesville; Audria Coleman of Holly Grove; Debra Carmen of Little Rock; Joel Berg, AmeriCorps director of Washington, D.C.; Renee Spurlock of Holly Grove; Jana Coleman of Holly Grove; Lisa Cobb of Jonesboro; and Harrison Locke of Fargo.

## Americorps Participants Meet in Holly Grove with Director Berg

Eight AmeriCorps participants along with other officials met last Wednesday with U. S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg. The meeting was held in the Holly Grove City Hall.

Area AmeriCorps workers were joined by Berg, Allen Pigg of the U. S. Forestry Service in Georgia; Cedric Bradford, state conservationist with Natural Resources Conservation Service; Don Jernigan, publicist with USDA-NRCS; Monroe County Judge Tom Catlett; and Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler.

The Arkansas AmeriCorps participants have been working on rural development projects in eastern Arkansas. In Holly Grove, the work has focused on appraisals of homes located in the 100

veying residents in the floodplain and offering practical assistance about relocation.

In addition to the work of the buyout, AmeriCorps is involved in many other projects. In Holly Grove, AmeriCorps workers have assisted local planning committees, worked with the fire department to bring the department up to standards, worked in bringing together local churches for community functions, and have worked towards securing funding for projects. Jana Coleman related that she had worked with Fargo for the city to install street lights and in securing regular garbage pickup.

In other areas, the work of AmeriCorps varies greatly. Debra Carmen of the Central Arkansas RC and D Council has been work-



# AmeriCorps Participants Meet in Holly Grove with Director Berg

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The Arkansas AmeriCorps participants have been working on rural development projects in eastern Arkansas. In Holly Grove, the work has focused on appraisals of homes located in the 100 year floodplain. At a fair market value, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is buying up the properties frequently flooded by the overflow waters of Dial Creek. Once the buy-out is completed, residents may relocate to a new, yet to be built, housing complex at the intersection of Highways 17 and 86. Some relocated residents will be allowed to build houses on two or three nearby areas. Property clearance from the floodplain will begin when other factors are in place. Individual home appraisals will move the relocation project along.

Lisa Cobb of the Eastern Arkansas RC and D Council has been instrumental in helping with appraisals. Audria Coleman, Renee Spurlock, and Jana Coleman have been involved sur-

veying residents in the floodplain and offering practical assistance about relocation.

In addition to the work of the buyout, AmeriCorps is involved in many other projects. In Holly Grove, AmeriCorps workers have assisted local planning committees, worked with the fire department to bring the department up to standards, worked in bringing together local churches for community functions, and have worked towards securing funding for projects. Jana Coleman related that she had worked with Fargo for the city to install street lights and in securing regular garbage pickup.

In other areas, the work of AmeriCorps varies greatly. Debra Carmen of the Central Arkansas RC and D Council has been working with a pellet stove project which involves cooking with pellets made from compacted sawdust. She has also worked with finding markets for poultry litter, and installing dry hydrants in rural areas. Loyda Stith of Batesville has been working on recycling projects and educating land owners about the value of wetlands. Harrison Locke of Fargo has been working with marketing of alternative crops and supervising ASU students learning about vegetable crops. Vivian Jones of North Little Rock has been working with an adolescent development program targeted towards the African-American male.

Director Joel Berg commented that the various works of AmeriCorps model the "national service" priority of President Bill

Clinton. Berg stated that AmeriCorps is the way to change America through "local residents and empowering local communities to change themselves." Approximately 20,000 AmeriCorps workers are at work across the nation. The program provides for cost of living expenses and provides payment for higher education. Berg calls the program the "G. I. bill without the G. I." Berg commended the work of the AmeriCorps members present.

Following the meeting, the AmeriCorps members hosted a reception for all in attendance.



JOPPA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL third graders recently presented a program for the residents and staff of Ridgeview Terrace Nursing Home in Rutledge. The students dressed as pilgrims and Indians in commemoration of the Thanksgiving holiday around which the program was planned. (Photo by Karen Long)

## Clinch-Powell Employs Workers

The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council has employed six AmeriCorps participants.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows young people to earn money for school and loan repayments while serving critical needs in their communities. The Clinch-Powell RC&D AmeriCorps are sponsored by the United States Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service to aid the rural community.

Participants will be working in the five counties served by the council, Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and

Union.

The AmeriCorps personnel are Sarah Buchanan, Liz Upchurch, Mikhail Delong, Mary Russell, Jeremy Williams and Steve Karnitz.

Buchanan is serving as the environmental education coordinator. She will work in the school conducting various programs and activities on solid waste education, clean water, Conservation Camp, Envirothon and teacher in-service workshops. Her other activities will include newsletters to area schools, publicity on the environmental education program and the environmental resource library maintained by the

council. Buchanan holds a B.S. degree in agriculture communications.

Upchurch is serving as the solid waste and recycling specialist. Her duties will include developing exhibits and displays, assisting solid waste boards, education and a promotion campaign to increase recycling and waste reduction, development of a Buy Recycled campaign and integration with the Keep America Beautiful coordinator. She is a recent University of Tennessee graduate in geography.

DeLong, Russell and Williams are serving as the specialty recreation and tourism team. They

will be evaluating establishing a tourism base for the five counties served by the council. The formation of a regional advisory committee for the project and working with established tourism committees will be the basis of developing a long range tourism development plan.

Russell and Williams hold M.S. degrees in geography from UT and DeLong is a geography graduate from UT.

Karnitz will be serving as a recycling specialist for the Recycling Market Cooperative of East Tennessee. RMCET, located in Knoxville, serves 34 east Tennessee counties.

Katnitz will be working on the inventory and database management of recycling programs, program design and materials management as well as recruitment of members and education of the public concerning markets and recycling. He is a Tennessee Technological University graduate in chemical engineering.

AmeriCorps participants are assigned to work 1812 hours and eligible to serve for two years.

"The AmeriCorps program is helping RC&D to meet important needs in the communities we serve. The talents of the AmeriCorps workers and their dedication to community service is an exciting addition to our programs," reports Lindy Turner, RC&D coordinator.

For more information about the AmeriCorps program, call the RC&D office at 828-5927 or 828-8354.

## Food Stamps Aid With Holiday

The holidays are quickly approaching and many people are looking forward to the good times and good foods that go with the season.

However, there are many people in area communities who may not be able to enjoy these times because they are struggling to make ends meet. The Douglas Cherokee Economic

Authority's Food Stamp Outreach Project may be able to help those in need of assistance.

This program serves Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Scott, Sevier, and Union Counties. Anyone interested in applying for food stamps may simply call 1-800-673-4458. This call is free of charge. A worker will

ask a few simple questions. If a caller meets certain guidelines, an application will be sent.

The program targets four groups: the elderly, working poor, homeless and single parents. However, anyone interested in applying for benefits may call.

Senior citizens are living on fixed incomes as the

cost of living increases. The elderly also tend to have high medical bills or high prescription costs. A number of older people spend 1/3 or more of their income on medicine.

Eighty-five percent of people over retirement age suffer from at least one chronic disease that affects what they need to eat. Food Stamps can help buy those foods needed for special diets necessary for senior

School and their driving privileges revoked for a year.

Todd Kincaid was placed on probation for 11 months and 29 days on each of the charges of theft under \$500 and vandalism.

Frank Smith was fined \$250 and costs for driving on a revoked license and given a 30-day suspended sentence. He also was fined \$10 and costs for violation of the seat belt law.

Bobby Lynn Atkins was fined \$50 and costs for reckless driving.



Oh my Lordy,  
Is Kathy  
40?

Don't Forget!  
**THURSDAY,**  
**DEC. 8**  
**1:00 - 6:00 P.M.**



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## MID-DELTA BRIEFS

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**GREENVILLE** — Ten AmeriCorps volunteers in the Delta will spend the year trying to improve bridges, sewer systems and recycling programs in an effort to improve the general quality of life among residents.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new national service program, involving 20,000 Americans, 17 and older.

Volunteers receive money at the end of the year of service, which began in September. They can use the money to further their education or pay back student loans.

The 10 volunteers are stationed throughout the Delta, in Greenville, Greenwood, Belzoni, Cleveland and Stoneville, according to team leader Cassandra McClure.

"Each member has different objectives," McClure said.

In Greenville, for instance, Wandra Arrington and Jethro Henderson hope to obtain grants to help fund local recycling programs already in place in Washington, Issaquena and Sharkey counties.

"We're working with local leaders and public officials in the area to expand, evaluate and work with existing projects," Arrington explained.

Another volunteer is an assistant forester;

two in Cleveland are working on the sewer systems; and the Belzoni team is evaluating the safety of timber bridges to find out which ones need to be fixed, McClure said.

The Northwest Resource Conservation and Development Area in Stoneville acts as the sponsor for the program. Part of the federal Soil Conservation and Development Service, the non-profit agency works on rural development programs in the Mississippi Delta.

Throughout the year, volunteers also hope to initiate other projects related to education, public safety and human and environmental needs.



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AmeriCorp is a national service program much like the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. It is designed to facilitate programs that can achieve direct results addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety and environmental needs, with not only a projected outcome beneficial to the community when completed, but providing beneficial experience to the team members. Those members work for one year at minimum wage, but in the end earn a \$5,000 scholarship to use one of three ways — to pay off existing college loans, to attend college or to attend trade school.

The local AmeriCorp project involves cultivation of plants at the HL&P Cedar Bayou plant to later be transplanted to a demonstration marsh area on Atkinson Island, property of the Port of Houston. The AmeriCorp workers have been on the job for about one month. The project should take about 10 months more.

In the partnership, HL&P is providing the field laboratories, greenhouse and equipment; the Port of Houston is providing \$100,000 for supplies, materials and transportation; and the USDA funding Seidensticker's efforts.

The work at Atkinson Island will involve mostly smooth cordgrass, which has been proven effective, hardy, disease resistance and quick to spread when used in this area as a means to protect shorelines. Shore erosion and destruction of wetlands are the two biggest problems plaguing

several Baytown residents on the team.



David Tees, HL&P, Ned Holmes, Port of Houston and Paul Johnson, NRCS sign the AmeriCorps agreement.

Texas' coastal areas.

The group, under Seidensticker's guidance, will also establish other plants in areas with severe shoreline erosion problems.

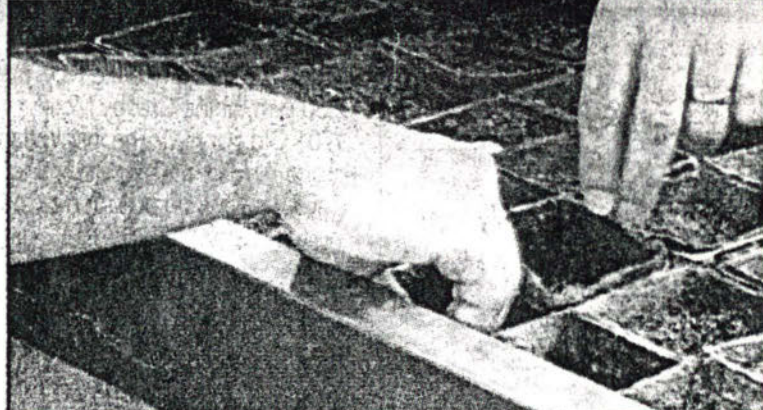
All those plants will begin as seedlings at the HL&P plant.

Then, according to Seidensticker, the group will create 220 acres of island and shallow water marsh.

The project had its origins about eight years ago when committees working for the port's 1989 bond election pledged to do something beneficial with material dredged from the Houston Ship Channel, according to Ned Holmes, board chairman of the port.

"We're coupling and environmental project with an economic project to the benefit of both," he said. "It usually works the other way around ... this is phenomenal."

The project will involve creation of islands and oyster reefs, using



Eddie Seidensticker, shoreline erosion specialist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, plants smooth cordgrass seed. Seidensticker is supervisor of the AmeriCorps team working on the HL&P wetlands project.

the spoil from dredging. Natural grasses will then be planted around such reefs and islands, as well as existing problem shorelines, to protect them from erosion.

Participants will receive quite an education in the process.

Paul Johnson, chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, stressed that through this project, the AmeriCorps workers could begin "a lifetime of service to their community."

Seidensticker stressed the worthy nature of the project.

"AmeriCorps' theme is 'to get things done,'" he said. "But I want to make sure it is something worthwhile. This project will be the largest marsh restoration project ever attempted and I have no doubt it will be successful."

The project caps Seidensticker's many years of research with

smooth cordgrass and other plants — years spent slogging through muddy waters with only a few volunteers and other dedicated professionals to plant and maintain the planting areas. This project has the support of organizations such as the Galveston Bay Foundation, the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program and Texas Parks & Wildlife, as well as the port, HL&P and the federal government.

In the past, plants had to be harvested from natural growth areas, then transplanted to target areas and carefully nurtured, protected by fencing until a few of the hardiest took hold. By growing plants from seed, Seidensticker said, such work will no longer be dependent on wild crops and hopefully avoid such hazards as the diseases and fungi that attacked his earlier efforts.

## Bar associations offer legal help for flood victims

Natural disaster, such as the flooding, brings many problems to those caught in its path. Some of these problems require legal assistance.

Those in need of that kind of help are being helped by the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, in partnership with the State Bar of

Texas, have instituted a Disaster Legal Assistance Program. Local volunteer lawyers will provide free legal advice to people with legal problems caused by the disaster, but who can't afford their own lawyers.

To assist the applicants, a 24-hour bilingual hotline, 1-800-504-

7030, has been set up and will be in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Applicant may also go to the nearest Disaster Application Center (DAC) and fill out a lawyer referral form.

The lawyers are available to give legal advice in a fair and equitable way without discrimina-

tion. The kind of legal help available includes help with insurance claims, counseling on landlord-tenant problems, help with home repair contracts, counseling on consumer protection matters, help with replacing of important legal documents destroyed in the disaster and much more.



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# AmeriCorps program may bring sewer improvements to Bolivar

By Margery Smith  
BC Staff Writer

Bolivar County may soon be seeing needed developments and improvements in rural sewer systems, thanks to the efforts of those behind the new federal AmeriCorps program.

Lebrunski Richard, Bolivar County area member of the AmeriCorps program, explained that the program will be used to help pinpoint funds for and assist in the development of a rural sewer system in the county.

The program, which is President Clinton's national service initiative intended to address the nation's education, human service, public safety and environmental needs at the local level, also calls for the improvement of living conditions through urban forestry, according to information given by Richard.

However, Richard noted, the program will initially focus only on obtaining technical assistance with rural sewage systems in the county.

"Right now, we'll just be working on the sewer systems," Richard said. "We're looking at

Stanton subdivision (northwest of Cleveland), Hills and East Boyle subdivisions in Boyle, Shelby Farms, Isaac Daniels subdivision of Mound Bayou and Hogan subdivision of Mound Bayou."

Richard explained that he and Andrea Clark of Cleveland, the other team member of the county AmeriCorps program, will be working with the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors to ascertain money for a rural sewer system,

but the job of determining which area will be designated to receive the system will be left up to supervisors.

Area evaluation surveys have already been conducted in the aforementioned areas, said Richard, adding that he expects to meet with supervisors "in the next couple of weeks" to see if they have settled on a target area in the county for the sewer system.

Clarence Finley of Greenville, coordinator with the Northwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Area (RCD) in Stoneville, confirmed that the AmeriCorps program will focus on rural sewer systems.

"We are a nonprofit organization based in the Mississippi Delta," explained Finley, who supervises Richard and Clark. "We are participating in the AmeriCorps program with the U.S. Forest Service, which is funding the program through RCD."



W E D N E S D A Y

# METRO/REGION

Language  
arts gets a  
new course,  
B3

**B**

Obituaries B4  
Business B7

THE  STATE

FEBRUARY 15, 1991

## AmeriCorps volunteers lend a hand in Midlands

By MICHELLE R. DAVIS  
and KAY GORDON  
Staff Writers

Amy Overstreet, 22, graduated from college and had no idea what to do with her life. James Holland, 54, a retired U.S. Army major, was teaching life science at an alternative school until it closed.

Both opted to join the ranks of AmeriCorps — President Clinton's pet project that he has dubbed the domestic Peace Corps.

### IS PROGRAM WORTH PRICE? B6

Overstreet and Holland are part of a five-member team working in South Carolina on rural development projects under

AmeriCorps. This week, two teams spent time in Richland and Lexington counties improving dry fire hydrants and inspecting dams.

Several South Carolina groups fall under the AmeriCorps umbrella, including City Year and the National Civilian Conservation Corps. In return for a living stipend and an educational grant, AmeriCorps members work on community projects. The 11-month program began in September.

"Our effort is to reach out to rural communities where county governments do not have staff for some projects," said Jim Wilson, AmeriCorps coordinator and district conservationist in Columbia. Among other tasks, groups have analyzed water samples, done grassland surveys



TIM DOMINOVINE/STAR

AmeriCorps volunteers James Holland and Amy Overstreet complete work on a dry fire hydrant in rural Richland County.

and mapped roads for 911 systems.

The rural-development AmeriCorps project is sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Statewide, four five-member teams are based

PLEASE SEE AMERICORPS PAGE B6



# The Daily News

NO-24

MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1995

14 Pages

## Group tracing pioneer paths

By William Saunders  
Staff Writer

Several groups are working to make U.S. 25E and U.S. 11W into a tourist attraction for Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wilderness Road will trace historic pioneer paths that follow the current routes, as well as highlighting area food, lodging and entertainment sites.

"We have a lot of families that came through here years ago when the area was being founded, and now people come through here looking to trace their roots," said Mary Russell, Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) - Americorps.

The road begins at Elizabethtown, runs through Rogersville and ends at Cumberland Gap. "We're planning a map of the Wilderness Road with historical sites on it, as well as food, lodging and a range of other items," she added. The map is scheduled to go to print June 1.

The goal of the road, she said, is to highlight the historical significance of the area, as well as to bring in tourism.

"Our main goal is historical preservation," she said. "We've been writing grants to preserve different sites along the road. Also, the road will bring visitors to the area with appreciation of the historical areas of Tennessee, including but not limited to Daniel Boone."

"The main trail will attract visitors here initially, and offshoots from the trail will get them into surrounding counties," said Lindy Turner, Clinch-Powell RC&D.

**"Our main goal is historical preservation. We've been writing grants to preserve different sites along the road. Also, the road will bring visitors to the area with appreciation of the historical areas of Tennessee, including but not limited to Daniel Boone."**

—Mary Russell

Area counties that would be directly affected by the Tennessee Wilderness Road will be Claiborne, Hawkins and Grainger.

The road program came about through the combined efforts of Clinch-Powell RC&D, Northeast Tennessee Tourism Council, First Tennessee Development District and Middle East Tennessee Tourism Council.

Russell said the program was based on similar roads in Virginia and Kentucky, such as the Daniel Boone Heritage Trail in Kentucky. Such roads have been proven to help boost economies in the communities through which they pass.

Road signs marking the trail are not in place, but Russell said they will be posted at a later date.



TWIN VALLEY TIMES  
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA  
MARCH 5, 1995

## AmeriCorps members here improve environment and promote tourism

Five members of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) AmeriCorps Rural Development Team in Twin Valley announced that in their last few months of service they have made significant progress improving wildlife habitats, promoting local tourism and providing conservation outreach by designing living snow fences.

AmeriCorps works with the Agassiz Wildlife Refuge in order to provide Habitats for Animals, constructing brush lodgings for various wildlife. The AmeriCorps members also worked with the Snowdrifters Snowmobile Club in Thief River Falls to help prepare for the Iron Man 250 snowmobile race. Other community service projects include Give Water A Hand water screen-

ing project in Halstad, and helping set up and staffing an AmeriCorps booth at the Red River Valley Winter Shows in Crookston.

AmeriCorps members working on the Agassiz Recreational Trail (A.R.T.) project have completed an A.R.T. pre-brochure and are developing a Mahnom County tourism brochure. They are also preparing a grant for a city park in Ada, and working on the plans for the Ada walking trail. The AmeriCorps members have received a grant for \$200 from Polaris to help with the promotion of A.R.T.

AmeriCorps members working on the Conservation Outreach project have constructed a working Living Snow Fence Model to better demonstrate a need for such a program. A living snow fence is one or many rows of trees planted along a roadway to stop snow from drifting across. Members also organized a tillage demonstration to be held in late August of this year. AmeriCorps has received \$3,000 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and \$1,500 from the Watershed Advisory Group to help with both of these projects.

AmeriCorps is the new domestic Peace Corps created by President Clinton and Congress to engage Americans of all backgrounds in direct service to their communities in exchange for an educational benefit that can be used to pay for college, job training, or to repay back student loans.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is sponsoring three types of AmeriCorps teams composed of approximately 1,200 members serving 38 states nationwide: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team.



THE PRESS AND BANNER  
ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
MARCH 8, 1995

# AmeriCorps doing road inventory in preparation for E-911 set-up

By Henry E. Green

AmeriCorps is launching this week a project which is expected to help pave the way for the establishment of the E-911 emergency response system in Abbeville County.

A team of this nationwide service corp will be working on a project to complete the first phase of 911 implementation.

"We will ride every road in the county, taking road inventory—

signage, road type, landmarks, fire districts," said AmeriCorps project leader Angi Paulus.

AmeriCorps will be looking to see whether there is more than one residence on a road, she said.

If there is more than one residence on a road or driveway, it has to be named.

"We are just doing road inventory," Paulus said. "When we are finished, Phase Two (addressing) will

begin."

The team members are Paulus, Chad Weston, Chris Bever, Susan Miller, Sherell Stevens.

The project, which she said Abbeville County Council is sponsoring, takes in three weeks, extending from March 6 to March 23.

Glenn Breed, director of public management with Upper Savannah Council of Governments, will provide technical support.

Breed said Thursday that the mapping by AmeriCorps will come at no cost to Abbeville County.

Breed, who said that he serves on an AmeriCorps advisory council, said that he approached AmeriCorps to do the project.

"I approached them about doing a road inventory," he said, noting that he submitted a project plan in November of last year. "They thought it would be a good idea."

An AmeriCorps team will be doing much the same thing in McCormick County, making preparations for E-911, Paulus said.

The project leader there will be David Holcombe, and the team members are Holcombe, Dawn Kendall, Greg Maxwell, Richard Eaton, and Dan Johnson.

McCormick County is sponsoring the project.

Technical support will be provided by Paul Bjorkman, McCormick County Administrator.

The duration of the project, and the work involved, will be the same.

AmeriCorps is a nationwide service project, which has been characterized as a domestic version of the Peace Corps.

AmeriCorps has worked on a number of service projects in Abbeville County, including a grasslands survey and a project in which they worked with area wildlife officials.

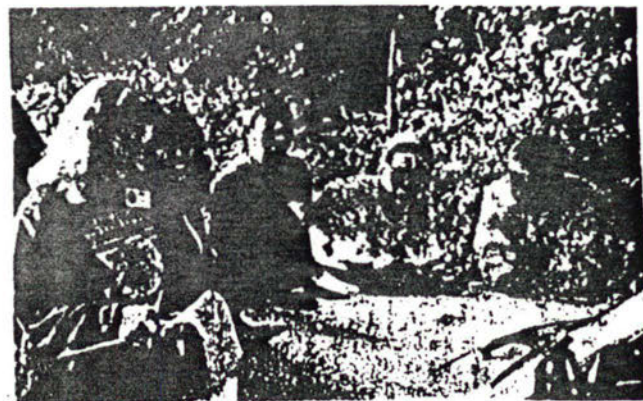
Meanwhile, launching an E-911 system, an emergency response system, in Abbeville County has long been a topic of discussion among local government officials.

The effort has been highlighted by meetings of local government officials and emergency-response related agency representatives at least as far back as December, 1993.

An E-911 committee has been established through County Council to help plan for the system, and Council is working with the Upper Savannah Council of Governments to help bring the system to Abbeville County.

E-911 is an especially sophisticated form of the 911 system, by which people can more easily gain access to emergency services through calling, by telephone, a central dispatch center.

The county mapping which AmeriCorps will be doing will be an integral step toward bringing the system to the county, since the efficient provision of services through E-911 in the event of an emergency depends on the system's ability to pinpoint the emergency's location.



**AMERICORPS DOING ROAD INVENTORY**—An AmeriCorps team is scheduled to launch this week a road inventory in Abbeville County, as a step toward the establishment of the E-911 system here in Abbeville County. Team members are shown here at work on another project. (AmeriCorps photo)

## Road inventory will be extensive

By Henry E. Green

Some tips for the public are being provided in keeping with the coming of the AmeriCorps team which is scheduled to start a road inventory in Abbeville County, as a step toward establishing a 911 system here.

For a 911 system, each structure in the county must have a distinct street address, not a rural route number or a box number.

The road inventory is just the first

phase in a lengthy process, and the actual street addressing will be next.

Abbeville County will be addressed in different phases—each phase will consist of the different postal zip codes.

"A 911 addressing team will be in various areas to make sure every structure in the county has a street style address—1418 Main Street, for example.

The 911 addressing team will leave

important information at each residence to verify the occupant's name, old address, building description, and new address.

The resident will be asked to provide their telephone number so that each street address will be connected with a phone number.

Each resident will be informed of their new address and when to start using that address.

If you have any questions concerning 911 addressing, call 459-

2955.

According to reports, the AmeriCorps team doing the road inventory will be headquartered below in the basement of the Abbeville County Library in Abbeville.

AmeriCorps is a national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level.



# Americorps helps Ute Mountain Utes

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY TIMES

Dale White, a recent AmeriCorps recruit, is doing an inventory of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation land south of the Colorado state line in New Mexico.

His project to assist the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in gathering information for their land use management plan, a part of Geological Information System.

White has lived and worked construction jobs in Durango for 20 years. After repeated construction-related injuries, he decided to pursue a college education in natural resources.

He identifies plants in the arid zone of northwestern New Mexico while helping the Ute Mountain Ute tribe compile information for a land management plan.

"You have to know what you have before you can plan," White said.

He drives about 80 miles to the survey location from his Cortez office. Most days start with a stop at tribal headquarters in Towaoc to pick up any information and tools needed for the day.

Then he drives to a point east of Waterflow where a dirt road takes him past the power plant to the reservation's New Mexico land.

"I love this transitional zone where the desert changes to mountains," White said.

His job is to walk an area documenting everything he sees. This could be anything from manmade structures like water tanks, roads, and fences to signs of wildlife in the area. The ability to identify animal tracks and scat is helpful.

During the winter when there are no blooms, the identification process includes checking the root and/or seed. If that doesn't produce an answer, a change of season will sometimes bring more clues. Mid-



Special to the Daily Times  
Dale White of Durango inventories Ute Mountain Ute land for land management uses.

plant coverage. He once spent two days in a small canyon because the terrain was very steep.

White stops every four or five feet to examine something at his feet; either a grass clump, bush, animal track, prairie dog hole or soil type.

He also makes a visual count on the average percentages of a particular plant at that site. The variables that determine how many plants of a particular species will be found in an area are moisture, slope of the land and aspect of the land to the

At the days end, White transfers his data onto a range site sheet that includes all his findings about the area. This will eventually be mapped into a GIS to aid the Utes in creating a long range land use management strategy.

White graduated from Fort Lewis College in 1990 with a bachelor of science degree in earth system science, a self-directed major. In 1991, he moved his family, wife Angie and three daughters, to Keene, N.H., where he worked towards a master's degree of science in



SANTEE STRIPER  
SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
AUGUST 23, 1995

### EOCEC; Amerlcorps:

## Still Hard At Work And Making Progress

By E. Marie Jackson

After more than a year, Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community (EOCEC) and its Amerlcorps representatives are still hard at work and making progress in the eastern part of our county.

Without fanfare or the spotlight, EOCEC still holds their monthly meetings and, along with Gloria Richardson and Vernell Smalls (Amerlcorps representatives), are finding new and innovative ways to help area residents with all kinds of problems.

Some of their accomplishments include assisting the elderly with home improvement grants and low-interest loans, as well as helping other residents with home-ownership loans.

They have also worked closely with small business owners in eastern Orangeburg County, educating them about business loan programs.

EOCEC has joined forces with local police forces, U.S. Marshall's office, Office of Juvenile Justice, and school administrators to bring crime and drug prevention programs to area students.

Educational seminars have been hosted by the group on topics such as Wills and Trusts; Home Weatherization; Business and Industrial Loan Programs; Emergency Services; Drug and Crime Prevention; and Steps To Building Your Credit.

Countless hours of volunteer services have been provided to Vance Senior Citizen Centers, as well as Orangeburg School District Three.

Also to be included in their lists of accomplishments is performance of national service to the community in the town of Santee with such projects as Beautification, Daycare, Landscaping, Santee Town Hall, and Litter Pick Up.

In addition to overseeing the day to day operations of the EOCEC office, Richardson and Smalls host a community awareness radio broadcast weekly to inform the public of issues affecting their everyday lives.

As envisioned by the founders of EOCEC, the group is well on its way to carrying out their mission, which is:

The citizens of the Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community plan to increase job opportunities and quality of life for all eastern Orangeburg County citizens so residents can enjoy a standard of living that is above the poverty line and have the chance to realize their dreams.

"My term as an Amerlcorps member has been fulfilling and rewarding," Richardson said. "I've had the opportunity to work in the different capacities to bring the communities together. It gives me a great sense of fulfillment knowing that I've helped someone who really needed help and would have otherwise been forgotten."

Smalls also expressed her sincere appreciation for being able to be there for so many people in need. "The EOCEC has been a fulfilling experience for me. After coming on board for four months after the death of Josephine High, I have learned a lot. I feel that I have helped or at least tried to help my community."



## In Arkansas, AmeriCorps fits Clinton's vision

BY GRANT TENNILLE  
Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

AmeriCorps member Renee Spurlock is moving Holly Grove residents out of danger.

Approximately 60 homes in the east Arkansas town of 700 are inside the flood plain of the White River. During periods of heavy rain, water seeps into the ground floor of some homes. If a 100-year flood were to sweep down the White River, it would take most of those homes with it to the Mississippi.

So Spurlock, 35, a Holly Grove resident, is coordinating a program under the Federal Emergency Management Authority to buy the flood-threatened property and find the 135 residents of the area new lots on which to build.

She has spent the past 10 months educating landowners about the buyout program, surveying the area, researching ownership of every piece of property and finally going door-to-door answering questions, providing en-

couragement and soothing fears.

"AmeriCorps has really helped this town," Spurlock said.

Spurlock is one of approximately 250 AmeriCorps volunteers in Arkansas working for dozens of private, nonprofit and government agencies across the state. Their accomplishments may be the best defense of President Clinton's modern-day Peace Corps.

Their jobs include feeding the hungry, teaching Little Rock Hispanics job skills, educating mi-

grant farm workers on the dangers of pesticides and helping rural fire departments find money for training.

On Sept. 21, 1993, Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act creating AmeriCorps. The creation of a national service corps had been a high priority for Clinton during the 1992 campaign.

Clinton envisioned a domestic version of the Peace Corps, created by President John F. Kennedy in the early '60s, a group that

would perform volunteer work in communities across the United States in exchange for government grants to pay for college education.

On Sept. 12, 1994, Clinton administered the oath, via satellite, to 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers across the country.

Republicans in Congress, led by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., attempted to kill the program earlier this month by slashing the 1996 budget for

See AMERICORPS, Page 11A

## AmeriCorps

• Continued from Page 1A

AmeriCorps from the proposed \$575 million to \$159 million. They say the Corps is nothing more than another federal jobs program that costs a lot but accomplishes little.

AmeriCorps volunteer Jennifer King of Alexander said Gingrich is wrong.

In Little Rock, King is helping feed hungry families.

Through her work with the Rice Depot and Potluck, two Pulaski County relief organizations, King, 23, developed the Red Barrel program. Red barrels have been placed in grocery stores across Pulaski County with signs that encourage people to donate food. Since November, more than 15,000 pounds of food has been collected and distributed to 17 agencies across the state.

"Because of Jennifer it was a success," said coordinator Laura Rhea. "Because it was a success it is going statewide."

King wants the House Speaker and his fellow congressional Republicans who say AmeriCorps is just another wasteful bureaucracy to know that her work has fed thousands of hungry people.

"We are getting things done," King said.

AmeriCorps supporters said the program has become a political target of the Republican Congress, eager to attack one of President Clinton's pet projects. Republicans are unapologetic.

"I think that this is something that the president wanted his name on as an achievement of his administration, but I think the people really have turned their thumbs down on these '60s-style programs," said Rep. Tim

Clinton has saved AmeriCorps, at least for now, by vetoing the congressional rescissions package June 7. He instructed Congress to find other spending cuts. King, and her fellow 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers across the country, are relieved.

Gingrich says AmeriCorps is getting in the way of a balanced budget.

"If you are going to get to a balanced budget and your choice is having a nice little government bureaucracy that runs people around the country doing nice things or taking care of people with severe disabilities, where is each one on the priority list?" Gingrich said in an interview earlier this year.

One of the central tenets of AmeriCorps is that the volunteers will be placed within existing agencies so that no extra bureaucracy will be needed to create and supervise projects.

### Diversity reigns

The AmeriCorps projects are diverse, and so are the volunteers. Most are college-age, but some are in their 60s. All are working on projects that fall within four "national priorities" outlined by the Corporation for National Service, the 200-employee Washington agency that oversees AmeriCorps. Those priorities are education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

A short list of the agencies where Arkansas' AmeriCorps volunteers are working includes:

- The state's Spinal Cord Commission, where AmeriCorps volunteer John Gould of Little Rock, who is paralyzed from the chest down, counsels recently paralyzed people learning to cope with a disability

- Central Hispano, a private, nonprofit Little Rock organization where AmeriCorps volunteer Patrick Presley helps members of Little Rock's Hispanic community learn the skills they need to get off welfare and hold jobs. He and his fellow AmeriCorps workers often serve as translators for local hospitals and police during emergency situations.

- The Resource Conservation and Development Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where Deborah Carman of Little Rock helps rural fire departments across Arkansas find the money for training and new equipment.

In Holly Grove, Spurlock also has formed citizen committees who are fighting neighborhood crime and picking up litter.

Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler said AmeriCorps is making her town better.

"It's miraculous for a small town," Tyler said. "We cannot afford to go out and hire a person to do what they are doing. We would have been a little dump if it hadn't been for them."

Project Coordinator Gail Wainwright of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said the Holly Grove flood plain project is one that has needed to be done for years, but manpower had never been available. The Agriculture Department is overseeing the project.

"These projects might have happened 10 or 15 years from now, but they wouldn't happen as quickly as they have without these people," Wainwright said. "They give more of their free time than they ever get compensated for."



CALHOUN NEWS  
BRUSSELS, ILLINOIS  
JULY 12, 1995

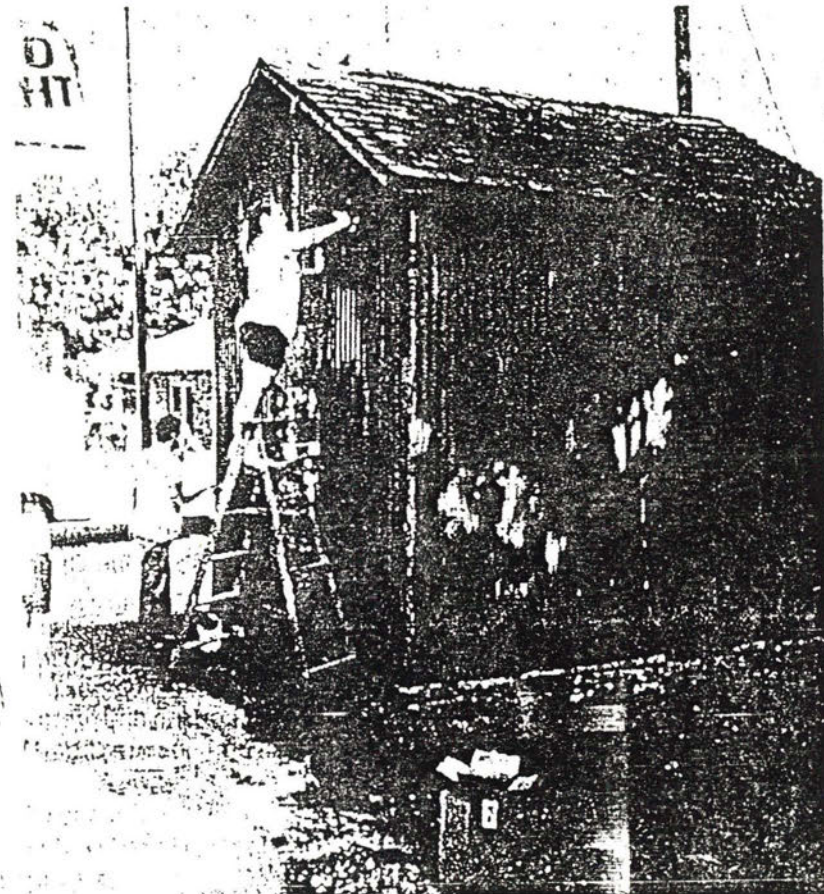
## ***Brussels Historic Jail Renovated***

The historic jail building in Brussels recently received a face-lift. Darlene Ivarson and Starr McDaniels, volunteers from the Ameri Corps Rural Development Team, provided the labor to refurbish the old building. A fresh coat of paint was applied to the exterior and the interior has a display of early prison life.

The jail will be open on weekends from noon to 5 p.m. for

visitors to stop by. The jail is located on Main Street by the Brussels Tavern, Wood Duck and Grandma's Attic antique shop.

Mayor Sarah A. Kinder is pleased with the upkeep of all the historic homes and buildings in Brussels. "A drive through quaint Brussels takes one back to the late 1800's and is a pleasant experience," commented Mayor Kinder.





# Service with a smile

## AmeriCorps does survey in county

By Henry E. Green

(The following article is the first in a series.)

It's been called the domestic Peace Corps.

It's a national service program fostered by President Bill Clinton, and it's called AmeriCorps.

And AmeriCorps has come to Abbeville County.

A Newberry-based team of this new service organization has been doing a grassland survey of Abbeville County.

Around the nation, AmeriCorps has about 20,000 volunteers, according to team member Amy Overstreet.

Members receive a living stipend of \$12,000, and they get an educational stipend of \$4,500 after completing 1700 hours.

This South Carolina rural development team has a target area of nine counties--Aiken, Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Saluda, Newberry, Greenwood, Lexington and Laurens.

The rural development team includes 10 members in Greenwood

and 10 in Newberry.

The Newberry squad has received some training from Mike Hall of the Soil Conservation Service in to help the members with the grassland survey.

James Holland, the team leader, notes that although the main focus of the survey is on grassland, it looks at other things, too.

Another team member, Amy Overstreet of Columbia, studied art history and English at Wofford, where she graduated with a bachelor of arts.

"I have a strong belief in the value of community service," she said. "I hope this will prepare me for two years of service in the Peace Corps in Africa, where she plans to help out in health and nutrition in the Ivory Coast.

She's planning to leave for Africa in the late summer of 1995.

James Holland, from Aiken, is retired from the military and is the team leader.

He likes the outdoors, and he thought it was a good opportunity for community service.

"I've seen what the Peace Corps

has done," he said.

And to Holland, AmeriCorps is something of a domestic Peace Corps.

Other members of the team include Mary Roc, who is from Powdersville in Anderson County.

Roc lauds AmeriCorps as a good exercise in leadership training.

Angela Brinkley, meanwhile, lives in Columbia, and has a degree in computer science from Shaw University, and is working now on a degree in aerospace engineering from the University of South Carolina.

She enjoys being outdoors, as does Jay Henderson, who lives in Columbia and worked with the Soil Conservation Service in Richland County before joining the AmeriCorps team.

The reaction from Abbeville County residents, Overstreet said, has been mixed.

"Generally people welcomed us here," she said. "Mostly it's just curiosity. Overall it's been a positive experience."

A city girl, she has learned much about life on the farm, and she has been particularly impressed by the self-sufficiency of farmers, and by how hard they work.



# AmeriCorps assists Northeast Tennessee rural communities

AmeriCorps is "getting things done" in Northeast Tennessee. Seven members of this new domestic peace corps have taken on the challenge to address human and environmental needs in Northeast Tennessee communities.

AmeriCorps members recently helped serve meals at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City. This was one of many community service projects they will undertake this year.

Amy Crumley and Billie Barlow are two AmeriCorps members based in Johnson City. They are part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development Team. Directed by the USDA-Forest Service, they are working in the six-county Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area, which includes Carter, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties. The Rural Development Team's objectives include assisting rural communities with economic development and natural resources conservation.

Crumley and Barlow are assisting the RC&D Council with new and ongoing projects. They are coordinating conservation education programs for elementary and high school students and organizing and promoting recycling and hazardous waste collection programs. They are

also developing promotional materials for a local tourism council. In addition, they will assist the RC&D Forestry Committee with a wood waste assessment.

The other five AmeriCorps members in Northeast Tennessee are also part of the USDA Rural Development Team. Their projects are directed by the Farmers Home Administration in Greeneville, Mountain City, and Sneedville, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) in Morristown.

In addition to their assigned projects, the seven AmeriCorps members in Northeast Tennessee work as a "cluster" on community service projects of their choice. Several members recently helped serve meals at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City. The cluster also plans to work on a streambank protection project and would like to help with housing construction for those in need.

The AmeriCorps National Service Program is a grassroots effort to solve the problems facing communities across the nation. The AmeriCorps ethic is embodied in four phrases: getting things done, strengthening communities, encouraging responsibility, and expanding opportunity. The program offers Americans of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to serve their country and earn education awards in

return. Members serve a limited term of nine months to a year. They receive a living stipend, and at the completion of service, they are awarded an education voucher for payment of tuition or outstanding student loans.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabili-

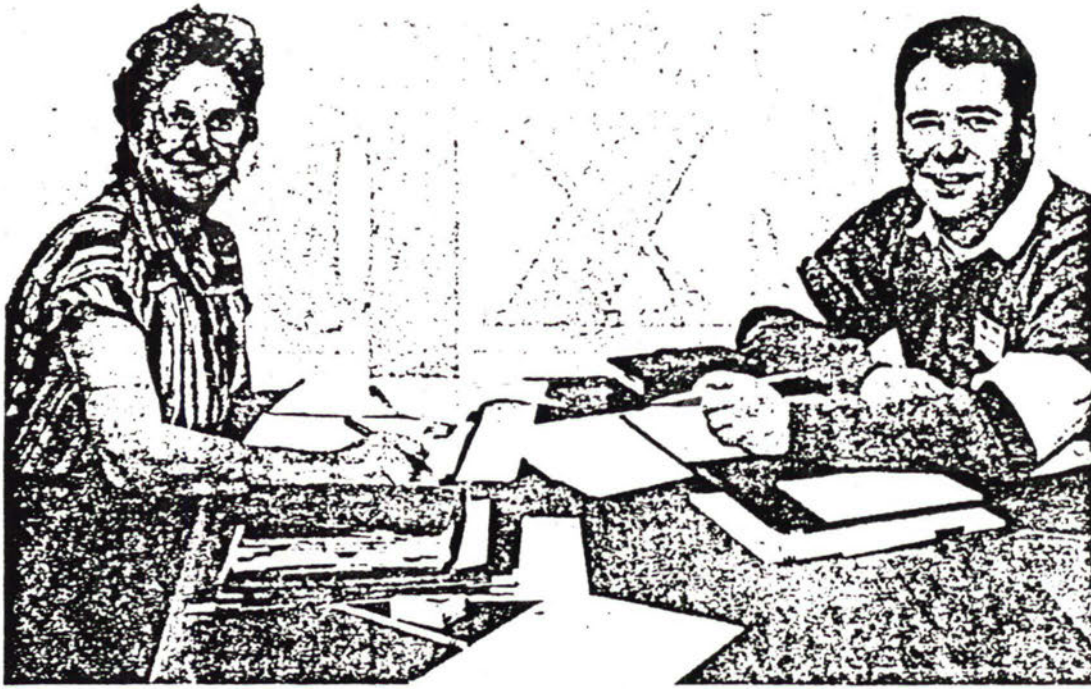
ties who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



AmeriCorps member Amy Crumley, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, has been assisting in the preparation of meals to those in need at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City.





STARR McDANILES AND CHAD DENISON are working with Pittsfield Economic Developer Robin Hendley to gather information on Pittsfield's downtown area. McDaniles is from Pearl and Denison from Pittsfield.

## They're parts of Americorps team

By DAN LONG

"Hopefully some of the things I'll be learning I can take back to Pearl and use it to stop the decline there," Starr McDaniles said about her working as an Americorps volunteer.

McDaniles and Chad Denison are two members of Americorps, a group of volunteers employed

by the US Department of Agriculture.

Denison, from Pittsfield, and McDaniles are working through the Pittsfield economic development office to collect data on Pittsfield's downtown area.

They'll collect information on businesses, buildings, residences, parking and other factors, according to Robin Hendley, Pittsfield

economic developer.

The information will be used to meet ADA requirements, fulfill Main Street designations for application and other possible projects.

"We need to know what the data says and see what direction it's pointing," Hendley said.

It could point to a certain market area not being met by current businesses or a need for more parking, or it might not, Hendley said.

Denison and McDaniles will work for 9-10 months on the data collection project. They've already undergone some training including CPR and first aid from the Red Cross and team building at WIU, according to Denison.

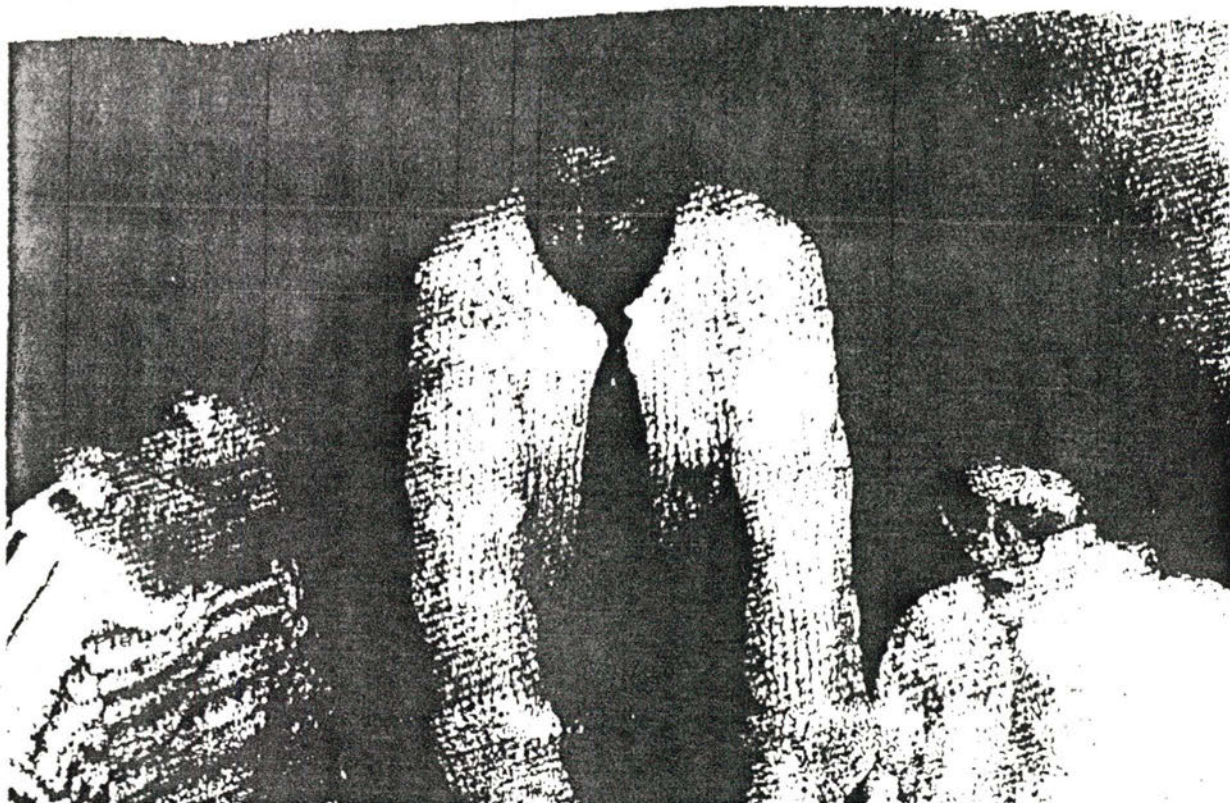
At the end of the project, both volunteers will receive scholarships toward additional education as well as experience.

"It's a volunteer position with a living expense," McDaniles said.

"You earn money and there's a \$4,725 scholarship toward (education)," Denison said. "It's a chance to make contacts and gain experience."

Both volunteers applied for the program through Two Rivers RC&D, the local sponsor of the program.





**FEDERAL TRAINING BEGINS** — Americorp corp, conducted orientation sessions Friday in members John Mills, left, and Michelle Humfleet London.  
Elliot as Lewis Elliot, District Director of Ameri-

Photo by John Shindlebower

## Americorp trainees provide community service through new federal project.

By John Shindlebower

Two Laurel Countians are among a group benefiting from one of President Clinton's campaign promises, which would reward young Americans involved in community service with financial assistance for college.

John Mills, 23, a recent University of Kentucky graduate, and Michelle Humfleet, 21, a senior Psychology major at Eastern Kentucky University, are two of the nine Americorp members which are now training for service with the Farmers Home Administration and will soon begin working in Laurel County.

The nine members will assist in planning and implementing programs designed to improve or develop community facilities, and will work with local residents who need assistance in processing grant and loan applications.

Ken Arterburn, District Director of FHM and Louis Elliot said the program provides the community with a valuable service, while giving the young people valuable experience, which

could ultimately lead to a permanent job.

Members earn a \$12,000 stipend during their required 1812 hours of service and at the completion of their service, are guaranteed \$4,725 in financial assistance to pay off college debt or use for future enrollment.

While the tuition assistance is a major reason Mills and Humfleet applied for the program, the opportunity to serve also motivated them.

"I applied because it was something I wanted to do, it is more

rewarding than a regular job," said Mills. "I'm helping myself as well as the community."

Humfleet saw in the program an opportunity to express gratitude to her community. "I'm proud of my county, and I wanted to give something back to them."

The nine members spent last week in orientation and training, before beginning their service that will last up to a year.

Anyone interested in getting more information about Americorp may call 1-800-880-4188.



# First AmeriCorps worker to focus on water, sewage

By Barbara Mahn  
of the Daily Courier

**CAVE JUNCTION --** Rural development in a small town in the Dominican Republic has a lot in common with rural development in a small town in southwest Oregon.

Marcus Kauffman, the new community development coordinator for the Illinois Valley, knows the similarities well. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he helped set up water collection and storage systems, as well as construct a latrine in a Dominican Republic community with few such facilities.

In his new post in the Illinois Valley -- the first AmeriCorps position in the valley -- he'll help the Community Response Team meet goals outlined in the region's strategic plan. And one of the big goals outlined in the plan is to improve and expand water and sewage systems.

Same thing, bigger scale.

But for Kauffman, 26, the experience of helping a community solve its problems and accomplish goals has a personal twist. This is his home town.

Kauffman grew up in the Illinois Valley and recently returned after leaving to earn a bachelor's degree in international studies, with an emphasis on Third World

## Illinois Valley native returns after a stint in the Peace Corps

economic development, from the University of Oregon. Then, he joined the Peace Corps, helping rural Dominican Republic communities improve infrastructure.

Trained as a rural youth volunteer, due to his experience with Future Farmers of America and 4-H as a youngster, he was sent to the northwest corner of the small Caribbean island nation.

"I started off in rural youth projects," he says. That is, he managed a baseball team composed of Dominican Republic children.

"There are hundreds of kids there and everyone wants to play baseball," he explains.

With sports a mainstay of community participation, Kauffman organized a program that brought needed sports equipment to rural communities. Through contacts at Illinois Valley High School and other schools, unused athletic equipment was shipped to the small country. The sporting goods were then distributed to those community groups willing to put their labor toward a community project, he says.

One success story was a community latrine.

"Most of the people in the com-



MARCUS KAUFFMAN  
Drawn to rural communities

munity didn't have latrines," he says. So, Kauffman organized a project that built a simple latrine near a community building that served as a center for social functions.

Then there was a project to provide drinking water.

"About two-thirds of the villagers didn't have access to potable water," he says. Instead, there was a large, concrete cistern within the community that was periodically filled by the government to provide for basic needs.

The idea was simple enough: Capture rain water that falls from November through March via gutters attached to roofs, then store the water in cisterns for use later in the season.

Using system designs, Kauffman wrote grant requests that garnered funds from public and private agencies. The money came through, but within days of the project's implementation, Kauffman severely injured his leg, sending him back to the U.S. for reconstructive surgery. Another volunteer saw the project through.

Though now out of the Peace Corps, Kauffman saw a need to continue helping rural communities. This time, President Clinton's AmeriCorps program provided a way to employ him at a local level.

"This is an opportunity to do great things," Kauffman says of the program. Not only with the community benefit from the help, but he'll also have \$4,700 a year in student loans paid off for his effort.

The experience also is giving him an opportunity to return to his roots.

"I spent my formative years in college," he says. "I'm having to

relearn the community."

And, the community has changed in recent years. More people have moved in, and those involved in promoting projects have changed faces.

"I'm working on outreach now trying to get more people involved," he says. Most important is to get these willing to commit for at least a year of service involved in working toward meeting the community's goals.

The Community Response Team will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at Illinois Valley High School



# AmeriCorps workers lend a hand to flood recovery

BY LARRY PEIRCE  
Lincoln Journal

**BROWNVILLE** — Anyone joining AmeriCorps, President Clinton's "domestic Peace Corps," must have community spirit and be willing to forgo higher wages they might earn at another job.

In return for their sacrifices, workers can wipe out college debt or gain money to return to college by helping out nonprofit agencies and local governments.

Workers must look beyond the limited financial benefits of AmeriCorps, said Chuck Yearly of Lincoln, supervisor of a crew working out of Tecumseh.

"We're here for the community, to get involved," Yearly said.

Workers wear black baseball caps and gray T-shirts with a white A on a black circle. The AmeriCorps motto is "Getting things done."

The Tecumseh crew will spend most of its 1,800 working hours clear-

ing 1993 flood debris from flood control dams in Johnson, Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson and Pawnee counties.

Work is directed out of the Soil Conservation Service office in Tecumseh and is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development program.

AmeriCorps also has crews working in an anti-hunger, nutrition and empowerment program.

Clinton announced AmeriCorps on Sept. 12, and crews went to work a week later. Yearly is accepting project proposals for nonprofit and public projects in villages, cities and counties.

"A lot of these places don't have much money (for public work projects)," he said.

Last week, the Tecumseh crew began scraping damaged paint from the interior of the floating Meriwether Lewis Museum. Last year's floods nearly swept the old river



LARRY PEIRCE/LINCOLN JOURNAL

Eric Bartels of Tecumseh scrapes paint from the ceiling of the Meriwether Lewis Museum in Brownville. Bartels and three other AmeriCorps workers are repairing damage done to the old dredging boat by a leaky roof and flooding in 1993.

Please see AMERICORPS on page 5

## Workers help communities and themselves

Continued from page 1

dredge away. The interior paint was damaged when the roof leaked. Heat and humidity caused more damage.

The crew will scrape and then repaint the ceiling and walls for the nonprofit Meriwether Lewis Foundation. A private contractor installed a new roof this summer.

Yearly, who has a master's degree in rural and community planning, was a community planner in Carroll, Iowa, before his job was phased out. He had been out of work for months. AmeriCorps will help him pay off his graduate school debt and gain experience as a supervisor.

Eric Bartels of Tecumseh, a construction worker and the father of two children, said he wants to go to a two-year college without borrowing money.

Theresa and Emily Sherman, two sisters from Tecumseh, said they will pay off student loans they incurred while attending Platte Community

College in Columbus and Peru State College.

"It takes care of all of mine, thank God," Emily Sherman said, scraping paint from the ceiling of the old river dredge.

The sisters, 20-year-old identical twins, plan to go back to school after a year.

AmeriCorps, a \$360 million program, pays 20,000 Americans to work in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety. If extended by Congress, the program could spend \$1.5 billion over three years to pay for 100,000 workers.

Anyone older than 17, including high school dropouts and people with graduate degrees, can apply for the program.

AmeriCorps supervisors make \$6.35 an hour plus credit toward money for education; workers earn \$4.35 an hour plus school money.

When the educational voucher is

added in, workers earn about \$12,000 a year plus paid medical benefits. AmeriCorps workers are not considered federal workers and are not eligible for unemployment. They must work the entire year to receive educational benefits, and are limited to two years in the program.

Yearly said the Tecumseh crew and crews in Lincoln, Omaha and Norfolk soon will each add another worker.

In Lincoln, recruiting is under way for 23 volunteers to work with nine community action agencies in Nebraska, said Lorrie Benson, director of Community Action of Nebraska Inc.

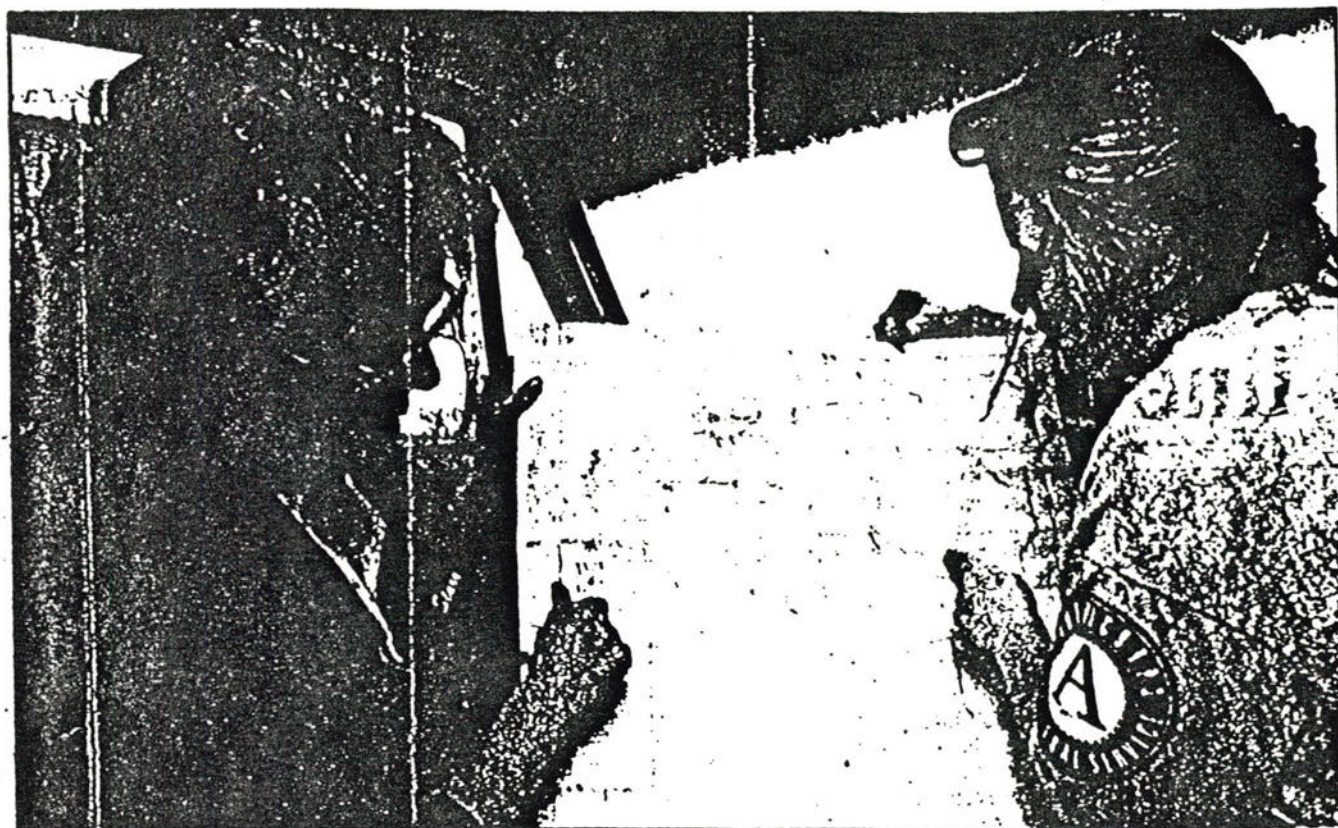
Benson will oversee a program aimed at reducing violence among youths 10 to 15 years old. For information, call Benson at (402) 471-3714.

For information about other AmeriCorps opportunities, call 1-800-880-4183.

LINCOLN JOURNAL  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
OCTOBER 4, 1994



## Mapping the County



H-W Photo/Michael Kipley

AmeriCorps crew members Starr McDaniles, left, and Darlene Ivarson check their progress in "mapping" building addresses in Adams County townships. The work is a step toward an enhanced 911

system that would supply the addresses of emergency sites.

## Team maps rural part of county

Starr McDaniles and Darlene Ivarson attract some attention as they drive slowly through rural Adams County townships and study each building.

People ask if they're out looking for mushrooms or if they're lost and need help.

Sometimes the situation is reversed. "We get flagged down and asked for directions," Ivarson said.

Whether they can answer the question or not, they're working to make sure people get to the right place in emergency situations.

McDaniles and Ivarson are part of a five-member AmeriCorps team "mapping" each building

and its address throughout Adams County. They're taking the first steps toward an enhanced 911 system that automatically supplies an address for the emergency site.

The crews first mapped existing addresses for homes and buildings in the county's 13 incorporated villages and some townships.

"It lays the groundwork to assign addresses to everybody in the county," said Mark Warren with Klingner & Associates. "All addresses will be street-style addresses like in Quincy."

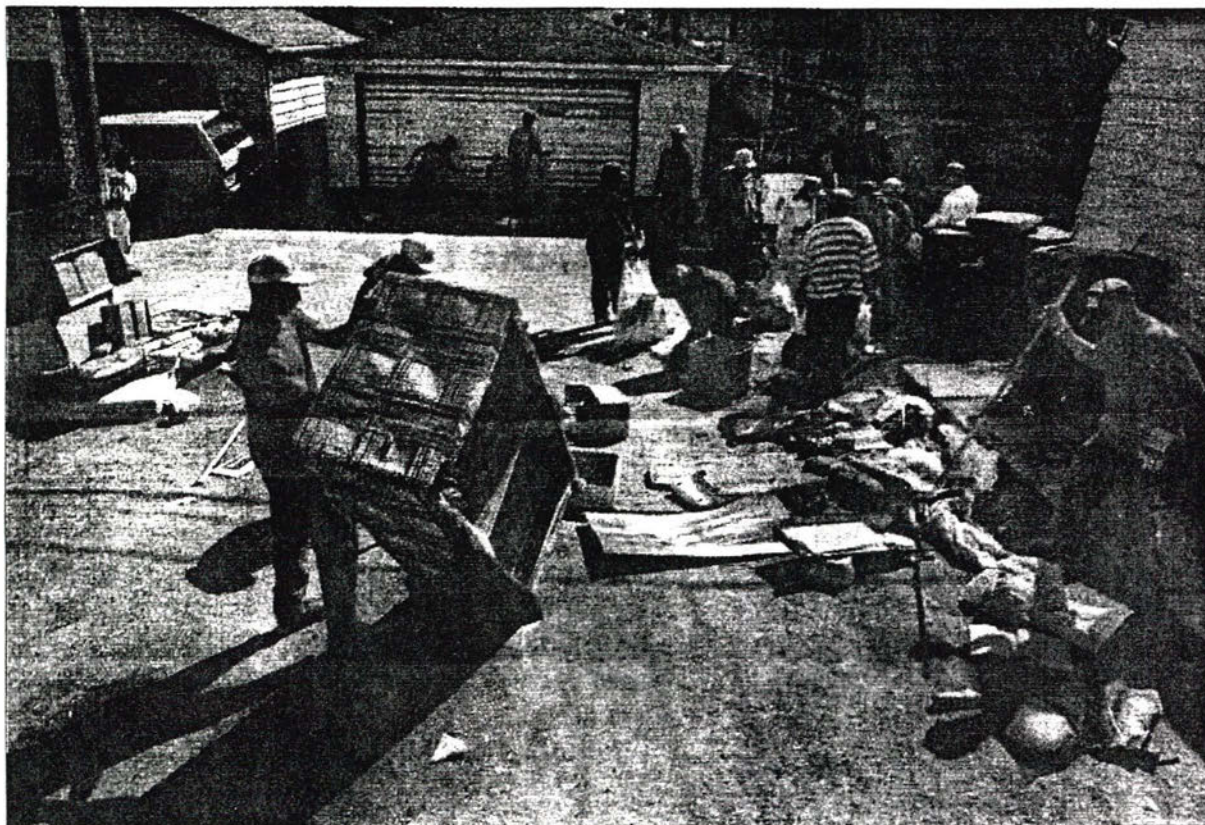
The work is tedious and time-consuming. It requires a great deal of concentration," said crew member Bob Gillespy. "After a while my vision blurred from marking little houses on the map and looking ahead, then going back to check stuff."



Final Metro Edition

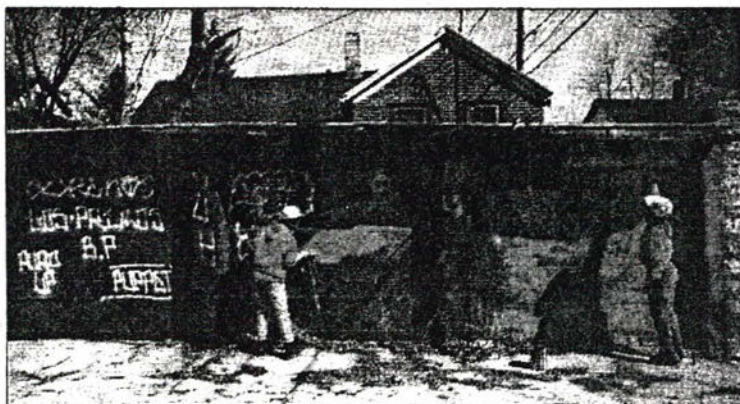
# THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Keeping Milwaukee beautiful



PARTICIPATING IN National Youth Services Day, members of the Milwaukee Community Service Corps clear trash from a South Side alley Tuesday.

Journal photos by Erwin Geohard



ABOVE: Service Corps member Shi Mek Charley (left), 19, and volunteers Ana Ortega, 15, and Yadira Ortiz, 13, finish cleaning the neighborhood around Walker's Square. Ana and Yadira are eighth graders at Kosciuszko Middle School, 971 W. Windlake Ave. LEFT: Volunteers paint over graffiti.



# Roberts launches part of AmeriCorps

850  
PORTLAND (AP) — More than 500 Oregonians will begin a year of public service work soon to earn money for further education under a new national program.

The Oregon part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps program was kicked off Monday by Gov. Barbara Roberts in a ceremony at Portland State University. Similar events were held in other states.

Roberts called AmeriCorps a "movement whose time has come." Clinton convinced Congress to establish the program so young people can earn money for college while performing public service work.

"Each of you has an individual task to perform, but each of you is part of a larger movement whose time has come, a move-

ment that can strengthen communities, encourage responsibilities, expand opportunities and a movement that is about getting things done," the governor said.

Participants in the program will receive about \$7,000 for living expenses and health care coverage. Also, they will get \$4,700 in credit toward college or vocational school expenses or paying off existing loans.

Among programs mentioned by Roberts that Oregon AmeriCorps members will undertake are drug abuse, water conservation and juvenile crime prevention programs by 40 Central Oregon Community College students at Bend and weatherization and other energy conservation work by 42 welfare recipients with the aim of their developing skills to get permanent

jobs.

Two dozen AmeriCorps members in Portland will tutor and otherwise assist second graders with education and family problems.

Other program participants will maintain hiking trails and bridges in the Rogue River National Forest, and American Indian members of the program will restore salmon habitat in the Columbia River Basin.

AmeriCorps will have about 20,000 members nationwide in its first year.

Roberts said program members in Oregon are diverse and include recent high school graduates, current college students, rural and city dwellers and Republicans and Democrats.

SEP 13 1994

## Roberts launches 850 Oregon work program

PORTLAND (AP) — Gov. Barbara Roberts on Monday helped launch the Oregon portion of the new AmeriCorps national service program, calling it a "movement whose time has come."

Oregon will have more than 400 AmeriCorps members working in a variety of public service jobs in the first round of the yearlong programs.

President Clinton convinced Congress to establish the program so young people can earn money for college while performing public service work.

Roberts kicked off the Oregon arm of the program with a ceremony at Portland State University.

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SEP 11 1994

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# AmeriCorps gives local aid

850

■ In Oregon, 400 will work on projects to help communities.

tant national service?

Well it's here.

AmeriCorps starts tomorrow in Oregon and nationwide. In Oregon, 400 members will join with 20,000 nationwide to tackle home-grown projects ranging from weatherizing low-income housing to improving salmon habitat.

For their year's public service, the 400 Oregonians will get about \$7,000 for living expenses — not much in these times — plus health care. At the end of their year, about \$4,700 will be credited to their account at a college or vocational school or be used to pay off existing loans.

So much time has passed since Clinton announced his new program and so many cutbacks were made by Congress that most of us may not remember the enthusiasm that first greeted the idea.

What got the public excited was its down-to-earth idealism. It's the GI Bill, the Peace Corps and the Civilian Conservation Corps all wrapped up into one.

First off, young people need help to go to college. At a time when student loans are declining and tuitions rising, AmeriCorps offers thousands of energetic and idealistic young people the chance for a college or vocational education.

But more than that, it taps the urge to be useful, to do something good for the neighborhood and the country. It is the same urge that, since President Kennedy, has sent thousands of Americans overseas to serve in the Peace Corps. The only difference: AmeriCorps members will use their idealism and talents at home, and it will have more people helping on the first day than the Peace Corps enrolled in its best year.

The Oregon AmeriCorps members will undertake programs that communities already have under way — not make-work dreamed up by the governor's office or a federal bureaucracy.

Forty-two will work statewide for the Or-

Remember candidate Bill Clinton's campaign promise two years ago of a program that would let young people earn money for college while they did impor-

## Oregon kickoff

AmeriCorps' kickoff in Oregon will be tomorrow at Portland State University. Gov. Barbara Roberts and Secretary of State Phil Keisling will join the first contingent of Oregon AmeriCorps members in launching the national service initiative.

To find out more about AmeriCorps, you can contact Marlis Miller, executive director, Oregon Community Service Commission, Portland State University, P. O. Box 751, Portland, Ore., 97207; telephone 725-5903 or 1-800-826-4865.

egon Housing and Community Services Department weatherizing 600 low-income homes. Forty will work with the Central Oregon Community College Foundation to expand services to at-risk youths and related programs.

In Portland, 24 will become "friends of the children," spending time with selected second-graders to tutor and help them with education and family problems.

In Southern Oregon, 35 will work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to repair trail bridges and maintain high-elevation hiking trails and improve spotted owl ecosystems at 10 locations.

The common theme of Oregon's 14 programs is that they try to solve local problems.

A couple of other projects are linked to colleges and will help set up "learn and serve" programs to lead college students into volunteer service on their own. Those may be the most exciting programs of all because they can perpetuate a philosophy of volunteer service that will keep graduates active in helping their communities long after they become settled in their regular careers.

Oregonians should be excited about AmeriCorps. It offers a chance to accomplish important community projects that otherwise would go undone. But beyond that, it offers an outlet for a spirit of service — including unpaid volunteer work — that Oregon and the nation badly need.

About two dozen community groups applied to join the first AmeriCorps program in Oregon. When news of its work gets out, we expect many times that number will beg to be included next year as the three-year, \$1.5 billion national service demonstration expands.





# PORTLAND

## BRIEFLY ...

### Columbia Slough cleanup effort set to start Saturday

Cleanup efforts on a litter-filled, polluted area of the Columbia Slough in North Portland will get under way at 9 a.m. Saturday, thanks to a new partnership involving federal and local governments, private industry and neighborhood volunteers.

The project, part of the Kenton Action Plan, will tackle an illegal dump and adjacent transient camp site on the north bank of the slough near the Denver Avenue viaduct over the waterway in hopes of turning it into a launch facility for canoes, kayaks and rowing shells.

Participating in the project are EnviroCorps, Metro, the Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau, the Kenton Neighborhood Association and Simpson Timber Co.

Simpson, the oldest continuously operating company on the slough, leased the land involved in the cleanup from Portland for \$1 a year. "We see building a better community as an integral part of our success as a business," said Dave Berg, Simpson's safety, health and environmental manager.

The first cleanup efforts will be by a 20-member EnviroCorps crew and neighborhood volunteers. They will haul out tires, furniture and trash dumped near the base of the bridge and remove blackberry bushes that hide sites frequented by transients and drug users.

EnviroCorps is a local arm of President Clinton's AmeriCorps, a program through which funds for college can be earned with public service.

Volunteers interested in helping should call 289-6693.

## Firefighters accept two

■ The Portland City Council is expected to ratify the pact, which would raise union members' salaries 3.6 percent

By ERIN HOOVER

of The Oregonian staff

After 14 months of wrangling, the Portland Firefighters Association and the city of Portland are poised to ratify a two-year labor contract including a cost-of-living raise each year.

The contract was ratified by the union last week, according to union President Randy Leonard. It is expected to be approved by the Portland City Council next Wednesday or Dec. 21, according to Gail Johnson, employee relations manager for the city.

Pending that ratification, the 700 union members' raises will be 3.6 percent for July 1, 1994, through June 30, 1995, and will be calculated based on the Portland-area consumer price index for the following year. This mirrors the raises given to police union members and other city workers this year.

The firefighters' contract negotiations

bogged down over whether the fire bureau's 14 battalion chiefs are covered under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. It is this act that, among other things, allows employees to be paid time-and-a-half for overtime.

Regular pay for battalion chiefs, including the newly negotiated raise, ranges from \$65,873 to \$68,868. Their hourly pay, based on a 40-hour workweek ranges from \$31.67 to \$33.11.

"All (the battalion chiefs) wanted is what most of the town gets when they work overtime," Leonard said.

Midway through the contract negotiations in March, the union took the matter to federal district court. This fall, federal district court Judge Robert E. Jones issued a preliminary ruling that said the battalion chiefs met the requirements for coverage under the federal labor law.

The city is awaiting a final ruling from Jones, Johnson said. But she said the city has agreed in the contract to comply with the requirements of that federal law as interpreted by the courts.

The contract, which is retroactive to July 1,





# AmeriCorps to help restore some of Columbia Slough

■ Workers in the new program will receive a small monthly wage and college tuition credits for their part in the project

By JOE FITZGIBBON

Correspondent, *The Oregonian*

At least two dozen of President Clinton's newly created AmeriCorps workers will be helping restore portions of the Columbia Slough before the end of summer.

On Monday, President Clinton announced the creation of AmeriCorps, a cadre of 20,000 young men and women to work on soil conservation projects in return for college tuition waivers and monthly living expenses.

In a program patterned after Peace Corps and Vista, college-aged young people will work for a year restoring wildlife habitats, farmlands and urban greenspaces. In addition to a stipend of about \$700 a month, AmeriCorps volunteers will earn a \$4,725 tuition credit to be applied to a college of their choice.

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"This sends out an important message to the entire region, but especially the African-American community that we are going to do something about environmental damage," said Metro Councilor Ed Washington, who co-sponsored the project proposal with Portland State Professor Barry Messer. Washington grew up in North Portland near the Columbia Slough and said that he has made its restoration a personal goal.

"People of color have been fishing and using the slough for recreation and it's long past time we make it the jewel it's always had the potential to be."

According to Messer, the program will hire 20 youths full-time to work on restoration projects along the slough over the next two years. Another dozen part-time college students will act as mentors for high school students from Roosevelt, Grant, Jefferson and Marshall high schools studying natural resource management along the 18-mile waterway.

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"The actual amount of money we will have to spend has not been determined yet, but it might be close to \$1 million," said Messer.

For its initial year, CNCS will fund 42 different AmeriCorps projects operating in 32 states. Portland and five other urban sites were selected for funding, including Atlanta, Chicago, East St. Louis, Boston and Washington, D.C.



Pendleton, OR  
(Umatilla Co.)  
East Oregonian  
(Cir. D. 13,219)

SEP 13 1994

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Oregon to begin AmeriCorps program

By The Associated Press <sup>850</sup>

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MARV BONDAROWICZ/The Oregonian

#### THE CLEANUP

■ **WHAT:** Cleanup of the Whitaker ponds, a 22-acre wetland.

■ **WHERE:** Near old Whitaker Grade School, Northeast 52nd Avenue and Columbia Boulevard.

■ **WHO:** EnviroCorps is doing most of the work, with assistance from Metro, Portland, the school district and other agencies.

On a drenching winter day, Kathryn Heriza (left) and Avis Dunas plant ferns along the edge of Whitaker ponds.

# Being Recycled

Avis Dunas, 65, says it was time to recycle herself through AmeriCorps, working on the Whitaker ponds restoration



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Working on this project — and being with all these young people — it's all brought me back to life.

Avis Dunas

”

By JOE FITZGIBBON

Special writer, *The Oregonian*

Her face is mud-speckled. Errant strands of white hair mat tightly against her damp forehead.

Still, 65-year-old Avis Dunas sloshes through ankle-deep mud in her yellow rainslicker, waving off help as she totes buckets of fertilizer and wetland plants for Whitaker ponds restoration.

By nearly all accounts, the former teacher and restaurant critic is the oldest and probably best-educated member of President Clinton's recently formed AmeriCorps.

And, according to crew members, the most inspiring.

“Quite frankly, I don't love all of the digging and weed pulling, but I wanted to help my country,” Dunas said. “Working on this project — and being

with all these young people — it's all brought me back to life.”

In June, the president announced the formation of a cadre of 20,000 men and women willing to work on community projects in exchange for monthly living allowances and college tuition waivers.

Metro and Portland State University officials jumped at the chance to complete several environmental projects and accepted a federal grant to hire two crews of 20 workers.

Dunas was selected from hundreds of applicants and will spend the year working with young men and women — most a third of her age — restoring a 22-acre wetlands on the grounds of the old Whitaker Grade School.

The Chicago native holds advanced degrees in teaching and art history from UCLA. She took on the low-paying job because she wanted to change her life.

“It's getting harder and harder for a teacher my

age to find a job,” she said. “The way I look at it, I'm the one being recycled.”

The school, located along Northeast 52nd Avenue and Columbia Boulevard, currently houses a police training facility and three baseball fields.

Metro biologist Jim Morgan points toward two huge ponds nestled in the back of the school, overgrown with blackberry bushes and piled up with debris.

“We want this to be a place where kids will be able to walk out into the woods, throw a fishing line in the ponds, and forget for a few hours that they're in the city,” he said.

Morgan's plans call for relocating one of the ballparks closer to the school building. He also wants to create a wildlife habitat using the ponds as a centerpiece and connect the entire area to the nearby

Please turn to  
**RECYCLED**, Page 4



## CITY LIFE

# Recycled: Hard labor mixes with organizing

■ Continued from Page 1  
Columbia Slough.

A longtime resident of the area, Metro Councilor Ed Washington, supports the project.

"These ponds and sloughs were where many of us were exposed to the basic sciences — where we learned about tadpoles, frogs and plants," said Washington. "By giving young people part of the responsibility to restore them, they'll come away with a better appreciation of these special places."

Of immediate concern to Morgan, though, is the small mountain of scrap metal, plastic pipe, machine parts and creosote-treated timber dumped near the ponds.

AmeriCorps workers hired for the restoration will earn about \$4 an hour for their work, and, by year's end, receive a \$4,725 college tuition waiver to a college or university of their choice.

Dunas calls herself a "tree-hugger" who during the past 40 years has taught special education students, hard-core prisoners and well-to-do graduate students in Southern California.

She spent six years writing "The Single's Guide to Los Angeles" and was co-host of a Los Angeles television show that reviewed ethnic restaurants.

But her most enjoyable times, Dunas said, were spent leading her own tours of museums, cemeteries and shopping malls.

Crew members, most in their early 20s, marvel at her stamina, work ethic and gift of gab.

"Her knowledge and enthusiasm is a stimulation to all of us," said team leader Michael A. Burch. "She's such an extrovert that it's helped us build good relationships among the crew."

When she completes her year of service, Dunas wants to produce her own children's television show or move to Asia to study homeopathic medicine.

According to Barry Messer, urban affairs professor at PSU, AmeriCorps workers will spend much of the week on labor-intensive projects.

But, he added, the crew will also study community organizing and environmental issues while working with nonprofit groups on individual projects. Plans call for the group to canvass the old Whitaker School neighborhood during the next few weeks to encourage local residents and business owners to help develop a master site plan.



Avis Dunas (left) and Kathryn Heriza place ferns along the edge of a pond.

MARV BONDAROWICZ/The Oregonian

## Portland's slice of AmeriCorps

Oregon received more than \$600,000 in federal grants to fund 15 AmeriCorps projects. In Portland, they are:

■ **Friends of the Children:** Patterned after Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association, 24 AmeriCorps members work with at-risk second graders from five inner-city schools. Members visit homes, tutor the children and spend time with them on weekends in an attempt to help the youngsters build self-esteem.

■ **I Have a Dream Foundation:** These 24 AmeriCorps men and women have adopted nearly 300 third and fourth graders to assist them in developing strong social and academic skills. Students who graduate from high school will earn an all-expenses-paid college education from the foundation.

■ **Green Corps:** Five AmeriCorps college graduates are assisting low-income families weatherize their homes. They will teach community groups the risks of lead poisoning and help neighborhoods plan and construct community gardens.

■ **Green Lights Program:** A group of 10 AmeriCorps members will assist the Bonneville Power Administration in helping 75 area schools and public buildings become more energy efficient.

■ **EnviroCorps:** Two AmeriCorps teams, made up of 20 people, will restore Whitaker Ponds, a wetlands site near the Columbia Slough, improve public access to Smith and Bybee lakes and develop a vacant lot in North Portland into a neighborhood park.

"Right now there are more people in AmeriCorps than were in Peace Corps at its peak," said Mary Carroll, assistant director of the Oregon Community Service Commission. "Most of the public may not know about them or their work yet, but, by the end of the year, I think we'll all see that change."



# Chicago Sun-Times



BRIAN JACKSON/CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

Some of the 50 Chicago area members of AmeriCorps, the new domestic service organization, work Tuesday at the Edna White Century Garden at 111th and Homewood.

## Diverse AmeriCorps Youth at Work

By Rob Otmstead

Staff Writer

Chris Travis was not amused when a little British history was slipped in on him on his first day of gardening as a member of AmeriCorps.

A community volunteer told Travis about the legend of Queen Anne's Lace, a flower said to have sprung from the blood of Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII, after she was beheaded.

But mini-history lesson aside, Travis, 18, a resident of the Ida B. Wells housing development, said, "It's the best job out here—in the world."

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's effort to bring people to public service while helping them earn money for education. In Chicago, the program is at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Science. Fifty young people will be employed for 10 weeks, each earning a tax-free \$147 stipend per week.

Yearlong programs start in August, but the summer run is being called "Summer of Safety" because part of its focus is to curb violence and crime.

"The carrot at the end of the stick is ... a \$1,000 scholarship," said crew leader Paul O'Grady, an office manager with the U.S. Department of Agriculture taking a break from his normal duties to supervise 10 participants.

The young workers are recent or soon-to-be high school graduates

from "all different educational backgrounds, economic background—some of them went to Ag school, some are from Ida B. Wells," said Elizabeth Tyler of the Botanic Garden in Glencoe. Tyler has been helping community volunteers establish the garden, called the Edna White Century Garden, at 111th and Homewood, for more than a year.

The diversity, the scholarship and the chance to be a part of a

program aimed at curbing violence, drew Brigid McDonald, 17.

"I'm working with completely different people all the time, that I don't live around," said McDonald, a graduate of Mother McAuley High School.

O'Grady said workers start at 7:30 a.m. and loafing isn't allowed.

"That's part of the project also: teaching a work ethic," he said. "[This is] a job and it's not a 'do-what-you-want' type of thing."



Portland, OR -  
(Multnomah Co.)  
Skanner  
(Cir. W. 50,000)

NOV. 2 1994

## 850 Taking a Bite Out of Grime



**CLEANUP**--Michael Burch, team leader of the EnviroCorps project in North Portland, surveys an area targeted for cleanup adjacent to the Whitaker Ponds. The project is part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps community service initiative.





Gov. Barbara Roberts, Metro commissioner Ed Washington and an AmericaCorps representative at the Portland kick-off to a community service initiative created by President Clinton.

# Community Service For College

**C**ollege students will help pay back government support for their education and learn new skills by working to restore the health of the Columbia Slough in North and Northeast Portland.

The EnviroCorps team is being launched from a \$199,288 grant from AmericaCorps, a community service initiative created by President Clinton and approved by Congress.

The Portland program, based on the Portland State University campus, will provide learning and labor opportunities for 20 young adults in the metropolitan area.

EnviroCorps will center around environmental and public access improvements to north and northeast Portland's Columbia Slough. Metro regional government and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service are partners in the project.

Officials said the recruitment for EnviroCorps participants is under way. Ten part-time and eight full-time members are needed for a variety of community service projects, including restoration of natural resources, construction of interpre-

tive trails and exhibit areas, and the training and mentoring of high-school youth. Two full-time team leaders will round out the program.

"This program is really a prototype of what PSU as an urban university wants to be," said Barry Messer, EnviroCorps educa-

tion director. Full-time members completing a year of service will receive a \$4,725 education award to be used to continue education and job training or to repay existing student loans. Part-time participants receive a \$2,363 education award.

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Full-time members will receive a single-year living allowance of \$7,600, while part-time members receive \$4,023. All members will be eligible for health care and child care

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The application deadline is Sept. 28. In-the-filed training and project work is scheduled to begin Oct. 14. For more information, call Spring at 725-5582.



# AmeriCorps to help restore some of Columbia Slough

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By JOE FITZGIBBON

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Messer has coordinated other service learning projects at PSU's Center for Urban Studies. He says the program is a means of opening education opportunities for young people while providing valuable service learning experiences for potential and existing college students.

Full-time members will receive a single-year living allowance of \$7,600, while part-time members receive \$4,023. All members will be eligible for health care and child care

benefits. Full-time members completing a year of service will receive a \$4,725 education award to be used to continue education and job training or to repay existing student loans. Part-time participants receive a \$2,363 education award.

The application deadline is Sept. 28. In-the-filed training and project work is scheduled to begin Oct. 14. For more information, call Spring at 725-5582.



## Taking a Bite Out of Grime



**CLEANUP--**Michael Burch, team leader of the EnviroCorps project in North Portland, surveys an area targeted for cleanup adjacent to the Whitaker Ponds. The project is part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps community service initiative.





MARV BONDAROWICZ/The Oregonian

#### THE CLEANUP

■ **WHAT:** Cleanup of the Whitaker ponds, a 22-acre wetland.

■ **WHERE:** Near old Whitaker Grade School, Northeast 52nd Avenue and Columbia Boulevard.

■ **WHO:** EnviroCorps is doing most of the work, with assistance from Metro, Portland, the school district and other agencies.

On a drenching winter day, Kathryn Heriza (left) and Avis Dunas plant ferns along the edge of Whitaker ponds.

# Being Recycled

Avis Dunas, 65, says it was time to recycle herself through AmeriCorps, working on the Whitaker ponds restoration

“

By JOE FITZGIBBON  
Special writer, *The Oregonian*

Working on this project — and being with all these young people — it's all brought me back to life.

Avis Dunas

Her face is mud-speckled. Errant strands of white hair mat tightly against her damp forehead.

Still, 65-year-old Avis Dunas sloshes through ankle-deep mud in her yellow rainslicker, waving off help as she totes buckets of fertilizer and wetland plants for Whitaker ponds restoration.

By nearly all accounts, the former teacher and restaurant critic is the oldest and probably best-educated member of President Clinton's recently formed AmeriCorps.

And, according to crew members, the most inspiring.

“Quite frankly, I don't love all of the digging and weed pulling, but I wanted to help my country,” Dunas said. “Working on this project — and being

with all these young people — it's all brought me back to life.”

In June, the president announced the formation of a cadre of 20,000 men and women willing to work on community projects in exchange for monthly living allowances and college tuition waivers.

Metro and Portland State University officials jumped at the chance to complete several environmental projects and accepted a federal grant to hire two crews of 20 workers.

Dunas was selected from hundreds of applicants and will spend the year working with young men and women — most a third of her age — restoring a 22-acre wetlands on the grounds of the old Whitaker Grade School.

The Chicago native holds advanced degrees in teaching and art history from UCLA. She took on the low-paying job because she wanted to change her life.

“It's getting harder and harder for a teacher my

age to find a job,” she said. “The way I look at it, I'm the one being recycled.”

The school, located along Northeast 52nd Avenue and Columbia Boulevard, currently houses a police training facility and three baseball fields.

Metro biologist Jim Morgan points toward two huge ponds nestled in the back of the school, overgrown with blackberry bushes and piled up with debris.

“We want this to be a place where kids will be able to walk out into the woods, throw a fishing line in the ponds, and forget for a few hours that they're in the city,” he said.

Morgan's plans call for relocating one of the ballparks closer to the school building. He also wants to create a wildlife habitat using the ponds as a centerpiece and connect the entire area to the nearby

Please turn to  
**RECYCLED, Page 4**

”



## CITY LIFE

# Recycled: Hard labor mixes with organizing

■ Continued from Page 1  
Columbia Slough.

A longtime resident of the area, Metro Councilor Ed Washington, supports the project.

"These ponds and sloughs were where many of us were exposed to the basic sciences — where we learned about tadpoles, frogs and plants," said Washington. "By giving young people part of the responsibility to restore them, they'll come away with a better appreciation of these special places."

Of immediate concern to Morgan, though, is the small mountain of scrap metal, plastic pipe, machine parts and creosote-treated timber dumped near the ponds.

AmeriCorps workers hired for the restoration will earn about \$4 an hour for their work, and, by year's end, receive a \$4,725 college tuition waiver to a college or university of their choice.

Dunas calls herself a "tree-hugger" who during the past 40 years has taught special education students, hard-core prisoners and well-to-do graduate students in Southern California.

She spent six years writing "The Single's Guide to Los Angeles" and was co-host of a Los Angeles television show that reviewed ethnic restaurants.

But her most enjoyable times, Dunas said, were spent leading her own tours of museums, cemeteries and shopping malls.

Crew members, most in their early 20s, marvel at her stamina, work ethic and gift of gab.

"Her knowledge and enthusiasm is a stimulation to all of us," said team leader Michael A. Burch. "She's such an extrovert that it's helped us build good relationships among the crew."

When she completes her year of service, Dunas wants to produce her own children's television show or move to Asia to study homeopathic medicine.

According to Barry Messer, urban affairs professor at PSU, AmeriCorps workers will spend much of the week on labor-intensive projects.

But, he added, the crew will also study community organizing and environmental issues while working with nonprofit groups on individual projects. Plans call for the group to canvass the old Whitaker School neighborhood during the next few weeks to encourage local residents and business owners to help develop a master site plan.



Avis Dunas (left) and Kathryn Heriza place ferns along the edge of a pond.

## Portland's slice of AmeriCorps

Oregon received more than \$600,000 in federal grants to fund 15 AmeriCorps projects. In Portland, they are:

■ **Friends of the Children:** Patterned after Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association, 24 AmeriCorps members work with at-risk second graders from five inner-city schools. Members visit homes, tutor the children and spend time with them on weekends in an attempt to help the youngsters build self-esteem.

■ **I Have a Dream Foundation:** These 24 AmeriCorps men and women have adopted nearly 300 third and fourth graders to assist them in developing strong social and academic skills. Students who graduate from high school will earn an all-expenses-paid college education from the foundation.

■ **Green Corps:** Five AmeriCorps college graduates are assisting low-income families weatherize their homes. They will teach community groups the risks of lead poisoning and help neighborhoods plan and construct community gardens.

■ **Green Lights Program:** A group of 10 AmeriCorps members will assist the Bonneville Power Administration in helping 75 area schools and public buildings become more energy efficient.

■ **EnviroCorps:** Two AmeriCorps teams, made up of 20 people, will restore Whitaker Ponds, a wetlands site near the Columbia Slough, improve public access to Smith and Bybee lakes and develop a vacant lot in North Portland into a neighborhood park.

"Right now there are more people in AmeriCorps than were in Peace Corps at its peak," said Mary Carroll, assistant director of the Oregon Community Service Commission. "Most of the public may not know about them or their work yet, but, by the end of the year, I think we'll all see that change."

MARV BONDAROWICZ/The Oregonian



THE SAN JUAN RECORD  
SAN JUAN,  
MAY 17, 1995

## Food bank in Blanding gets new coat

The Americorps team painted the town of Blanding - at least that is how the team members felt as they painted the inside walls and ceiling of the newly acquired San Juan County Food Bank building.

The new food distribution center will open later this month, primarily through the efforts of Americorps team member Henry Silentman. Silentman wrote the proposal to establish a food bank to serve San Juan County's needy population.

Food will come from donations and purchased from the Utah Food Bank and lo-

cal food stores. Needy families will be given a nutritionally balanced seven-day food supply.

Henry Silentman coordinated the inside paint party. Fellow Americorps team members Andrea Dyar, Sam Sellers, Eldon Miller, Anna Prawl, and Nancy Steele; their Americorps supervisor, Kresha Eastman and her son, Klint; and Allison Williams, a local VISTA volunteer working with students at Albert R. Lyman Middle School, all participated in the project.

Local Boy Scouts may clean the grounds as a possible Eagle Scout project.



THE MANCHESTER ENTERPRISE  
MANCHESTER, KENTUCKY  
APRIL 20, 1995

## AmeriCorps to help with home repairs

Dear Editor,

I am an AmeriCorps member working in your county on housing repair.

My job is to locate families in the community who need help affording repair work, and then finding a resource in the community to help them.

If you have needed repairs in your home and cannot afford to make these repairs yourself, write the following information on a blank sheet of paper and send it in

I need to know your name, address, phone number, county, number of people in the household, number of children under 18, number of

elderly or disabled in the household, entire household income, the specific types of repairs needed, and a brief statement giving me permission to discuss your situation with a loan/grant resource.

Send this information to AMERICORPS, 242 Daniel Boone Drive, Barbourville, KY 40906.

Please remember this is no guarantee of help.

All information will be reviewed and put on a list. All information received will be kept confidential.

Rebecca Davidson  
AmeriCorps member



# Pascagoula native serves in AmeriCorps

By DEBBIE WOOD

Mississippi Press Staff

Shelly Foutz-Lowe of Pascagoula is making a positive difference in the lives of Natchez citizens through the AmeriCorps program.

Implemented by President Bill Clinton, AmeriCorps is a national service initiative to achieve results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety and environmental needs of the community.

Shelly is a member of the inaugural group of AmeriCorps participants in Mississippi. She is working with the City of Natchez planning department.

"We sat down and discussed what programs we thought would be best for Natchez," Shelly said. "I knew I wanted to work with young people and since Mississippi has the number one teenage pregnancy rate in the nation, we decided to work on this issue."

Not only is Shelly dealing with teen pregnancy prevention, she is also working with girls who are already pregnant.

"I try to encourage them to stay in school, get their education and get the proper prenatal and postnatal care," she said.

Another objective is the reestablishment of the YMCA in Natchez. In 1968, the YMCA pulled out because of racial relations. Shelly said she hopes to bring the YMCA back into the community and support for these plans has been positive. She also wants to help community organizations pursue grants.

A 1989 graduate of Pascagoula High School, Shelly received a bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of Southern Missis-



Staff Photo/Anna Ralola

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE** — Shelly Foutz-Lowe of Pascagoula is making a positive difference in Natchez with the AmeriCorps program initiated by President Bill Clinton. Shelly is working with teen

pregnancy, teen pregnancy prevention, the reestablishment of a YMCA and assisting organizations in obtaining grants. Shelly is one of 67 AmeriCorps volunteers addressing different needs in Mississippi.

issippi in 1993.

A professor at USM, Richard Larkin, knew of Shelly's deep involvement in community activities and recommended the program to her. Shelly is one of 67 volunteers in this state working to make rural communities better places to live.

Although Shelly said she was shy in high school, she became involved in community activities in college. She volunteers at a sexual assault crisis center and the Christian soup services in Hattiesburg where her husband, Michael, is working on his doc-

torate degree in psychology at USM.

"My passion is for people less fortunate. I don't like to see anyone mistreated," Shelly said. "I like people and want to help them. I have a keen interest in young people and I'm a champion for these causes."

Shelly will volunteer in Natchez for about nine months, performing 1,700 hours of community service work. For her participation in AmeriCorps, she is receiving a stipend of \$8,000 and scholarship money worth more than \$4,700 which will go

toward paying off student loans. She also receives travel expenses of \$1,600 as she goes throughout the state talking to community leaders.

"This work does not pay an enormous salary, but the rewards are astounding," Shelly said. "I get so much satisfaction out of helping people, helping them see their own self-worth. I want to let young people know that we haven't forgotten about them. I want them to know that without them, we have no future."

Shelly encourages others to

get involved in the AmeriCorps program which has received little media attention despite the great strides being performed in communities across the country.

"My main objective is to let people know this program is available, especially the middle class," she said. "We are the guinea pigs for this program. I'm breaking my neck to let people know because if the politicians in Washington cut this program out, then I hope everyone in this state gets a clear message, that these politicians don't care anything about the middle class."

"This program is for all classes of people, but mainly for the middle class. Without it, I would still be paying off my student loans. Everyone always has something to say about the President, but at least, he cares enough to try to help our education," Shelly said.

The program is designed for high school graduates who want to take a break before starting college, undergraduates who might want to take a year off between years of college to find out what direction they want to pursue and for college graduates who can use the scholarship money to pay off student loans or to use for graduate school.

Shelly said she is even encouraging her two younger brothers to become involved in the program, sponsored through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"The more people we get involved in the program, the more money we will get from the government," Shelly said. "There's a lot of potential in this state and I get sick and tired of reading and watching television about how bad it is here, when I



# AmeriCorps

Continued from 1-B

know there are good people who live in this state. There are a lot of positive things going on here."

Reaching young women with a positive message is one of Shelly's goals in Natchez.

"I want to tell young women in high school that it is nice to have a boyfriend, but they need to get an education and think of themselves, think about their future and go for it. If he loves you, he'll stay with you. Don't rush your life. Do something for your community. If you do it, will come back to you.

"My philosophy is if everyone would do one act of volunteer work for his community, this world would be a lot better place to live. We won't have to worry about violence or drug problems or teenage pregnancy. We have to live in this world together, we might as well work together."

Shelly credits her parents, Andy and Mary Ellen Foutz, for raising her in a Christian home and giving her a solid foundation on which to grow and mature.

"My dad taught me how to be assertive and not just lay back. He taught me not to hurt people but to go for what I wanted. My

mom taught me to reach for the stars. She raised me to be myself and to never lose sight of my identity. I love my mother and have to give her all the praise. She's the best thing that ever happened to me. She's my best friend."

Shelly said changing the world needs to start with changing attitudes.

"We have become a 'me' nation. If people would stop their selfish attitudes, reexamine their lives and think about someone else for a change, then they could lift their neighbors up instead of kicking them when they are down."

She added, "It only takes one person to get the spark going; it takes one person to get the ball rolling. I used to be a pessimistic person, but pessimism doesn't change anything. Optimism does. I know things can happen if people want them to happen. If I can make a difference in just one person's life because of my work with AmeriCorps, then all the work has truly been worth it."

For more information on the AmeriCorps program, call 1-800-880-4183.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



P08

The Daily News

# VALLEY LIFE/

Friday, November 11, 1994, Page 6

## Americorp volunteer comes to Bell County

Nine Americorp members recently began their service in Kentucky's Appalachian Region after being sworn in at the Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) state office in Lexington.

Thomas G. Fern, state FmHA director, conducted the ceremony and challenged the members to "become leaders in the community which they will be working."

The nine members attended a two day orientation/training session in London, and have now reported to their respective communities to begin work.

The participants in the Kentucky Appalachian Region will facilitate community strategic planning and assist in implementing programs to improve or develop needed community facilities. Team



Americorp volunteer Laura Duncan will be working in Middlesboro. Pictured are FmHA State Director Thomas G. Fern, Duncan, Bell County Chamber of Commerce Director Gale Edwards, and Americorp Coordinator Louis Elliott.

members will also engage in outreach activities to assist economically and socially disadvantaged citizens in rural areas in accessing FmHA grant and loan programs.

Site locations for the Kentucky Appalachian Region include Middlesboro, Barbourville (2), Hazard, Prestonsburg (2), London (2), and Somerset. The Americorp

team member working in Middlesboro will be Laura Duncan, who will be working out of the Bell County Chamber of Commerce.

01-12-95 06:21PM FROM FMHA

PHOTOCOPY  
RESTRICTION





**STARR MCDANILES AND CHAD DENISON** are working with Pittsfield Economic Developer Robin Hendley to gather information on Pittsfield's downtown area. McDaniles is from Pearl and Denison from Pittsfield.

## They're parts of Americorps team

By **DAN LONG**

"Hopefully some of the things I'll be learning I can take back to Pearl and use it to stop the decline there," Starr McDaniles said about her working as an Americorps volunteer.

McDaniles and Chad Denison are two members of Americorps, a group of volunteers employed

by the US Department of Agriculture.

Denison, from Pittsfield, and McDaniles are working through the Pittsfield economic development office to collect data on Pittsfield's downtown area.

They'll collect information on businesses, buildings, residences, parking and other factors, according to Robin Hendley, Pittsfield

economic developer.

The information will be used to meet ADA requirements, fulfill Main Street designations for application and other possible projects.

"We need to know what the data says and see what direction it's pointing," Hendley said.

It could point to a certain market area not being met by current businesses or a need for more parking, or it might not, Hendley said.

Denison and McDaniles will work for 9-10 months on the data collection project. They've already undergone some training including CPR and first aid from the Red Cross and team building at WIU, according to Denison.

At the end of the project, both volunteers will receive scholarships toward additional education as well as experience.

"It's a volunteer position with a living expense," McDaniles said.

"You earn money and there's a \$4,725 scholarship toward (education)," Denison said. "It's a chance to make contacts and gain experience."

Both volunteers applied for the program through Two Rivers RC&D, the local sponsor of the program.



The Press Democrat  
Santa Rosa, Ca., Wed., Oct. 19

# Helping

*Continued from Page P1*  
and fish die.

For more than five years, local farmers have been asking the Soil Conservation Service for help dealing with animal waste, said Charlette Epifanio, a soil conservationist who is supervising Jensen. In Jensen and his AmeriCorps co-worker, Nancy Scolari, the farmers have found the help.

Although some farmers might eye the AmeriCorps workers with suspicion because they are government employees, Jensen said the agricultural community has welcomed his expertise.

He sees his role as a buffer between polluting landowners and regulatory agencies. He hopes to stop the pollution before regulators fine the polluters.

PHOTOGRAPH  
PRESERVATION



# AmeriCorps Continues Work With Watershed

BY KIMBERLY M. JOHNSON

**YOUR COMMUNITY AT WORK**  
*AmeriCorps continues its commitment to rural South Carolina.*

The Newberry Team II members (Amy Overstreet, James Holland, Jay Henderson, Mary Roe and Angela Brinkley) use a computer program to identify non-point source pollution in the Bush River Camping Creek watershed.

To identify potential solutions for the problem areas, team members place data such as soil type, land slope and land use into the AGNPS (Agricultural Non-point Source) computer model.

The model simulates conditions at all points within the watershed.

The AGNPS program actually runs a watershed model and spatially interprets the results.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will use the model of the two subwatersheds to pinpoint problems within the overall Bush River Camping Creek watershed.

The team has created a Lotus spreadsheet for inputting data from SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) water monitoring station. The information has been accumulating over the years and has not been analyzed.

As a result of the spreadsheet,



Newberry Team II, AmeriCorps, members receive technical training from supervisor Jim Wilson, center. Pictured, from left, are: Jay Henderson, James Holland, Jim Wilson and Mary Roe.

the data can be graphed and comparison studies can be made in order to illustrate trends and patterns over the years.

Aerial photos, topography maps, as well as a clinometer which measures the land slope percentage are some of the instruments and equipment used by the team.

As Holland and Roe use the equipment in the field, they have placed a premium on their outdoor experiences.

Holland enjoys the physical landscape such as the hillsides, the change of seasons and the well-managed farms. "For farmers, the work is right there...they live within the workplace," he said.

Roe feels a greater appreciation for the environment.

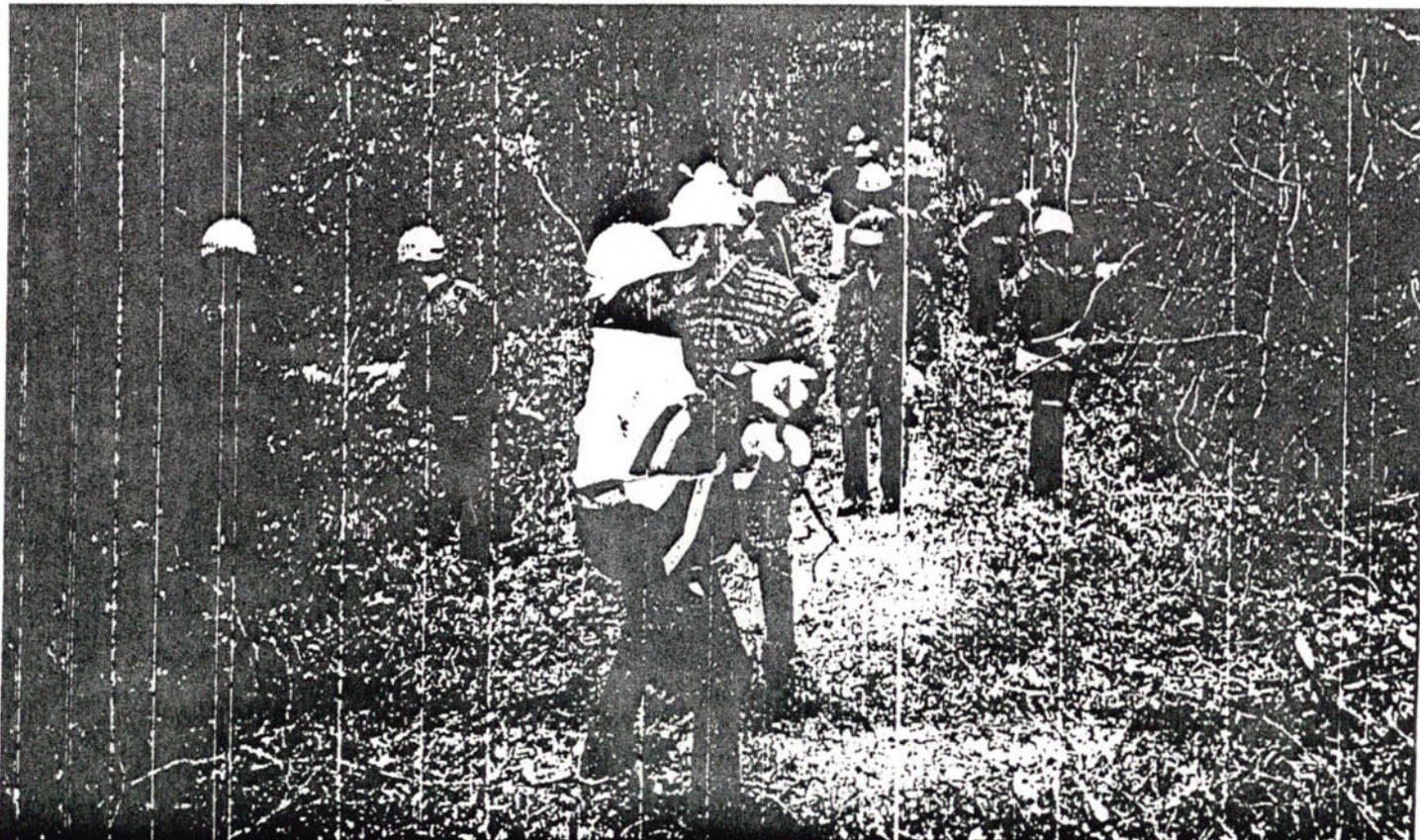
She recalls watching a PBS program about mammoths. Roe marveled how she could relate to various subjects in the program to her AmeriCorps work.

Devising a plan to cross a creek and trying to pry a canoe out of mud are some memorable tales for Amy Overstreet. Overstreet works primarily with computer data entry. She looks forward to increasing her field time.

Call 321-6222, to learn more about the team's current project.



## Learning to make it in life



Brian Albert Broom/The Clarion Ledger

Participants from the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps inspect a horse trail they cleared in the Bienville National Forest near Hillsboro.

The youths provided the labor needed for the national forest including trail clearing and other maintenance.

# Service corps helps at-risk young people

■ The program allows enrollees to earn a diploma while learning to work.

**By Mary Jefferson**  
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

It's far from a dream workweek: 25 hours at minimum wage and 15 hours of volunteer duty, much of it heavy labor.

But for about 50 young people like Eric Jackson, their toil is nothing compared with their reward.

## TODAY'S EXTRA

Jackson, 20, is a member of the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps program. In its fifth year, the corps is an educational program for at-risk males and females 16-23. While earning their high school equivalency diplomas, young people acquire self-esteem, pride in their community and good work and study habits.

"The whole program is such a

learning experience," Jackson said. "It is not like anything I have ever been involved in. It is wonderful. The people over the corps really make sure you understand what you need to in order to make it in life."

The service program has three facets:

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Anti-Hunger Corps.

■ The agriculture department's AmeriCorps Public Lands Corps, part of the initiative signed into

law last September by President Clinton.

■ The Urban Corps.

Jackson, a participant in the Public Lands Corps, said the program not only provides him a chance to improve his character, but gives him support he needs to continue his education.

"We work the young people for one year on various community service projects," said Alfred Martin, Greater Jackson Youth Ser-

See YOUTHS, 10A



# Learning to make it in life



Brian Albert Broom / The Clarion-Ledger

Participants from the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps inspect a horse trail they cleared in the Bienville National Forest near Hillsboro.

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See YOUTHS, 10A



PHOTOGRAPH  
PRESERVATION

THE FORUM  
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
DECEMBER 11, 1995

# REGION

A6

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1995

The Forum



## About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, a national service program started by President Clinton in 1994, helps students finance their college educations. For more information on AmeriCorps, call (800) 942-2677.

# Communities, collegians gain from Corps

N.D. students say experience is as valuable as the financial incentives that the program provides

Minot, N.D. (AP)

Kelly Bosch and Jessica Krumwiede both were looking for a way to finance their college educations. They found it in a relatively new program similar to the Peace Corps, and their experience is paying off in more ways than just financially.

Bosch and Krumwiede, both of Devils Lake, signed up for AmeriCorps, a national service program started by President Clinton in 1994. Bosch is in his first year of service, Krumwiede in her second. They don't regret postponing their educations to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It's a worthy project - I really believe in it," Bosch said. "It's good for

*"These are services that are not offered by anyone else. There's kind of a void, and that's where AmeriCorps comes in."*

Jay Mar, North Dakota AmeriCorps director

the experience and the scholarship."

Those who complete 1,700 hours of community work during nine months in the program earn a \$4,725 grant, said Jay Mar, manager of the Natural Resource Conservation Service Lake Agassiz Regional Council in Fargo. Mar is directing the AmeriCorps project in North Dakota this year.

The grant can be used to pay tuition or to pay off student loans.

Bosch, 19, and Krumwiede, 21, are two of five people in North Dakota working in AmeriCorps this year.

In North Dakota, AmeriCorps is run through the conservation service. The program's main objective this year is to increase awareness in rural commu-

nities and on farms - particularly in the southeastern part of the state - of the need for protecting ground and surface water from contamination.

That involves identifying potential sources of contamination both on farms and in towns, and documenting those sources, Krumwiede said.

"We put all that on a map, in case there was ever an accident," she said. "The town would then come up with a plan of what they would do in that situation."

Identifying possible sources of contamination means a lot of knocking on doors and asking questions, Bosch said.

"A lot is with farmers, and I can relate there," said Bosch, who grew up

on a farm. "That helps. If a vehicle with government plates pulls up, you never know what farmers will think."

The AmeriCorps members are also helping ranchers in the southeastern part of the state implement proper grazing management plans. They're doing that by sponsoring workshops and by doing inventories of field plant species for ranchers.

Communities can request workers for local projects, Mar said.

"These are services that are not offered by anyone else," he said. "There's kind of a void, and that's where AmeriCorps comes in and provides assistance. And the beauty of the program is ... AmeriCorps does not charge the community."



# Home & Garden

## Clear brush now for '95 fire season

Have you looked around your property lately and wondered how fast the brush would burn in a wildfire? Did you know that an acre of brush that is 15 to 20 years old produces 25 tons of fuel? By contrast, an acre of grass produces only one ton of fuel.

Even though the fire season has officially ended for this year in Nevada County, we should not get complacent. The winter rains will stimulate more vegetative growth next year, which will fuel the inevitable wildfires in the summer and fall.

Every homeowner and citizen living in the Sierra foothills needs to know about the wildfire threat. Fire is a natural phenomenon, most often started by human activities. Large accumulations of fuel are found throughout our community and, too often, near homes and improvements. The potential for a high-intensity catastrophic wildfire exists each summer within our community. Wildfires can destroy homes. Large destructive wildfires have occurred locally and will occur again. You can do something about reducing the fuels and the fire hazard.

### Conservation Corner

Andy Lovato



Establishing zones of defense around your property is a common-sense approach to wildfire protection. Zone one is the first 5 to 10 feet around the outside walls of the house. Combustible materials in this area are close enough to bring the fire into contact with the building wall, deck or porch. Planting and landscaping are best limited to very succulent groundcovers, gravel mulches, walkways and green lawns. If you have limited water supply for irrigation, let it be concentrated here.

Zone two begins at the perimeter of zone one and extends outward about 30 feet. Plants in this zone may be a combination of both native and introduced species. Trees must be widely spaced to prevent crown fires. Shrubs should be low growing and preferably with

natural fire loads in our watersheds to limit the damaging effects of wildfires. The Americorps staff will work with private property owners to develop fuel reduction plans. These plans will take into account the desired land use by the owners, such as wildlife and forestry.

The Americorps program is still in its planning stages, where a strategy is being developed to assist the community. In addition to working generally with landowners, the Americorps staff is targeting a certain watershed, specifically in the Alta Sierra area. They are looking for landowners interested in doing a demonstration project, where specific fuel management techniques can be applied on the ground, monitored, and used for public education. By using a specific watershed, we can evaluate the effectiveness of the applied practices in controlling wildfires.

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District is a local special district, associated with the USDA and SCS, that can help landowners with these and other resource concerns. If you need help with fuel management or are interested in other resource topics, contact the office at 272-3417.

□□□

Andy Lovato works for the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, and his column appears monthly.



# PLAINSMAN

VOL. 110 NO. 117 COPYRIGHT 1995 HURON PLAINSMAN

**HURON, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**SUNDAY**

**MAY 21, 1995**

PHOTOCOPY  
PERMISSION



# AmeriCorps program may bring sewer improvements to Bolivar

By Margery Smith  
BC Staff Writer

Bolivar County may soon be seeing needed developments and improvements in rural sewer systems, thanks to the efforts of those behind the new federal AmeriCorps program.

Lebrunski Richard, Bolivar County-area member of the AmeriCorps program, explained that the program will be used to help pinpoint funds for and assist in the development of a rural sewer system in the county.

The program, which is President Clinton's national service initiative intended to address the nation's education, human service, public safety and environmental needs at the local level, also calls for the improvement of living conditions through urban forestry, according to information given by Richard.

However, Richard noted, the program will initially focus only on obtaining technical assistance with rural sewage systems in the county.

"Right now, we'll just be working on the sewer systems," Richard said. "We're looking at

Stanton subdivision (northwest of Cleveland), Hills and East Boyle subdivisions in Boyle, Shelby Farms, Isaac Daniels subdivision of Mound Bayou and Hogan subdivision of Mound Bayou."

Richard explained that he and Andrea Clark of Cleveland, the other team member of the county AmeriCorps program, will be working with the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors to ascertain money for a rural sewer system,

but the job of determining which area will be designated to receive the system will be left up to supervisors.

Area evaluation surveys have already been conducted in the aforementioned areas, said Richard, adding that he expects to meet with supervisors "in the next couple of weeks" to see if they have settled on a target area in the county for the sewer system.

Clarence Finley of Greenville, coordinator with the Northwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Area (RCD) in Stoneville, confirmed that the AmeriCorps program will focus on rural sewer systems.

"We are a nonprofit organization based in the Mississippi Delta," explained Finley, who supervises Richard and Clark. "We are participating in the AmeriCorps program with the U.S. Forest Service, which is funding the program through RCD."



Port Townsend Leader  
2/1/95

# MARKET PL

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING • REAL ESTATE ADVERTISING

## AmeriCorps rebuilds trails, park shelters

By Patrick J. Sullivan  
Leader Staff Writer

While President Clinton continues to defend his AmeriCorps youth service program in the face of a looming Republican budget-cutting ax, the federal program is getting things done on the Olympic Peninsula.

A 35-member AmeriCorps crew of young men and women are three months into a 10-month program to improve public recreation facilities in Jefferson and Clallam counties. The work includes Olympic National Park and Quilcene Ranger District trails and campgrounds, county parks and picnic shelters and a city park.

"When we look back over what we've done so far, it's been huge in just a quarter of the time we'll be here," said Jeff Parker, project coordinator employed by Northwest Youth Camp (NYC), an Oregon-based company contracted to manage the Olympic Peninsula program.

"The crews have developed a lot of new skills and we're doing projects that probably wouldn't get done otherwise," Parker said.

That's true, according to Dave Johnson of the Quilcene Ranger District's operations staff.

"The Forest Service no longer has a budget for extensive trail or campground or picnic area maintenance," Johnson admitted. "AmeriCorps is getting more done in one year than we could get done in five years with

"We're doing projects that probably wouldn't get done otherwise."

Jeff Parker,  
project coordinator,  
Northwest Youth Camp

An unscheduled project earned crew members immense praise. Twenty-nine volunteered to help with flood control in December along the Quilcene River. Some worked a full shift on AmeriCorps projects and then spent eight more hours in rain and mud hoisting sandbags.

### Campaign promise

President Clinton campaigned for the AmeriCorps program, initiated through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). AmeriCorps was funded for 1995-96, although Republican critics have already threatened to remove the 1996 portion.

About a year ago Dave

tuition and fees at any college, university or trade school. Each person has seven years to use or lose the grant, which may also be used to pay off an existing federal student loan. Interest on a student loan is deferred during a person's program participation.

Workers are also paid \$7,680, which works out to about \$4 an hour for the 1,700 net hours assigned to tasks.

Jefferson and Clallam county's respective park and recreation departments each provide at least \$25,000 (in-kind services, materials, equipment or money) while private sources are funding \$100,000 for work done in each county.

Fort Worden State Park personnel support the programs by making living quarters available. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) allocated \$50,000 to improve the barracks with new wiring, paint and carpet. Whidbey Island Naval Air Station donated surplus beds, dressers and other furnishings.

### Barracks life

Some AmeriCorps members are moving into rental housing — which is allowed — so those remaining at the Fort Worden barracks have more space. Learning to live with people from different ethnic and personal backgrounds has been one of the program's good experiences, said Kevin Brockway, 30, a crew leader employed by NYC.

"Learning to adapt to different people and things and jobs

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



## state n brief

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## SS Nimitz

# AmeriCorps making mark

By DAVE MILLER  
Hi-Desert Star Staff Writer

**MORONGO VALLEY**— It's new and already making its mark on the local community.

AmeriCorps, the new domestic peace corps created by President Clinton, has desert residents and others with the lofty goals of young Americans filling its ranks and working on projects in the Morongo Basin.

AmeriCorps Crew 13 has been working on environmental projects within the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park.

The Preserve was formally private ranching land until The Nature Conservancy started purchasing land in the canyon in 1968. The Nature Conservancy has since relinquished its holdings in Morongo Valley and the Preserve is presently under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management.

Joshua Tree became a national park this year after years as a national monument.

Although AmeriCorps is headquartered on the San Bernar- National Forest and administered by the U.S. Forest Service, members of Crew 13 meet at the BLM's North Palm Springs office.

The 14-person crew has been working on the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve for the past three weeks, building new trails and maintaining and restoring existing trails that were damaged by a 20-acre brush fire two years ago, and the floods which followed.

They are also rebuilding bridges and boardwalks within the Preserve.



Angie Sava of Palm Springs was one of several Morongo Canyon Preserve in Morongo Valley. AmeriCorps Crew 13 members working at the Big (Star photo by Tim Bulone)

Sava's boyfriend is another member of the crew, Duke Janus, 26, of Palm Springs.

Crew members get a living allowance which adds up to \$4.13 an hour, basic health care coverage, and child care, but the big chunk is an educational grant totaling \$4,725 at the end of an 1,800-hour stint in AmeriCorps.

which supplies the Preserve and neighboring Covington Park with water.

All four have collegiate goals. • James Gannon, 26, of Cherry Valley, plans to attend college and major in wildlife management. • Jason Valdez, 18, of Beaumont, plans to attend a junior college and gain a basic Associate in Arts

adds. "It's really pretty and in the spring I bet it will look beautiful."

Another member of the crew, John Soto, has a deeper interest in the Preserve because he thinks his father might have grown up there. "He told me he grew up in Morongo Valley and started to describe where he lived. It sounds the same as the Preserve," Soto said.

Soto and his father are planning a



# Lee Countians Complete Year Of Service In AmeriCorps

Several Lee Countians are completing a year of service as AmeriCorps Members and are "Getting Things Done" in Southwest Virginia. Paula Bailey, a 1990 graduate of Lee High, and Tina Fowler work in Lee County. Adrienne Carver Perkins, who graduated from Pennington High School in 1987, is working in Wytheville and Marion, VA. Other Members in that area include Delton Alderman of Mt. Airy, NC; Audrey Biggs of Blacksburg, VA; Mindy Clark of Marion, VA; and James Pratt of Rural Retreat, VA.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's National Service Program, passed with bipartisan support by the Congress. The program engages 20,000 Americans with diverse backgrounds in performing services that meet critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnership with state, local governments and non-profit organizations.

The USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of about 1200 members; anti-hunger teams, public lands and environment teams and rural development teams.

Paula Bailey works with Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) in Jonesville. She helps low and very low income families and individuals fill out applications for assistance. One type of assistance available is the 502 loan program which may involve construction of a new home or the purchase of an existing home which meets RECD requirements. Another type of assistance available is the 504 loan program which covers repairs on applicant-owned homes. If the applicants are over age 62 and have very low income, they may qualify for a grant program that goes up to \$5,000 and does not have to be repaid. Several of the applicants are home bound, so Paula goes to their residences and helps them complete the application. She also performs an applicant interview, where the monthly repayment

amount is calculated based on loan size and adjusted annual income. After the applicant is determined eligible for a loan program, Paula works with them and their contractor until the loan is closed. She also works on the repair specifications, which are sent to at least three contractors for bids. While the home is being built or repaired, she accompanies the Assistant County Supervisor for periodic inspections to make sure the work is done properly. Paula handles the paperwork in the construction, contract, and inspection processes.

Paula is in a cluster group with AmeriCorps Members in Kentucky. They have done clean-up work for Mountain Outreach through Cumberland College in Williamsburg, KY, and more clean-up along the Powell River at the Oak Tree area in Jonesville, VA.

Tina Fowler recently completed her work with the USDA Forest Service and was based at the Clinch Ranger District in Wise. She developed a tourism guide with over 70 listed sites in seven counties and the City of Norton to be given to the area chambers of commerce. These directories include the name of a contact person, interesting aspects, and the facilities available at each site. The guide will serve as a quick tourism reference for visitors and residents.

Tina also made many presentations to high school students from grades nine to twelve. She asked students to look at tourism from a different angle with a historical point of view. She talked about settlers, the hardships they had to endure, and how the area was the corridor for western expansion. Early communities were safe havens from both the Indians and the British. The students were made aware of the fact that their ancestors made expansion possible in an effort to stimulate pride in their area. Tina includes information about the effects of the industrial boom. She tells her audience about things of interest in their area such as geological natural wonders. People escape from the city life to

visit here, but we are not quite ready for large-scale expansion because the necessary infrastructure does not exist. Our greatest asset is the land itself and it needs to be developed and opened for more visitors. Places like log cabins, RV parks, good restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and lodges need to be opened to provide shelter and food for those who visit. Tina likes to use examples of success, such as Pounding Mill and Carter Fold, to prove when we provide a quality, unique experience, people will come.

Adrienne Perkins, Delton Alderman, Audrey Biggs, and James Pratt are based in Wythe County at the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office in Wytheville. Mindy Clark is based in Marion. This cluster group has recently completed an outdoor classroom with a Tree Identification Laboratory for the Smyth County School System. This lab is located along the Riverwalk in the

Town of Marion, VA, which is an existing path that runs along-side the Middle Fork of the Holston River. Delton Alderman, who has ten years experience in the forest industry, identified most of the forty trees which were marked with identification posts, compiled the information guidebook, and supervised the installation of the posts along the trail. Mindy Clark, who has a degree in landscape architecture, drew the plans for some of the segments of the trail and organized materials and workers for the sanding, routing, and painting of the identification posts. She reproduced the logo in the form of a stencil to be painted on the sidewalks, acting as a guide to the trail. Adrienne Perkins, who has a degree in communication studies, edited the guidebook that was presented to the teachers as an aid to using the outdoor lab. She produced the identification plaques that top the posts on the trail. James Pratt, who has degrees in Communications and English, wrote the introduction and edited the guidebook, documented trailwork with photography, and assisted in the installation, staining and mulching

of the posts. Audrey Biggs planned the field day celebration, scanned the images used on the plaques and in the guidebook, and assisted with editing. All five Members worked together to research information, install the identification plaques atop the posts, supervise volunteer workers, and train the teachers for the use of the trail.

The Grassroots Conservancy, a community service organization in Smyth County, conceived the idea for the lab, applied for the grant that funded the project, put down surfacing material, paved parts of the trail, hosted clean-up days for the river, constructed an information kiosk, and planted trees. The Smyth County Intermediate School Science Club and local Boy Scout Troops also aided by planting trees and painting Riverwalk logos on the sidewalks.

Many other projects are being completed by the New River-Highlands AmeriCorps Members. Delton is working with the USDA Forest Service to install timber bridges in Southwest Virginia. James is compiling information for a Specialty Forest Products Industry Directory of Southwest Virginia. Audrey is coordinating outreach for several natural resource committees with newsletters. Adrienne is preparing presentations to encourage proper forest utilization, shooting video footage for a Jefferson National Forest publicity video, and writing and editing a forestry committee newsletter.



Paula Bailey



AmeriCorps members who recently completed an outdoor classroom with a tree identification Laboratory are pictured, left to right: Delton Alderman, James Pratt, Mindy Clark, Audrey Biggs, Adrienne Carver Perkins and Tina Fowler.

AMERICAN  
PUBLICATION



# Tina Wright-Swinton committed to serve Marion County community through AmeriCorps pilot program

By TODD SHIFFLET  
Star & Enterprise

Tina Wright-Swinton is young, energetic and she wants to help. Even more, she has promised to get things done.

AmeriCorps, a pilot program initiated by the Clinton Administration, is allowing Mrs. Wright-Swinton the opportunity to serve her community. She can serve a one-year term of community service and for her commitment, receive money to pay off a college loan or tuition.

She is the AmeriCorps representative for Marion County and will be assisting low-to-moderate income individuals in the county to upgrade their housing. She will also be assisting school-age children in after-school programs.

"I'll be going door-to-door finding out exactly what's happening in Marion County. It's an outreach program to target low and moderate income housing residents. And I will be working at the Marion Student Enrichment Center with students in grades one to eight - to do well in school - as mentor and tutor," said Mrs. Wright-Swinton, 26.

A conservative estimate identifies over three percent of the households in Marion County with no plumbing. This is three times the national average. Marion County has one of the highest levels of sub-standard housing in South Carolina, according to her project and mission statement for Marion County.

Mrs. Wright-Swinton said she will be working with the Farmers' Home Administration as an outreach person. She will be identifying those residential homes which are in financial need and connecting them with programs which can help. She also plans to initiate an educational service for the program so that housing improvements will be long-term.

"A lot of people in rural Marion County are not apt for change,"

she said. "The challenge is going to be finding and connecting with the people out there who need resources... helping people find out what programs are out there."

She said she will primarily be working with identifying residents and connecting them with loans and other assistance programs provided by FmHA, but will also be working with the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration, Marion County government, Marion County community service and the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments. Agencies which will be helping with assistance include the FmHA, Habitat for Humanity and various other housing and urban development programs. Some of her resources include the Clemson Extension Service, the Marion County Planning Department and Marion School District 1, she said.

"I have a lot of ideas, but it's going to be difficult for one person to take on the whole community. Once I find out what specific problems there are and identify the people, I know I'm going to need the support of others. It's going to be a lot of work and a lot of challenges," Mrs. Wright-Swinton said.

She is excited and determined by the challenge. She has gone through a number of training courses with the FmHA and AmeriCorps and plans to be effective in her service.

"I think it's an excellent program - community service to pay for an education. I know I am a people-person, and having an opportunity to interact and help somebody makes me feel really blessed," she said.

Mrs. Wright-Swinton said her AmeriCorps colleagues in different counties in the country are concentrating on different projects. Each county has its own specific priority. Counties in South Carolina which have the advantage of an AmeriCorps representative include Allendale, Denmark, Orangeburg, Santee/Lynches

and the Williamsburg/Lake City area, she said.

Mrs. Wright-Swinton is also excited about working with students out of the Marion Student Enrichment Center. The center is a local non-profit agency made up of retired educators and high school volunteers. She will be working

## AMERICORPS PLEDGE

*I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter and healthier.*

*I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.*

*Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.*

*I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.*

*I am an AmeriCorps member. And I'm going to get things done.*

to stem the tide of high school drop-outs in Marion County, and nurturing their desire for an education.

A Marion native, Mrs. Wright-Swinton will receive a living allowance for her one year of service, plus an educational award. She is a graduate of Coastal Carolina University with a degree in Business Administration. She has worked with the Department of Social Services, the South Carolina Employment Commission and Fleet Funding, all of which relate to her Americorp service position.

Marion County Administrator Pete Rogers will act as her supervisor.

Anyone seeking more information about AmeriCorps can call 1-800-880-4183.

Marion Star & Mullins Enterprise  
Wednesday, November 2, 1994

*Lifestyles*

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**B**



1/28/95 THE SUN (SAN BERNARDINO)  
**Agriculture chief praises  
AmeriCorps in area visit**

By **DAVID WAHLBERG**  
Sun Staff Writer

**LYTLE CREEK** — Dion Trujillo led acting U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Rominger along a nature trail that Trujillo and other AmeriCorps members had built.

"We're learning about a lot of new things, like forestry and biology," said Trujillo, 28, of Rialto.

"That's what (AmeriCorps) is all about," Rominger said. "Learning while you're working."

Rominger visited the Lytle Creek Ranger Station on Friday to tout AmeriCorps, the federal service program created by President Clinton that has come under Republican criticism in recent weeks.

AmeriCorps members build

hiking trails, design nature centers, repair fire-ravaged areas and plant vegetation for a year. In return, they get \$4,725 education grants. About 20,000 people are participating around the country.

Rominger, who tentatively replaced former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy this month after Espy resigned, addressed about 80 AmeriCorps members gathered in a circle outside the ranger station.

"I feel like I left Washington, but I came home to the best of government," he said.

More than 400 people applied for the 80 AmeriCorps jobs in the San Bernardino National Forest, he said.

"I don't think anyone can call

See **AMERICORPS/A2**

## **Americorps: Trujillo offers praise**

Continued from A1

that coercive volunteerism," he said.

Newt Gingrich and other Republican Congress leaders have criticized the program on those grounds.

"All of you have taken government and made it your own," Rominger said. "You've turned a concept into some solid, practical action."

The trail that Trujillo's crew

built outside the ranger station will display various plants of the national forest, from desert brush to mountain wildflowers.

"It's going to be a nice little place to visit and learn from," said Scott Gorman, 22, a crew member from Pomona. "We're going to be able to take our kids back here someday and say, 'We did this.'"

Lauren Whitechurch, 24, an AmeriCorps member from San Bernardino, said he joined the program to learn more about for-

estry.

"It's a chance to learn about the environment and what we can do to help."

Beth Anglin, who belongs to an AmeriCorps crew in Palm Springs, said she signed up because she was tired of babysitting and telemarketing.

"This gives me a chance to work outside," said Anglin, 19. "I love the outdoors."

Rominger said he hopes AmeriCorps gains enough bipartisan support to continue.

"It's people pulling together to tackle community problems," he said. "This is what government should really be about."

PHOTO  
PRESERVATION



## Fuel load project to begin in Traverse Creek Watershed

A team of Americorp members have been assigned to the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service. Their mission: to reduce fuel loads in potentially critical forest lands.

The local team covers the area encompassing El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, and Amador counties. The program is part of President Clinton's pilot Americorp legislation, with projects of community service and a motto of "getting things done." The program has been called the Domestic Peace Corps.

The team members, headquartered in Placerville, are working on the Traverse Creek Watershed located in the Georgetown area. The participants will identify landowners and then set-up community meetings and workshops. They will assist in formulating individual plans according to the various desires and needs of land use from limited timber harvest to wildlife habitat. They will also help develop incentive programs and assistance funding.

District Conservationist Jim Kimmel has two Americorp members to assist work through his office: Aleta Apgar, a conservation educator, certified teacher and former viticulturist, and Jesse Haramati, a civil engineering candidate in a joint University of California Santa Cruz-Berkeley Program. They work cooperatively with El Dorado County's Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District and Soil Conserva-

tion Service.

As a team they unite their efforts with Cliff Heitz, Auburn's District Conservationist, and his representatives: Geologist Carol Rutenberg and James Newman, a wildlife management Humboldt State University graduate. Two other team members, Christi Lyn-Maison, an agronomist, and Althea Brusin, an agriculture science graduate from Cal Poly, work under the tutelage of Grass Valley's District Conservationist, Ron Zinke. The project coordinator is Bob Roan of High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Area.

The anticipated success of this project will minimize the impact of inevitable wildfires. Successful implementation of this program will generate more Americorp volunteers and inclusion of more watersheds in the fuel load reduction program.

The aim of this rural land development project is to demonstrate a model of community interaction, cooperation between federal and state and local agencies and private landowners. The reduction of fuel loads and fuel ladders to reduce possibility of catastrophic wildfires is one of the most critical environmental issues currently being addressed in the foothills.



# SONOMA-MARIN FARM NEWS



May 1995

Volume 6, Issue 10

## Friends 'n Neighbors *and other notable news...*

Remember April? The sun started to shine... on came spring fever... then more rain! Some of us were caught on the teeter-totter of spring fever and rain depression. Enough! One person actually looking forward to some rain is hay grower Norm Yenni. He finally got back into his fields and replanted after being flooded out for most of 1995 (and losing his entire crop). Norm dry-farms and is looking for "normal" April showers to do the watering. While we'd really like to see Norm and the other south county hay and grain growers get a break, in this bizarre year of floods it would be nice to *really know* that the rain will be more off than on!

Sonoma County Sheriff's Deputy Spence Martin is targeting sometime in May to return to patrol duty after suffering two strokes last fall. For the last 3 months, he's been doing light duty in the office and, knowing Spence, is probably stir crazy! Co-workers and the agricultural community are anxious to see him back in the field. While Spence gears up to go back to active duty, Richard Ripken, of R.A. Ripken Nursery, is at home recovering from a quadruple bypass following a heart attack in early April. Richard's giving out heart attack advice: get a shot of "TPA" which will melt a clot in minutes and may help save your life. Could Richard be branching out from nurturing grapevines to real people?! Get well soon!

Can we call Jon and Jan Wright, of Wright's Feed in Healdsburg, the king and queen of the slot machines?! They just participated in their first official slot tournament - and made the semi-finals! Jon and Jan have their own "Caesar's Gold Card" which rings up points every time they pull the lever (it's a button, now). Jan says these points add up to free rooms, meals and special privileges. Lots of free stuff? Maybe we should call Jan the queen of smarts instead of slots!

Congratulations to Michael Murphy who is graduating from Sonoma State this month. Michael

is with the Sonoma County Horse Council and is Ya-Ka-Ama's farm manager. When asked how long it took him, Michael laughed and said he started college in 1964! His degree is in Environmental Planning. (Now can you see why it took so long? only kidding!) Karen: "Well, Michael, what do you want to do with your degree/education?" Michael: "I want to be a farmer." We're glad to see he has his priorities straight.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services and FEMA have been churning out a newsletter called "Recovery Times". In the April 5 issue, there was a little story on how AmeriCorps helped out during and after the floods by filling sandbags, strengthening levees, removing debris, etc.. And lo and behold, the picture with the story is of our very own Nancy Scolari and Mike Jensen from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Petaluma (ex-SCS). Lisa Woo Shanks sent in the photo of them talking with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Interim Secretary Richard Rominger. Great plug, this story, except it neglected to mention *where* they worked!

Whatever you think about government workers, think again. At least in this case. At the Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group's recent spring dinner and dance, employees of the Agricultural Commissioner's and Farm Advisor's offices were doing hard labor. Volunteer labor. In the kitchen. On their day off were county employees, John Westoby (and wife, Lynn) and chief instigator Marilyn Vernon, with Farm Advisor Rhonda Smith, all bustin' their buds preparing fine grub for a hungry group of grape-techies. They must really care about what they do to put in so much volunteerism. Of course, complete adoration from the grape industry folks, doesn't hurt. Some areas of government show that they *really* care about the people they serve. Thanks!



# MORNING BRIEFING

**TODAY IN HISTORY** ■ In 1879, President Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

■ **WWII:** In 1945, American infantrymen landed at the southern tip of Bataan.

## NEWS SUMMARY

Top stories in today's paper

### WORLD

**Stepping down:** The governor of Mexico's Chiapas state, beset by rebel calls for his resignation, steps down. **A4**

### NATION

**Crime bill:** The House passes a revision of anti-crime spending, rescinding a major plan passed late last year. **A1**

**Peace deal:** The United States offers Serbia a relaxation in sanctions in return for cooperating in peacemaking. **A3**

### OPINION

**Unwise solution:** A strong governor should be able to set spending priorities, but Gov. David Beasley is swinging the budget ax while wearing a blindfold. His "5 percent solution" is unwise. **A10**

### METRO/REGION

**DSS changes:** Social services chief Jim Clark outlines a 28-page pitch for legislators that is designed to help new mothers in



TIM DOMINIC/THE STATE

**B6. AmeriCorps volunteers Chad Weston, Sherell Stevens, Angi Paulus and Susan Miller look over maps of Lexington County. They are participating in a project to inspect 80 dams in the county.**

moving quickly from the nursery into the work force and to encourage responsibility. **A1**

**Day of love:** Valentine's Day fever fills the civic altars. It's not like June or December, but there's no shortage of nuptials. **A1**



## Damon returns home as volunteer



Americorp volunteer Alicia Damon

By Dan Bustard

A volunteer from the Americorp program will be lending a helping hand to three local conservation groups over the next several months, and it is a homecoming of sorts.

Alicia Damon started working this week in the offices of the Planning Alliance of the Damariscotta River Estuary (PADRE), and she is looking forward to becoming part of the community again.

"I grew up in Wiscasset and Newcastle, and I moved back to the area this year," said Damon, who has degrees in environmental policy and environmental education. "Working with these volunteer groups and the local communities is very appealing to me and got me interested in the Americorp program."

President Clinton's program is on the chopping block in Washington,

but the 1,700 volunteer hours Damon will be working with PADRE, Tidewater Watch and the Damariscotta River Association are not affected.

Water quality issues will be the focus of Damon's work, Tom Ford of PADRE said. Helping to coordinate Tidewater Watch's water quality monitoring program will be one of those tasks along with working with DRA's Stewardship Committee developing procedures and a computer information base for monitoring the more than 15 miles of sensitive shorefront, salt marsh and freshwater wetlands in the river's estuary.

Once PADRE, consisting of planning board members from the towns along the Damariscotta River, decide which recommendations to follow from a work plan developed by the Damariscotta River Estuary Project, Damon can begin working on those as well.

For now, she is starting slowly, doing paperwork and familiarizing herself with the groups she will work with. Her schedule will be flexible.

"I am allotted a certain amount of hours, but it depends on how I choose to use them. I could be involved for 10 months up to a year. It also depends on how the sponsoring agencies want to use me, and that depends mostly on the projects. If there is something they really want me to be involved with next September, I can allot my hours so I can have some left," Damon said.

The draw of being able to work in the area is important. "I'm busy building a house, and I am looking forward to getting back into the

community. It is better to be working here than in Machias or somewhere else up the coast," she said. "But this (Americorp) is all new to me, so I'll be spending some time getting ready," she said.



# Factory opens doors after taking applications

By Ralph B. Davis  
Editor

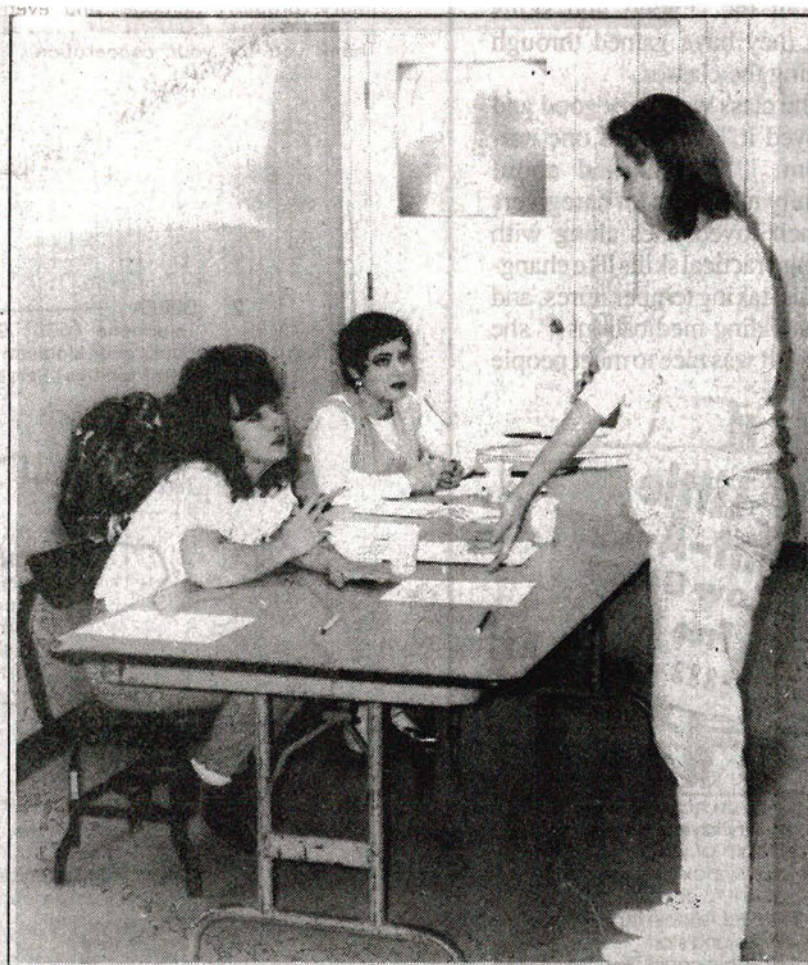
After holding taking applications over the weekend, Specialty Plastic Products opened its new Jackson County plant this week.

Specialty held a job fair last Friday and Saturday to introduce itself to the community and to take applications from potential workers. Turnout appeared strong on Friday, as 150 people showed up in the first hour to fill out applications.

The company appeared ready begin operations right away. Plant production manager Colm McArdle said that Specialty was targeting Monday as the first day of work.

The cut-and-sew factory was expected to begin work Monday morning with around ten workers. McArdle said the company would then gradually increase production until the plant met its goal of hiring 100-130 workers.

Specialty manufactures military apparel for Department of Defense contracts. McArdle said



AmeriCorps members Michelle Humfleet and Tina King interviewed an applicant during Friday's job fair at the new Specialty Plastic Products plant. The company expects to hire 100-130 workers, over half of which are to be from low and moderate income families. The job fair continued on Saturday.

THE JACKSON COUNTY SUN  
MCKEE, KENTUCKY  
APRIL 27, 1995

## •Specialty

From the front page

the McKee operation would produce sub-assemblies to be shipped to Specialty's other plants across the U.S.

Specialty was received assistance with the job fair from several area agencies. Representatives from Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation (KHIC) and Cumberland Valley Area Development District (CVADD) were on hand helping to conduct the event.

KHIC and CVADD worked with the Industrial Authority, City of McKee and the county to bring Specialty to Jackson County.

Also present at the job fair were members of AmeriCorps, President Clinton's civil service initiative. Michelle Humfleet and Tina King conducted surveys of applicants to help the company meet community development block grant mandated goals of providing jobs to persons from low and moderate income families.



# Home economics – in two languages

*AmeriCorps  
volunteer  
helps students  
understand*

By Jonathan Bethely  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

At Folwell Middle School in Minneapolis, home economics is taught both in English and Spanish. Maria Diaz, an AmeriCorps volunteer, helps teachers who only speak English teach children who only speak Spanish.

"The Spanish kids understand the gist of what [the English-speaking teacher] is saying, but once we get into groups, they can ask questions if they don't understand," Diaz said. She splits her day at the school between bilingual classes and classes in which all children speak Spanish.

When the teacher is done explaining the day's task, for instance, the bilingual class divides into two groups. The first group dives into the project while the second group listens to Diaz, who repeats what was said.

AmeriCorps volunteers are valuable to a school such as Folwell, only half of whose students are fluent in English. Diaz said AmeriCorps volunteers provide a service that schools may not be able to afford otherwise.

Without her, half of the 35 home economics students might not understand something as simple as putting apples in a blender.

Diaz is one of 30 AmeriCorps members based at the Brian Coyle Community Center in Minneapolis. They range from college graduates to high school dropouts.

"AmeriCorps is made to provide people with an opportunity to serve their community and help themselves. It's about belonging to an organization that supports you," Diaz said.

Someday the University of Minnesota senior hopes to be a teacher. The program was the perfect opportunity for her to volunteer while still in school.

For some young people, the road to college after high school has more detours than freeways under-



Star Tribune Photo by Jerry Holt

AmeriCorps volunteer Maria Diaz helps in a home economics class at Folwell Middle School in Minneapolis. "The Spanish kids understand the gist of what [the English-speaking teacher] is saying," Diaz said, "but once we get into groups, they can ask questions if they don't understand." There are about 350 AmeriCorps members in the state.

going summer construction.

If Tangene Hayslett's road hadn't led him to the AmeriCorps program after graduating from Washburn High School in Minneapolis, he said, he's not sure what he'd be doing. At 18, Hayslett coordinates all youth activities at the Coyle Center.

"You're getting a lot more than just a check every two weeks — you're getting a lot of different skills that you can't put dollar bills on," he said. In addition to serving 40 hours a week at the Coyle Center, Hayslett holds a part-time job at Rainbow Foods to help make ends meet.

In high school, Hayslett didn't spend that much time worrying about his education. At one point he was enrolled in an alternative school for "problem kids." But at this school, Hayslett excelled in academics and found the incentive to finish high school. Now he sees kids at the community center who look up to him.

"That's kind of weird because I've never seen myself as a role model or mentor. I really didn't think I was that important to the world until I

## Some facts about AmeriCorps

- **Origin:** One of Bill Clinton's leading ideas in his 1992 campaign for the presidency. It's a kind of Peace Corps for America, a national service project. It started in 1993.
- **Minnesota angle:** There are about 350 people working here, in eight programs.
- **The cost:** Full-time volunteers get a \$4,700 education voucher and \$660 a month to cover living expenses and medical benefits. In 1994 it cost \$301 million nationwide, growing in 1995 to \$470 million.
- **Critics say:** It costs too much and duplicates the work of the private sector.
- **Supporters say:** "It's a successful program that I think is beneficial," said U.S. Rep. Bruce Vento, a DFLer from St. Paul. "It helps build a network that isn't available in most communities. You need volunteers to help build a framework for other volunteers."

A 1995 University of Minnesota study found that Minnesota's program had an "impact on individuals, organizations and communities." The state gets back in volunteer time twice the money it provides when it matches federal funds, it said.

came over here," Hayslett said.

AmeriCorps members meet twice a month to share information about projects, but they also receive skills training in conflict resolution, résumé writing, diversity training and public speaking.

Hayslett said he learned organizing and coordination skills at the Coyle Center. "I'm constantly trying to run programs to make sure everything is falling in line. [from] structuring programs to making reservations," Hayslett said.



PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

A10 Austin American-Statesman

Wednesday, January 18, 1995

## National service program deserves continued funding

**R**epublicans in Congress apparently intend to drag President Clinton's national service plan, AmeriCorps, to the federal budget chopping block this year.

Although the president has given tacit approval to some other items the GOP wants to ax, he is drawing the line at the two-year-old AmeriCorps. Clinton is right to fight to save his young national service program.

Congress should be finding ways to encourage more national service, not eagerly awaiting the chance to slay a fledgling program that appears to actually be doing some good for the country.

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich has condemned the national service plan as "coerced voluntarism" and "gimmickry." So his acolytes in the House are falling meekly in line and planning the demise of AmeriCorps.

Clinton rode into the Oval Office promising a program of national service, which had been advocated years before by Clinton's allies in the Democratic Leadership Council. Without a lot of fanfare, AmeriCorps began in 1993 and now has 20,000 young people working for it.

The volunteers work full- or part-

time for minimum wage in the areas of education, human services, public safety and the environment. In return, the federal government awards them up to \$4,725 for education benefits.

Although the program is a modest one, it deserves congressional support, not just lip service. There are many items in the federal budget that Gingrich and his supporters ought to kill — including some of their own perks and some questionable corporate giveaways — but AmeriCorps isn't among them.

What does the government get for its \$500 million AmeriCorps appropriation? It gets 20,000 young people working, serving 800 communities across the country in important roles; it provides these volunteers with job skills and community and personal values; and it assures them of financial help to continue their education.

Only the most myopic budget writers couldn't see the value in that kind of investment in America.

Congress should be looking for ways to expand national service, not devising plans to retreat from it.

National service is one way this country can begin to heal from within. And that is worth the investment.





STEVE KASSERMAN/The Outlook

Jon Stewart, director of the Northwest Service Academy in Corbett, coaches participants in how to operate a pump and hoses. Participants will be sworn in Monday as part of a national kickoff.

## Academy produces service corps

□ Clinton to swear in specially trained environmental workers

by LYNN NAKVASIL  
of The Outlook staff

CORBETT — It was raining, but 27 members of the Northwest Service Academy unrolled fire hoses and learned how to hook them up with the correct valves and start a pump from the Sandy River. This week, they will take a test on their fire-fighting skills, and qualifiers may be providing relief to the firelines this fall.

They are part of a national movement of community-service volunteers called Americorps. Monday, President Bill Clinton will swear them in via satellite in a ceremony at Pioneer Square in Portland.

Among them will be Chris Martin, 18, of Portland.

"It was a great opportunity to help the environment and get a chance to work outside," he said of his decision to join.

A total of 62 participants have trained at Corbett's Camp Angelos for the past two weeks. Their mission is environmental concerns and education, said director Jon Stewart, who works out of Columbia Gorge Ranger Station.

"We're the largest program in the state of Oregon," he said.

For the most part, they will work on stream restoration, some trails restoration, outdoor school and Cascade Stream Watch, he said. But fire-fighting also qualifies as a significant environmental need, so some team members may be called to the lines, he said.

Friday was the last day of training at Camp Angelos. From now on, the 60 members will be divided into four groups and work on different projects in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington and Clark counties, said team steward Holly Knight.

Participants also come from the

four counties, with about 10 of them from East County and Boring, she estimated. They must work at least 1,700 hours during the one-year program to get \$5,000 good towards college, vocational school or student loans. They also get a \$156 a week in living stipend.

Most academy participants are young, with 77 percent between ages 18 and 25, although some are age 45, Knight said.

At least some crews will keep working in East County. This week, they will be working on restoration of a section of Kelly Creek and other projects are planned with Gresham City Parks and the Bonneville Power Administration, said volunteer Mac Neely, a senior-citizen mentor and group spokeswoman.

But the academy already made its presence known in Troutdale, when the 62 participants wearing green T-shirts swarmed onto the field of the Imagination Station for a day of labor during construction of the playground. Although the crew will not generally build playgrounds, it was the crew's second day together and a good team-building experience, members said.

For Anne Mohler, 20, of Portland, the academy has given her life more of a sense of purpose since graduating, besides being a way to save for college.

"Other jobs I've had I didn't respect myself and didn't feel I was doing anything useful. Who really cares if somebody gets their pizza on time?" Mohler said. "People here are so respectful, so open. To be able to say that truthfully is really special."

Uma Tupper, 21, found out about the academy when she wheeled through Oregon on a cross-country biking trip. She applied and moved to Oregon from New York. She found a room in a shared house to rent and figures she can make it on the stipend. She wants to pay off student loans and go on to graduate school.

Aric Brady, 18, said he lives in an area of Northeast Portland that is troubled by gangs and other problems, and the academy is a good chance to get away and save money to study radio broadcasting, his career goal.

"It puts money in our pockets, and it's good work," he said. "It helps you to be social instead of antisocial."

Americorps is a good program for high school graduates who haven't figured out their next career move, said Melissa Busby, 9, of West Linn.

Americorps participants "graduate" July 28, 1995. They can apply for a second year stint with the program along with the new applicants, Neely said. But two years is the absolute limit, she said.



"Learning civic responsibility by providing service to the community and the environment."



# Youth Service Day was a real pick-me-up



**Josie Lauer**  
Milwaukee Pius XI  
High School

Often, we hear about the negative sides of our society more than we appreciate the positiveness we, as a people, have. April 25, National Youth Service Day, was a reflection of the latter.

Organizations from all over Wisconsin joined efforts to clean up Mitchell Park and the areas surrounding the southeast side of the city.

Participants from the Milwaukee Community Service Corps and the Wisconsin Conservation Corps led groups of about 10 youths in the assignment. About 400 people from eight schools and eight organizations participated.

Directed by an MCSC member, we were told our mission was "to get dirty" as we cleaned the city and had fun doing so.

In our small groups, we each tackled different areas — some people worked on a graffiti paint-over, while others grabbed rakes, shovels and brooms and began cleaning the streets. Each group worked in a different area and picked up garbage. It was an experience I'd personally do any day over



Jenny Schaaf cleans up a sidewalk on S. 27th St. near W. Greenfield Ave. along with Roberto Sauvea, Shon Winstad and Floyd Shatekwa. They were participating in National Youth Service Day, where kids get involved in cleaning up neighborhoods.

cleaning my room.

After the few hours of picking up, all groups returned to Mitchell Park where we met for bag lunches and a chance to talk to our friends or meet new people. The beautiful day added to the pleasure of relaxing outside after a morning of work.

After lunch, representatives from the organizations received

certificates for being a part of this day.

Next, we were entertained by the choir and dancers from Palmer Grade School. This talented group provided us with a glimpse of the future, which looked pretty bright. Finally, we were all commemorated for our efforts in helping make Milwaukee a better, cleaner

community.

All over the nation, people united for a common cause. It's amazing what can be done when we work together. The satisfaction of knowing you helped someone, plus the fun of meeting people, made this a memorable and valuable experience for all who were a part of it.

## Four honorees for saving far

Four volunteers from the Milwaukee Community Service Corps were recognized for bravery by Mayor John O. Norquist during National Service Day activities.

Here's why: Tyrone John Beauty Wadlington, Givoni Thomas and Mauritz Prad had just finished community work on March 29 when they noticed smoke coming from home in Milwaukee. They alerted the woman inside and helped her rescue her nine children from the burning building.

The four young people, between the ages of 18 and 21, also are members of AmeriCorps, a national program in which students complete 1,700 hours of community service receive educational scholarships of \$4,725, said Joel Haubrich, development coordinator for service corps. He said they were working on completing their high school equivalencies.

"They'll either go to college or go to MATC or something like that [with the scholarship]. They've made a decision in their lives to get out of poverty, basically," Haubrich said.



1/18/95  
Medford, Oregon Daily Newspaper

# OPINION

## Mail Tribune

The Mail Tribune offers its opinion pages to stimulate discussion and understanding of issues important to our community. Editorials in this column reflect the opinions of the Mail Tribune.

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## Editorials

### National service

Newt doesn't like federal  
bureaucrats or volunteers

*News item: "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Gingrich says. "It is coerced voluntarism ... It's gimmickry."*

— Newsweek, Jan. 23 edition

*News item: "Heavy rains in western Jackson County this week have triggered some erosion problems. ... A crew from the newly created AmeriCorps national service program has been building erosion control structures in the burned area near Ramsey Road, north of Gold Hill ... trying to slow runoff on barren hillsides."*

— Mail Tribune, Jan. 11

**I**t's hard to know whether House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., is opposed to national service programs in general, or because AmeriCorps is the one of the few unambiguous successes President Clinton can point to in his first two years.

There are some criticisms to level at a program of national service — one being that it's hard to find enough money to make volunteers available everywhere they're needed. But the notion of creating an analog to military service has been around for many years, supported by politicians of all stripes.

**CLINTON SHOULD** welcome this Gingrich assault as an opportunity to contrast what the president rightly sees as a legitimate, creative use of government with the kind of automatic, anti-government slashing that Gingrich represents.

There are many things the federal government does wrong. But creating opportunities for young people to help their country while putting a small amount of money aside, usually to pay for college, is not one of them.

The program does not coerce: States may participate at their option, and young men and women choose to apply. The list of applicants is miles longer than the list of available slots.

**THERE ARE 38** young men and women at a work camp in the Applegate Ranger District this winter, working in the woods as well as renovating structures and parks in Butte Falls and Prospect.

So far, AmeriCorps is a success in America's forests and urban areas. Newsweek found volunteers highly praised and working in such places as homes for troubled children — the kinds of charity homes that Gingrich envisions as substitutes for America's welfare mothers.

Dave,  
FYI,  
KC

USDA Service  
Forest  
AmeriCorps  
Project



LANSING STATE JOURNAL

LANSING, MI  
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THURSDAY  
JAN 26 1995

BURRELLE'S

# AmeriCorps

## Keep Clinton crew active

EDITORIAL

The hands-on spirit of President Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps enhances the State of the Union as well as mid-Michigan.

National service corps workers took their rightful place in the audience for Clinton's State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Their work clearly demonstrates how state-federal partnerships help revitalize communities. Their labor helps pay off college loans.

Last fall, Michigan's first U.S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps crew began helping farmers control runoff to the Grand River. They identify potential sources of groundwater pollution — a first step toward prevention.

In all, AmeriCorps assigned 15 workers to assist farmers in six watersheds protect their groundwater. Each put in 1,700 hours for a \$12,000 living stipend, education awards for college or vocational training, health insurance and a child-care allowance.

Watershed areas include the upper and lower Grand, Kalamazoo River, River Raisin, Black River, Pine River and an area in Leelanau and Benzie counties that drains into Lake Michigan.

AmeriCorps should be protected and preserved regardless of changes in the Washington power structure. A national service program connected to college loans remains a non-partisan priority.



## AmeriCorps & San Bernardino National Forest: A Winning Team!

AmeriCorps and the San Bernardino National Forest played host to Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Rominger, when he went to the Lytle Creek Ranger Station two weeks ago.

AmeriCorps on the San Bernardino National Forest is devoted to public lands and the environment and is 87 members strong. The members come from towns all over inland southern California and work on projects within and around their own communities, on various agency's public lands.

The program is made up of seven crews that do environmental projects; one crew that does more specialized construction projects on Forest facilities, and one crew that goes to schools to provide environmental education presentations. There are also two members that serve as nature interpreters in the San Bernardino National Forest's Children's Forest in Running Springs.

The education crew has members presenting three existing programs to elementary school children: a Smokey Bear fire prevention program; one on wilderness survival, called Hug-a-Tree; and a program on habitat interdependence called "Habitat Means Home." Eventually, the nine members of the education crew will develop their own original presentations to bring conservation messages to their 1,700 targeted classrooms.

Specifically, the environmental projects that AmeriCorps is involved in are:

- \* Ongoing construction of a native plant interpretive site at Lytle Creek Ranger Station;

- \* A post-fire rehabilitation project on the 12,000 acre Devil Fire which burned in the forest in July 1994. This project has been completed;

- \* Graffiti removal from a highly-used picnic area. This project has been completed;

- \* Construction and maintenance of miles of trails

on the San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests, Yucaipa Regional Park, Joshua

Tree National Park and portions of the Pacific Crest Trail on Bureau of Land Management land;

- \* Rehabilitation of overused recreation areas in Joshua Tree National Park as well as the San Bernardino National Forest, and;

- \* Rebuilding picnic tables for San Bernardino National Forest campgrounds.

Members of the San Bernardino National Forest's AmeriCorps project are highly motivated and many are in the program just as much for the experience as they are for the \$4,725 educational award at the year's end. Many members want to become wildlife biologists, engineers, hydrologists, foresters and firefighters. They are getting exposure to the kind of work they are interested in as well as exposure to specialists in those fields.

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



# Crews working it out

## AmeriCorps gives job experience

By Lee Peterson  
Daily Bulletin

LYTLE CREEK — They wanted to work, and they got what they asked for.

After a few months of chopping, clearing, shoveling and sculpting, the parcel behind the Lytle Creek Ranger Station is more than halfway toward becoming a multihabitat nature trail, thanks to a team of AmeriCorps workers.

The trail is just one of several projects assigned to the AmeriCorps workers hired by the San Bernardino National Forest last October. In addition to the trail, tasks performed by the

various crews have included restoration of fire-scarred wild lands, hiking trail maintenance and graffiti removal from picnic tables.

"It's hard work and it's something I enjoy," said Barbara Hicks, a 26-year-old Bloomington resident, who is part of the nature trail crew.

Hicks, like many AmeriCorps workers, joined the federally funded "domestic Peace Corps" in its inaugural year in order to gain work experience and earn money toward education. The minimum age for AmeriCorps members is 18, and there is no maximum. The enlistees serve for one year, with an option of joining for one more year. The National Forest's crews average age is 26.

In return for a \$4,725 educational grant and \$4.23 per hour, the workers are required to put in 40 hours per week, show up on time and put in a full day's labor, said Jessie McIntire, a Forest Service AmeriCorps team supervisor.

Lazar Jackson of Rialto said he joined the National Forest's AmeriCorps because he wanted to get more experience in forestry, as a possible career. After almost three months in the corps, the 22-year-old said he's getting the variety of experience that will help him decide exactly what career to pursue.

Shannon McCallum of San Bernardino is also part of the nature trail

See AMERICORPS/B2

## AmeriCorps/from B1

crew. "I'm looking forward to seeing it in five to six years down the road when everything grows in."

McCallum is also thinking about "re-enlisting" in AmeriCorps next year, after this program is completed in September.

But members of the Republican majority in Congress have mentioned AmeriCorps as a possible target of funding cuts.

On a visit to Lytle Creek Friday, Richard Rominger, the acting secretary of Agriculture, was optimistic about the continuing federal support for AmeriCorps, which employs about 20,000 people nationwide.

"There are people who think it costs too much money, but it has bipartisan support in

Congress and it's a high priority for the president," Rominger said.

While there's plenty of sweaty heavy labor to do in the National Forest, AmeriCorps workers have been assigned to a variety of federal agencies and do a wide variety of work.

The Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District has four AmeriCorps workers, who are serving in a variety of consulting, surveying and educational roles.

Administered through the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, the workers are helping dairies create manure management plans, educating the public on resource conservation and consulting on various environmental projects.

Jami Fisher, a Cal Poly Pomona landscape irrigation science major, is going to school on a limited basis this academic year in order to make time for AmeriCorps.

By working for the Resource Conservation District, she said she's getting real-world experience in designing irrigation and consulting on other projects. That experience will help when she starts looking for a job upon graduation in 1996.

"It's not just going out carrying tools and doing the hard grunt work," Fisher said.

The district's other AmeriCorps members include two Cal Poly civil engineering students and a Cal State San Bernardino environmental studies and geography major.



# Clearing a path to success

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

Education



Desert Sun photo by Andy Gompertz

John Soto (foreground) of Indio and Patrina Olvera of Desert Hot Springs cut and clear a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail recently as part of an AmeriCorps

project. The workers provide community service in exchange for minimum wage and funds to apply toward their education.

## AmeriCorps provides paychecks, pride

by PAUL R. HUARD

The Desert Sun

Karen Perry stretched her arms wide, gesturing at the mountains around her as she stood on the wilderness trail she helped repair.

"This is my office," the 26-year-old Riverside woman said. "I can't tell you how proud I am of the work I do."

Perry was one of 18 crew members in the regional AmeriCorps program who recently helped clear and repair a section

**BACKGROUND:** When, why AmeriCorps was started/A5

of the Pacific Crest Trail in the San Bernardino Mountains above Whitewater.

AmeriCorps, a national service program, was signed into law by President Clinton in 1993. As a trade-off for a year's worth of labor, participants receive money for college.

Clinton said the program, with 20,000 people enrolled nation-

wide, is his proudest achievement. But it has come under fire from a Republican-controlled Congress looking for ways to trim federal spending.

Last month, House Speaker Newt Gingrich called the program "coerced volunteerism," "gimmickry" and waste of money.

Republican Congressman Sonny Bono said he didn't know enough about AmeriCorps to advocate it being cut, but he said the

See CORPS/A5



# Corps

Continued from A1

\$1.5 billion allocated over three years would make many of his colleagues take a hard look at the program.

"It's apparent there will be a lot of sacrifices required in the future. Then the question becomes, 'Where are the priorities?'" he said. "If it's just giving away a billion-and-a-half, then I think it's going to be a big problem from the get-go."

To many people enrolled in AmeriCorps of the San Bernardino National Forest — a regional program for Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties — the program has become a means to a better life.

Angie Savio of Palm Springs worked alongside Perry, hauling rocks into a drainage ditch they built to keep the trail from eroding.

A few months ago, friends questioned Savio's sanity when she told them she would be working in the wilderness.

"Now I can use a chainsaw," said the 20-year-old member of Crew 13, based at the Palm Springs Bureau of Land Management office. "Nobody tells me I can't do or learn anything."

Although many might consider this opportunity for public service the equivalent of hard labor, the AmeriCorps members said the program is doing more for young people than the jobs they probably otherwise would get in fast-food restaurants.

"I could be clearing tables," said 27-year-old Eve Komenchuck of Indio. "Instead, I'll be clearing brush. Which job do you think is going to teach me more?"

Called "the domestic Peace Corps" by its supporters, AmeriCorps employs 86 people from Riverside and San Bernardino counties — including five from the Coachella Valley. Participants repair hiking trails, remove graffiti from picnic sites in the San Bernardino National Forest and plant trees on fire-scarred mountains.

In return, they receive minimum wage and a \$4,725 award that can be used for college tuition or to repay an existing student loan. They can work in the program a maximum of two years.

Clinton has vowed to fight the Republicans if they attempt to cut the \$500 million budgeted for AmeriCorps in 1995.

"We need to keep talking about how good the program is and get



Desert Sun photo by Andy Gomperz

**ROAD TO SUCCESS:** AmeriCorps workers earn money for school by clearing a narrow, winding section of the Pacific Crest Trail. The program has enrolled 20,000 since it began in 1994.

## For Information

**AmeriCorps of the San Bernardino National Forest:** (909) 794-6198.

**Corporation for National and Community Service:** 1100 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525, (202) 606-5000.

**Recruitment:** This spring, AmeriCorps will recruit in high schools and community colleges throughout Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties.

**Applications:** Accepted beginning in June. Next service year begins in August.

**To participate:** Candidates must complete an application, orientation and interview. Members are chosen based on "a true desire to go on to school," Director Randy Scurry said.

## Local projects:

Repairing walking trails in the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve; removing brush and trees near Idyllwild; rebuilding trails to resist erosion in Joshua Tree National Park.

member said the program already helped him choose a career. John Soto of Indio rose to the position of crew boss since he joined AmeriCorps in October.

Soto, 29, said he wants to be a firefighter, a job he learned to admire while working in AmeriCorps.

"When you're young, you don't look to the future," Soto said. "I need to provide for my family. I think I've found a way."

people to help us get the message out," Clinton said before leaving Palm Springs this week.

At least one AmeriCorps



# Americorps team researches resource management plans

By SCOTT NIENDORF  
Staff writer

People could say the Americorps program is President Bill Clinton's domestic Peace Corps.

Taking a page from the international program, Clinton has geared up the Americorps program to provide opportunities to give people a way to give back to their communities.

In the four-corners region of the western United States, there are approximately 40 Americorps members working together in different capacities to efficiently develop or protect the area's resources.

Six individuals in Utah are under the direction of Kresha Eastman of Green River, who oversees the Americorps program through her position with Castleland Resource Conservation & Development in Price.

Three Americorps members work out of Monticello and three work out of Price. They receive a stipend for living expenses and a voucher at the end of their service, good for continuing higher education studies or to help pay off student loans.

Locally, the three people working for Americorps are well-educated in a variety of backgrounds.

Nancy Steele, Helper, comes to the Carbon County area from Florida via Colorado. She collects economic development-related information and assists the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments with information related to community development block grants.

Anna Prawl came from Tucson, Ariz., and wanted to work in the Price area for Americorps after living in Salt Lake at one time. She works with economic development programs to research potential business expansion and retention in a rural setting plus seeks possible training for entrepreneurs.

Eldon Miller, Helper, is the only native to the region. He does research on natural resources indigenous to the area and the local economies dependent on them, providing important data in layman's terms on agriculture, mining and tourism for potential decision-making on how to utilize those resources.

The group is located here to

hopefully enhance and complement existing organizations to provide valuable information on resource management. Miller has a master's degree in conservation and outdoor education. Prawl has a master's in social work and Steele brings a degree in anthropology to the team.

Eastman said their variety of perspectives will help to add a different, less-technical view of resources and their impact on local communities.

The program geared up in September and the team members should be working at full speed in early 1995.

One of the valuable research goals the Americorps members would like to accomplish is to study resource management plans of various local entities, from cities to county agencies, to understand and explain their management plans and how they all interrelate—seeking to find common goals.

Eastman said they will also work with city managers to help identify issues and projects which could benefit the people at large. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our communities," she said.

SUN ADVOCATE, PRICE, UTAH, DECEMBER 27, 1994



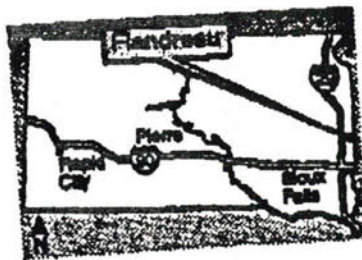
From left, Eldon Miller, Nancy Steele, Anna Prawl and Kresha Eastman (front) comprise a team of researchers working locally in the

national Americorps program to promote the interests of the four-corners region.



THE ARGUS LEADER, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, MARCH 15, 1995

■ FLANDREAU



**AmeriCorps members  
promote conservation**

AmeriCorps members, costumed as Sammy Soil Saver and Wendy Water, will visit Spafford Elementary in Flandreau from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today.

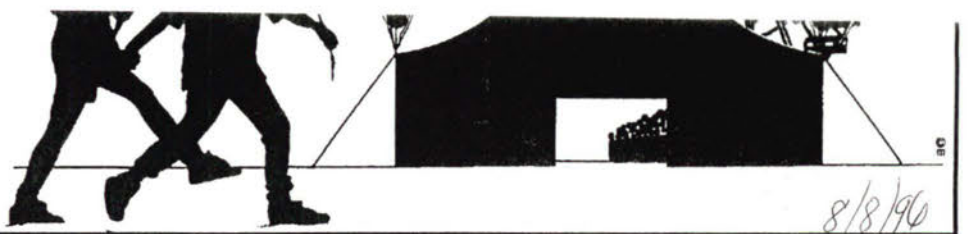


2



# Fair

## August 12-18



## Old habits, new layout: Fair 'confusion' will be fun adventure

By Andrew Schotz

ALTAMONT — It's almost as if Altamont Fair officials have scooped up all the venues, put them in a cup, like dice, and, after a few shakes, tossed.

But that would suggest randomness, and the opposite is true. The new layout makes more sense. Cattle with cattle, agriculture with agriculture.

It was an idea that came from the ashes. "It started when the grandstand burned down," said Altamont Fair manager Reid Northrup, recalling the sad November night.

The goal was to find new homes for 25 commercial booths that had always been under the wooden seats. "We came up with the idea to move the poultry to the 4-H barn and move the 4-H cattle to the big cattle barn. We played musical barns," Northrup said.

Naturally, other dominoes toppled. To find the vegetables, the show ring, even the racing pigs, you can't rely on memory anymore.

For some, the uncertainty was laden with anxiety.

Butch Rossitto of Connecticut has had his food vending booth at the fair for over 50 years. His daughter Nora explained that the fairs she has been to — the last 44 of them — were almost evenly split: the first 21 times the booth was on the midway, the last 23 years it's been at a corner by Gate 2.

Hearing that they were being relocated made the Rossitto family a little nervous, but Monday morning they learned of their new home: diagonally across from the horse ring.

Wherever it had been, Nora



**Demolition Derbies** will be held twice this year at the Altamont Fair — at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, and at 7 p.m. Sunday, the last day of the fair. Fans of auto action can also see two runnings of the Joie Chitwood Auto Thrill Show, at 2:15 and 8:15 p.m. Monday.

said, hungry people would have found their long hotdogs, Italian sausage, and steak sandwiches. "You build up a clientele...," she said. "We have seen children have children."

### Consult the map

The new layout will take some getting used to and will probably require, for most, several glances at the free maps that will be given out at the entrances. But exhibitors and organizers contacted this week said the new arrangement is smart.

"It's the biggest change we've had in a long time," said Dave Hillmann, 4-H program leader for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County.

Except for cattle, all 4-H exhibitors will be in one building this year, in what used to be the country store. Where the 4-H used to be is now the arts and crafts building. The loss of space — maybe 50 to 75 feet — is negligible. Both buildings are at Gate 1.

The 4-H consolidation "will present a unified exhibit," Hillmann said. It will provide better viewing of and contact with the animals, and will be safer, he said. And, "it will help from the staff and volunteer standpoint," he said.

With 400 to 450 exhibitors last

year, the new design took some thought. "It hasn't been simple.... We started in February," Hillmann said, explaining how volunteers from Albany, Schenectady, and Greene counties devised a new plan.

"There's a better chance for people to see everything," said Hillmann.

"Part of the anxiety is probably the fact that people deal with change in different areas. It's much easier to stay the same, but we need to create a different thing to make people excited again."

There may be some excitement in the open class building, where, if you will, the poultry have driven the 4-H cattle.

As Charles Preska of Delmar, the cattle superintendent, explained, "Everything is turned.... People are walking in front of the animals, not behind. Ninety-nine percent of the people are not agriculturally-minded. They are interested in petting the head, not seeing the udders."

Preska said the 4-H addition will mean about 40 more cattle added to the open group of between 150 and 175. Two outside areas will each accommodate about 30 to 40 cattle, he said.

"This is something I wanted to do for a long time but it wasn't feasible," Preska said.

"The way we have it now, there's better ventilation, more air movement. We eliminated some solid walls."

"Last year," he said, "we had a lot of trouble with the heat. We brought in some fans."

Preska is hopeful that even more people will wander in to see the more attractive end of the livestock. A judging ring right on the roadway will help. "We had been hidden by some concessions. People would walk by, and unless they stopped and looked, they wouldn't know we were there," Preska said.

Tom Della Rocco likes how the new layout has rounded up the agriculture in one spot. "There is no downside. A lot more people will visit... We will get a lot more exposure," he said.

Where the vegetables had always been will now be used for commercial exhibits. Northrup said the vegetables have moved to a tent right in front of the fair office.

Della Rocco, the county executive director for the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, estimated an increase in space of about 50 percent. "We were just about maxed out....," he said. "(Now) we can do a little more with displays."

One of those will be on the

USDA Farm Service Agency's AmeriCorps community service program. Volunteers work in the United States, he said, for minimum wage plus a \$1,000 stipend for education. Four people from Saratoga and Albany are involved in the program, which has gleaned 20,000 pounds of food in the region for 22 homeless shelters, Della Rocco said.

### Dick's chicks

If you're worried that too much has moved around too fast, there's at least one landmark you can seek. Dick Langenbach of Altamont, in his 59th year at the fair, promised that his baby chicks will be hatching, an exhibit that has gone on the last 25 years or so.

But to see this annual rite of nature, remember that it's now in what was the 4-H barn.

Northrup said that Langenbach was among the reluctant upon hearing about the new plans. But any doubts Langenbach had were seemingly erased by this week.

Having just returned from hanging streamers, he spoke enthusiastically about the new set-up, which will have cages two high instead of three high. "There are built-in duck and turkey cages," he pointed out. "Before, they were outside the building."

Anyone coming to see the 1,200 chickens, 75 to 80 geese, and 75 to 80 ducks, as well as the special place set aside for pheasants and guinea hens, will be pleased, Langenbach said. "It's completely different.... They will be surprised and they'll like it a lot better. It will be a great improvement."

The new plans for the cattle barn meant eviction for the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Deputies will now share quarters with troopers in what becomes the police building. The state attorney general's office also has a booth there.

Sgt. Christopher Mollard of the State Police in Guiderland said the split between the law enforcement agencies will be about half and half.

The State Police have typically brought a car to show, either a Camaro, a Mustang, or the antique patrol car. This year the police will likely have both a car — a new Ford Grand Marquis — and a new feature: a rollover simulator that spins a crash

(Continued on Page 6)

### The Enterprise

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PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



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SUNFLOWER, Miss. (AP) Several state and federal agencies have spearheaded a campaign to feed the hungry in underprivileged regions of the Delta, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman says.

Sunflower County was chosen along with six other counties nationwide to participate in the "Summer of Gleaning" program, Glickman said during a visit to the Mississippi Delta last week. Glickman said millions of pounds of perfectly good food is thrown away every day.

"I'd rather see that food put in people's mouths than tossed in the dumpster," he said. "Hopefully the community will be able to supplement this program with others."

Hundreds flooded downtown Sunflower on Friday to receive a portion of the 5,000 pounds of dry and canned goods being distributed. The food included everything from watermelons to rice. USDA AmeriCorps members like LaDonna James, who wrote the grant for Sunflower County and helped to coordinate the event, said members are pleased to see the federal government support the first-ever "National Week of Food Recovery."

"Everybody in the community will benefit from the project, although it's targeted at the elderly and low-income," James said.

More than 100,000 pounds of excess food products have been gleaned over the summer with the help of farmers and merchants, said Roger Robinson, an MDEZA AmeriCorps member.

Betty Oliver, state coordinator for USDA AmeriCorps/Rural Development, said the 12-week program started July 31, and "I'm hoping the community will help to sustain it." She said more than 200 families will benefit from the gleaning program.

Rosie Binder, 65, of Sunflower, said she is on Social Security and can only stretch her monthly check so far.

"I don't even qualify for food stamps, and when I pay my bills I ain't got nothing for food," she said. "So this is the best thing that could have happened for me."

Other organizations that helped to co-sponsor the event are the Mississippi Food Network, Eubanks Farms and Lewis Grocery of Indianola.

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Received by NewsEDGE/LAN: 8/18/96 2:33 PM



# AmeriCorps: making a difference

Of the 46 teams assigned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the AmeriCorps program, South Carolina is hosting three.

AmeriCorps is the new service initiative described by President Clinton in his inaugural address and put into operation shortly thereafter.

Sponsored by government agencies, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for a diverse group of members from varied ages and backgrounds to serve their country while receiving educational awards and vocational training in return.

In exchange for their year of service, the participants receive a living stipend, educational awards for college or vocational training, basic health insurance, and, in some cases, child-care allowances. The program also benefits the participants by giving them lasting skills, experiences and training in a diversity of subjects.

Of the three teams serving in South Carolina, the Rural Economic and Community Development Service (RECD) was granted 15 members to concentrate on the southwestern Lowcountry of the state. U.S. Forest Service (USFS) received five and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received 20.

Based in Greenwood and Newberry, the NRCS put its first group to work on public safety and community development. They spent six weeks on a road inventory in Edgefield County, creating a spreadsheet database of data that supplemented an updated road map of the county.

The second Greenwood group spent four weeks on a stream coding project to upgrade the state's ability to gather information about the quality of streams, rivers and lakes.

Another group conducted a grassland survey in Abbeville County, while a final group visited 16 farms to conduct water-quality surveys in Newberry County.

The RECD teams are concentrating their services on the southwestern Lowcountry, while the USFS members are centering on Williamsburg County.

## Qualifications

Education backgrounds vary for the AmeriCorps team members who are either



AmeriCorps volunteers John E. Morgan, III, and Karen Kinard test livestock lagoon waste water.

from the project areas or nearby counties. Mostly college and professional school graduates, the members' expertise is matched with the needs of the rural community they serve.

The teams work to empower communities to help themselves by developing local leadership needed to assure community planning activities that help them reach their goals.

These volunteers learn skills in community and coalition building, strategic planning, environmental protection strategies

and communication enhancement.

## USDA

Overall, there are more than 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers in this service initiative designed to address the nation's needs in the areas of education, human service, public safety and environmental needs from a community perspective.

The United States Department of Agriculture received almost half of the 2,500 AmeriCorps slots awarded to federal agencies. Of these, the 40 members assigned to South Carolina are carrying out their assigned task.

USDA was set up by Congress as a "people's department to acquire among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture . . . and to procure, propagate and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants."

Rural electrification was initially set up as a part of the USDA, and continues under that agency.

"The USDA of today is leading the effort to bring the AmeriCorps service program to success," said Mark Berkland, South Carolina State Conservationist with the USDA.

"The USDA-AmeriCorps members will help to plant seeds throughout America for a future built upon volunteerism and community service," he continued. [From material gathered by Angi Paulus.] ↑

MARCH 1995 / LIVING IN SOUTH CAROLINA



# The Daily News

NO-24

MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1995

14 Pages

## Group tracing pioneer paths

By William Saunders  
Staff Writer

Several groups are working to make U.S. 25E and U.S. 11W into a tourist attraction for Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wilderness Road will trace historic pioneer paths that follow the current routes, as well as highlighting area food, lodging and entertainment sites.

"We have a lot of families that came through here years ago when the area was being founded, and now people come through here looking to trace their roots," said Mary Russell, Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) - Americorps.

The road begins at Elizabethtown, runs through Rogersville and ends at Cumberland Gap. "We're planning a map of the Wilderness Road with historical sites on it, as well as food, lodging and a range of other items," she added. The map is scheduled to go to print June 1.

The goal of the road, she said, is to highlight the historical significance of the area, as well as to bring in tourism.

"Our main goal is historical preservation," she said. "We've been writing grants to preserve different sites along the road. Also, the road will bring visitors to the area with appreciation of the historical areas of Tennessee, including but not limited to Daniel Boone."

"The main trail will attract visitors here initially, and offshoots from the trail will get them into surrounding counties," said Lindy Turner, Clinch-Powell RC&D.

**"Our main goal is historical preservation. We've been writing grants to preserve different sites along the road. Also, the road will bring visitors to the area with appreciation of the historical areas of Tennessee, including but not limited to Daniel Boone."**

—Mary Russell

Area counties that would be directly affected by the Tennessee Wilderness Road will be Claiborne, Hawkins and Grainger.

The road program came about through the combined efforts of Clinch-Powell RC&D, Northeast Tennessee Tourism Council, First Tennessee Development District and Middle East Tennessee Tourism Council.

Russell said the program was based on similar roads in Virginia and Kentucky, such as the Daniel Boone Heritage Trail in Kentucky. Such roads have been proven to help boost economies in the communities through which they pass.

Road signs marking the trail are not in place, but Russell said they will be posted at a later date.







## AmeriCorps in Four Corners

AZTEC – Four AmeriCorps workers have set up shop in the Natural Resources Conservation and Development office in Aztec, N.M., while nine more are working with the Council of the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development in Southwest Colorado.

AmeriCorps engages diverse groups of Americans in performing service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment.

The Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams – an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environmental team, and a rural development team. There are 1200 workers in the various programs at 42 urban and rural sites nationwide.

The Aztec contingent is made up of Ana Gomes, a natural resource specialist from central valley California specializing in environmental anthropology; Erick Aune, a natural resource specialist from Detroit specializing in natural resource development; Laura Horochowski, an education information specialist from Missouri specializing in fine arts. They will be focusing on San Juan, McKinley and Cibola counties. Another AmeriCorps member,

Shantel Farnsworth, is working for Rural Economic and Community Development, formerly known as the Farmers Home Administration.

Nine AmeriCorps members are working with the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development, the USDA Forest Service, Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, the Southern Ute Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the San Juan Forum.

Region 9 is up-dating its Overall Economic Development Plan. One worker, Amy Callard, a graduate of Colorado State University with a masters degree in business administration and an undergraduate degree from Fort Lewis College, is up-dating data through information gathered from the Colorado Census Bureau, the National Census Bureau, the state office of the Division of Local Governments, County Clerks and Chamber of Commerces.

The information will be offered to the public in written form, and through the San Juan Basin's new telecommunications information system, SCAN, the Southwest Colorado Access Network, 259-9350. The information is accessed by a computer with modem and a telephone line. 





Top: The author (second from left) and team at "spike camp" on the Olympic Peninsula.

## Spike Camping & Other Thrills on the Olympic Peninsula AmeriCorps: Getting Things Done

By Cherie Ude • Photos by Erik Kvilaas

Welcome to the first year of AmeriCorps, a federally-funded program designed to help our communities and environment through "national service" (*a la* the Peace Corps). This gives a chance for young people to give (and receive) education and job skills, while developing a sense of pride in the nation in which we live. For the public, this

means upgraded campgrounds and trails that conform with the American Disabilities Act, an improved logging economy through pruning trees for selective lumbering, preservation of old growth and endangered species with projects like habitat surveys, and building and installing bird and bat boxes. It's a program from which all of us benefit —

environmentalists and loggers, hikers and fishers, Forest Service and the volunteers of AmeriCorps. The program is nationwide; more than 22,000 people are involved in programs set up across the US, doing work in a variety of fields: environmental, public safety, education, and human services. The AmeriCorps motto is "getting things done"

— and that's exactly what we're doing!



I am one of the many thousands of guinea pigs in this new program. I first became aware of AmeriCorps from a newspaper ad looking for people interested in environmental issues and willing to work out of Port Townsend. My interest quickly aroused, I called and soon received information and an application.

The Olympic Peninsula program (operated by the Oregon-based Northwest Youth Corps, contracting under the AmeriCorps umbrella), offered housing at the Fort Worden State Park, a small living stipend, and a college award of \$4,725 after 1,812 hours of service — about ten months. It all sounded too good to be true: Port Townsend was close to my home on Whidbey Island; I enjoy working outside and have always been concerned about the environment; I needed a job because I'd been traveling for an extended period, and I haven't been to college, so the education award was appealing.

After sending in the extensive application and enjoying a positive preliminary phone interview, my next month was spent hovering expectantly over the phone. As time dragged on, though, I became convinced I hadn't gotten the job; I spent my hours pestering and complaining incessantly to my parents. Imagine their relief when, two weeks before the job's starting date, the call came asking me to report to Fort Worden on November 1. The call was followed by a brief note, describing what to bring and where to go on the first day. My next two weeks were spent frantically packing, re-packing, and running around buying new things (a new job means it's time to shop, right?).

The day finally came when I took the ferry over to Port Townsend to begin our first two weeks of orientation. I still believe that first impressions are important, but I no longer believe they're always accurate. The AmeriCorps volunteers that showed up that day were so diverse, I had my doubts as to whether any of us had *anything* in common. There were huge, intimidating people and petite people who looked like a gust of wind would blow them over; there were shaved heads and hair to the waist, loud, high-energy people and quiet mice in the corner. How could we really expect to work and live together?

We were taken up to one of Fort Worden's old houses, where all 40 of us were to live. Perhaps predictably, some of our first lessons were in conflict resolution and space management. We had to figure out special hours for the hackey-sack players to do their thing without disturbing the readers and sleepers downstairs; quiet hours in the evenings were, and sometimes still are, a major source of conflict. Keeping the kitchen and the common rooms clean, too, was a problem at first.

Orientation was a good time for us to scope out potential problems and get them solved. We had many workshops on functioning together as a team, developing leadership skills, and maintaining equality — lessons that help a diverse group live and work together efficiently. We also played a lot of "get to know each other" games; we took several field trips — exploring Port Townsend and Fort Worden, traveling to nearby ranger stations, doing trash cleanups, and taking a couple hikes to learn about old-growth forests and resident animals. Our first two weeks







## AmeriCorps will help at Winter Shows

AmeriCorps National Services Organization enrollees will work with the Red River Valley Winter Shows at Crookston during the Winter Shows February 17 - 20. AmeriCorps members, wearing various symbols of their national service program, hope to provide needed help to ensure that events run smoothly.

In addition to helping out the Red River Valley Shows organization, AmeriCorps will have booth space exhibiting AmeriCorps information and descriptions of the projects currently in progress in northwest Minnesota. These include the Conservation Outreach project stationed out of Warren, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, McIntosh and Twin Valley; the Agassiz Recreation Trail project out of Thief River Falls and Twin Valley; and the Ag-Waste project out of Thief River Falls.

AmeriCorps will give a short presentation at the Education (Emu) Seminar located in the educational Area on Sunday, February 19 at 11:30 a.m. during the Winter Shows.

If interested in learning more about AmeriCorps and what members are doing in this area or find out how to help out with one of the projects, stop by the AmeriCorps booth at the Winter Shows, contact the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) office to get further information.







# Community News: Mid-City

L A TIMES 10/30/94

## WESTLAKE

### Community Garden Tries to Take Root

Along the stretch of Burlington Avenue between 3rd and 6th streets, young men wearing pagers loiter warily on the sidewalk, their eyes darting from side to side as they boldly approach slow-moving cars with whispered offers of narcotics.

People who live there say that gangs control the street, and their power is evident in the graffiti covering almost every building, fence and wall.

Until recently, a trash-filled vacant lot just south of tiny Maryland Avenue served as a hub for the neighborhood's illicit activities, from drug transactions and consumption to prostitution.

But little by little, a group of local residents is warring control of the lot from the street's rougher elements. And as soon as they can get a fence put in, they plan to turn the neighborhood's most blighted spot into its brightest—a community garden and playground.

"We're hoping we can create a safe place for kids, away from all the drugs and gangs," said Maria, a neighbor who preferred not to give her last name. A native of Guatemala, she raised her two children—now college graduates—in an apartment next to the future garden, which she has volunteered to help maintain.

"When my children were growing up, they didn't have to deal with all this," she said. "But it's more dangerous for kids these days. We want them to have something they can do so that even if they have to see the gangs and the drug activity, they don't have to participate."



MEL MELCON / For The Times

Nola Marie Mott, second from left, and Came Johnston, center, are among those involved in creating community garden and playground.

*Continued on next page*

(Part  
of 2)



The lot on which the garden is slowly taking shape was once the site of a home where an elderly couple lived and cared for neighborhood children, including Maria's. But the house burned down more than a decade ago, and the lot has been vacant since.

Last spring, the lot's owners, who live out of town but were tired of receiving complaints about goings-on at the site, contacted Rampart Division police about offering the property for community use, said Nola Marie Mott, a neighbor who is also a member of More Advocates for Safe Homes in Los Angeles, a Westlake-based community improvement group.

Mott's group had been involved in an unsuccessful attempt last year to acquire a lot at 6th Street and Shatto Place for a community garden. Rampart policeman David Bachman, aware of the group's failed effort, mentioned the new lot to them, she said.

Joined by several other local residents, Mott's group managed to negotiate a deal with the owners to lease the property on a yearly basis for \$1 a month, provided they

maintain it.

"We're planning to have 25 plots, a communal shade area with picnic tables, a composting area and a play area," said David Ceaser, a volunteer helping the group.

Experienced in volunteer work, Ceaser and his girlfriend Carrie Johnston have helped the garden group acquire donations of labor and materials. So far, they have made contact with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which donated the tree and have agreed to till the land once the area is fenced in, Ceaser said.

Finding someone to donate a fence remains an obstacle to really getting the garden started, he said. Afraid that local ruffians will destroy the fruits of their labor, neighbors have been reluctant to begin planting without one.

Already, gang members have tagged an incomplete mural on the retaining wall at the rear of the property that was begun by neighborhood children the day of the tree-planting ceremony. However, the group does not plan to paint out the graffiti until a fence is in.

"Right now, we're trying not to antagonize the gangs," Mott said. "They own the street, we don't.

We wouldn't want to see the tree chopped down, or the kids' mural defaced."

Although the group realizes that a fence won't guarantee peace between gangsters and gardeners, they are hopeful that once the fence is up, the mural is complete and the garden is under way, gangbangers will have a little more respect for their efforts and let their work stand.

Information: David Ceaser at (213) 722-7323; Nola Marie Mott at (213) 736-4512.

—LESLIE BERESTEIN

(2 of 2)

L A TIMES

10/30/94

WESTLAKE L A TIMES  
CITY TIMES  
2/12/95  
Community Garden  
Ready for Planting

After almost four months of preparation by neighbors and volunteers, a community garden is ready for planting.

A kickoff ceremony will be held today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Burlington Avenue Community Garden on Burlington just south of Maryland Avenue. The garden sports new plumbing and lead-free topsoil as well as a donated fence with a locking gate.

Residents who wish to plant flowers and vegetables or volunteer to help others must bring their gardening tools. Some equipment will be provided, as well as seeds, compost and plants.

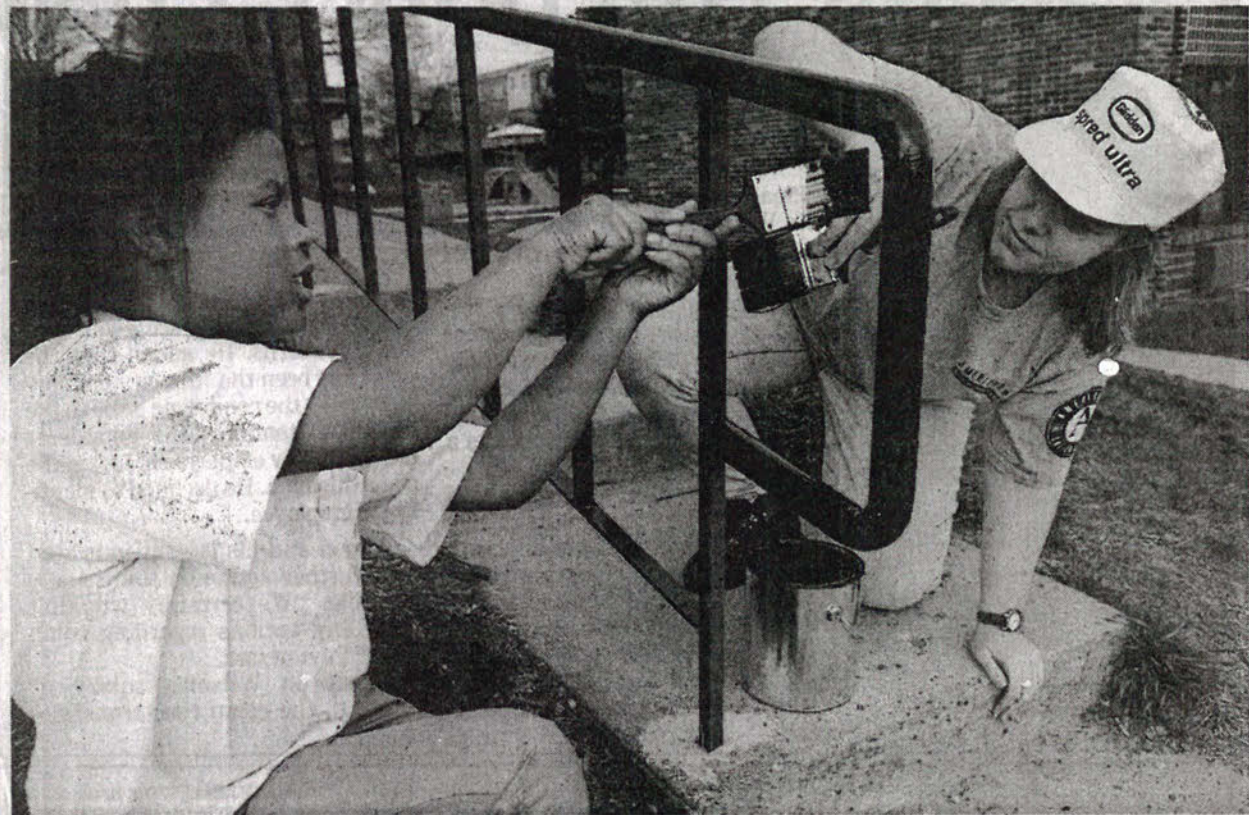
Children and adults from the neighborhood may also participate in the completion of a mural along the back wall of the garden. Paint and brushes will be available.

Information: David Ceaser at (213) 721-0161.

2/16/95  
This is putting  
us more  
ahead than  
we are BUT  
we are progressing  
quite well!  
MURAL PAINTING  
AND OTHER WORK  
THIS SATURDAY



# CITY/SUBURBS



BOB NANDELL/THE REGISTER

**Ameria Adair**, left, an Oakridge neighborhood resident, and AmeriCorps volunteer **LeRon Leist** team up to paint a railing as part of National Day of Service observances Tuesday.

## National Day of Service draws hundreds willing to aid others

BY MARY HILL

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

An army converged on the Oakridge neighborhood in Des Moines on Tuesday.

This army, though, was not there to destroy but to build as part of the National Day of Service. Their weapons were paintbrushes, work gloves, shovels and strong backs.

The 200 volunteers were doing the work that the dozen regular maintenance employees at the complex might not have been able to do in a month of Sundays.

A light rain fell on the volunteers as Gov. Terry Branstad offered his gratitude to the workers for donating their time.

"I see good things that come from (volunteering)," Branstad said. "I'm a strong believer in volunteerism. Every year I recognize strong volunteers. We want to do whatever we can to support (this effort)."

Residents in the 300-unit housing project worked side-by-side with college students and with people earning money for college through the AmeriCorps program.

Ameria Adair, 10, who lives at Oakridge, helped to paint a metal bannister outside an apartment, changing the color of the rails from a dusty red to a shiny black.

"I want to help. I just like working with people," she said.

LeRon Leist, an AmeriCorps volunteer from Oakland, said, "This work is about helping others and doing the work that needs to be done."

Leist earned degrees in art and design and environmental studies at Iowa State University last December. She said she will use the AmeriCorps grant to pay off her student loans.

Stacy Doke said she is earning \$4.65 an hour and \$2,300 for college.

"We're setting an example for others," said Doke as she dug in the dirt

to plant a tree outside the Oakridge main office. "Some politicians say that this is an overrated type of work-study program. But this program has taught us much more than if we were working on campus and just cleaning dorms."

The creation of the program was a campaign promise made by President Clinton. During his visit to Des Moines on Monday, the president lauded the volunteer spirit of AmeriCorps members.

In a written statement provided by AmeriCorps, the president said, "Every day in America, millions of citizens rise up and answer the call to serve their communities in ways as varied as their backgrounds, with one goal — to strengthen the community of America."

"Rich and poor, young and old — Americans unite their will to serve and meet our nation's most pressing needs. Our commitment to service allows us to rise to the occasion and meet any challenge."



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## FAMILY & FRIENDS



**CLEANUP CREW:** Omahan Chad Helmke and Dianna Waters of Lincoln scoop glass in a parking lot at Omaha's Zorinsky Lake. They are in their second week in the AmeriCorps environmental program.

RHONDA STANSBERRY/THE WORLD-HERALD

# Serving Their Country

## Youths Earn, Learn in AmeriCorps National Service Program

BY RHONDA STANSBERRY  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

**O**mahan Chad Helmke has staked out a future in natural resources. And to gain experience, he is turning to AmeriCorps.

Helmke, 21, looked for work with the U.S. Park Service but was unsuccessful. He said he considers himself lucky, though, to have worked for the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and now AmeriCorps.

Volunteers in the new national service program receive fieldwork experience in addition to a living stipend, personal health-care benefits and, upon completion of 1,812 hours of work, a \$4,725 educational award. The award may be applied to student loans or college tuition.

AmeriCorps was launched earlier this month by the Clinton administration. Nationwide, the domestic service corps expects to enroll 20,000 people in programs geared toward education, public safety,

human needs and the environment.

Helmke will be one of 20 people on Nebraska's AmeriCorps-USDA environmental team. Craig Derickson, project director of Team USDA, said five-member teams will work in the Omaha area as well as three others — Lincoln, Norfolk and Tecumseh.

Also under the AmeriCorps umbrella is the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service, which will employ 23 people to work with youngsters between ages 10 and 15 in schools throughout the state.

Those who wish to apply may contact one of nine community action agencies, the Office of Dispute Resolution in Lincoln or one of six mediation centers throughout the state, said Fayette Carpenter, interim director.

The community service commission focuses on youths, Ms. Carpenter said, but "there will be no upper age limit" for the volunteers.

They must be at least 17 and cannot have dropped out of high school. They also must have a high school

diploma or agree to earn a high school equivalency degree," she said. "And there are no income guidelines. This is not a poverty program. It applies to everyone."

In addition, AmeriCorps has absorbed VISTA, a well-established anti-poverty program.

Seventy-five volunteers will be hired for the three Nebraska programs, AmeriCorps spokesmen said. Iowa will have 158 positions, said Jody Heuberger, state program coordinator.

Helmke, a part-time student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in natural resources, said he wasted no time applying when he heard about the program.

AmeriCorps programs are in various stages of readiness, project directors said. Marilyn Anderson, the Omaha AmeriCorps project supervisor and Helmke's immediate supervisor, said she had one more position to fill as late as last week.

Helmke said he believes his 10- to 12-month AmeriCorps stint "will be a great resume builder and

Please turn to Page 31, Col. 1



# Youths Earn, Learn in Program

Continued from Page 27

way to pay for future schooling." Helmke's work partner is Dianna Waters, a 20-year-old Lincoln resident who is considering changing her college focus. She said she had planned to major in English but now "probably will do something with natural resources."

Working with AmeriCorps' public lands and environmental team will "let me get my feet wet and see if there's something else I'm interested in doing," Ms. Waters said.

In their first week on the job, Helmke and Ms. Waters set their agenda, working in Omaha parks sweeping broken glass and gathering litter and answering questions from curious park users.

When they worked at Zorinsky Lake one day, Ms. Waters wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the AmeriCorps logo — an A on a gold sunburst surrounded by blue lettering spelling out AmeriCorps National Service.

Mrs. Anderson said the AmeriCorps team is "the group we want demonstrating what we'd like to do." Teamed with schoolchildren and organizations, they will be role models for future volunteer efforts, she said.

A list of projects that will take the Omaha team through spring includes everything from cleaning public recreation areas to planting wetlands and building fences.

Helmke said his team will help with a bison project in Thurston County in the coming weeks. The Winnebago tribe is trying to establish a buffalo herd as a food source that is lower in cholesterol than beef, Helmke said. "We'll help them build fences" to contain the herd.

In winter, the AmeriCorps' outdoor work will be replaced by indoor programs that involve schoolchildren in environmental issues, Ms. Waters said.

## How to Become Involved in AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is the Clinton administration's new national service initiative for volunteers who will work in about 400 education, anti-crime, social service and environmental programs nationally.

**Who is eligible?** Anyone who is 17 years or older, a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and, in most cases, a high school graduate. **How can you join?** Call (800) 942-2677 to receive an AmeriCorps National Referral form. Fill it out and mail it.

### IN NEBRASKA:

AmeriCorps-USDA — public lands and environmental team, 20 volunteers; Community Action of Nebraska, 23 volunteers; and VISTA, 29 volunteers.

Those interested in working with AmeriCorps projects in Nebraska this year may contact the specific agencies involved:

**USDA Team**  
Marilyn Anderson, 896-0121.

### Mediation Centers

Office of Dispute Resolution, Lincoln, Kathleen Severens, (402) 471-3730.  
Liza Schug, Central Mediation Center, Kearney, (800) 203-3452 or (308) 237-4692.  
Betsy Kosler, Lincoln/Lancaster Mediation Center, Lincoln, (402) 434-9480.

Donna Parnell, Metro Mediation Center, Omaha, (402) 444-1970.  
Debora Brownyard, Nebraska Justice Center, Walthill, (800) 774-0346 or (402) 846-5576.  
Lori Burkey, Panhandle Mediation Center, Scottsbluff, (800) 967-2115 or (308) 635-2002.  
Julie McGreer, Southeast Nebraska Mediation Center, Beatrice (800) 837-

7826 or (402) 223-6061.

### Community Action Centers

Association of Community Action Agencies, Lorrie Benson, director, Lincoln, (402) 471-3714.  
Blue Valley Community Action, Fairbury, (402) 729-2278.  
Goldenrod Hills Community Services, Wisner, (402) 529-3513.  
Lincoln Action Program, (402) 471-4515.  
Panhandle Community Services, Gerald, (308) 635-3089.  
Southeast Community Action Council, Humboldt, (402) 862-2411.  
Central Community Services, Loup City, (308) 745-0780.  
Greater Omaha Community Action, (402) 341-8060.  
Mid-Nebraska Community Services, Kearney, (308) 234-2591.  
Northwest Community Action, Cha-

dron, (308) 432-3393.

### IN IOWA:

Program coordinator is Jody Heuberg in Des Moines, (515) 281-9043. The specific programs and the number of volunteers being sought are:

- Association of Farmworker Opportunity program, five.
- I Have A Dream Foundation, five.
- Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 20.
- Iowa College and Community Action Network, 82.
- Mid-Iowa Community Action, 20 volunteers.
- AmeriCorps/USDA public lands and environmental team, nine.
- AmeriCorps/USDA rural development team, 26.
- VISTA, 60.



Omaha World Herald

## Your 9-25-94 Environment

By Fred Thomas



# AmeriCorps Volunteers Go to Work

Their uniforms haven't arrived, but AmeriCorps volunteers have begun tackling community-improvement projects in the Omaha area.

They have picked up litter along a highway, cleaned two parks, studied an outdoor environmental education area that could become a model for schools, and volunteered to help resolve a neighborhood erosion problem.

They also have begun planning other projects, including one that will help members of the Winnebago Indian Tribe raise more buffalo to improve tribal members' diet.

"Things are starting to happen," said Marilyn Anderson, AmeriCorps' Omaha supervisor.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new national service initiative for volunteers who will work in environmental, education, social service and anti-crime programs.

The Omaha AmeriCorps team, working on environmental and public lands projects, is based in the U.S. Soil Conservation Service's office at Chalco Hills Recreation Area overlooking Wehrspann Lake.

Mrs. Anderson said she and team members began work last week. They picked up litter at Orchard Park and Zorinsky Lake Park and removed trash along Sorensen Parkway near 30th Street.

She helped mediate a solution to an erosion problem in a housing area near Cunningham Lake and agreed to bring her team there to clean up litter on vacant lots.

is the solution," Ajabu says. "If the people don't want us to wage it, they better make some policy changes." Ajabu's "soldiers" wear black fatigues, black berets and T-shirts with the words "Freedom or death. It's not a choice."

The threat of violence by these political extortionists is real. Recently, Ajabu gave an inflammatory speech to a Panther chapter in Wedowee, Ala. Afterward, an arsonist destroyed a high school. Ajabu claimed not to know who set the fire, but added: "Apparently, somebody down there understood what I was saying."

The question is whether long-suffering Americans are going to tolerate this kind of gangsterism the second time around. For behind this Panther revival lies a remarkable and dangerous lapse in historical memory about who the original Panthers were. Without this amnesia, the legend would not have attracted young blacks to the new Panther standard.

The '60s Panthers were an organized street gang with political hustle. As Hugh Pearson's recent book, "The Shadow of the Panther," documents, the Panthers under Huey Newton, Eldridge Cleaver and Bobby Seale extorted the ghetto, brutalized their own members and regularly committed rape, arson, robbery and murder. In 1969, Panthers reportedly committed 348 felonies, including all of the above.

A 1978 article by New Left reporter Kate Coleman in the magazine New Times documented several of these Panther crimes, most of them committed against inner city blacks. The legendary figure of 31 Panthers "assassinated" by police — used by '60s radicals to shield the Panthers from investigation — was shown as early as 1970 to be a fabrication. In fact, almost all had died in the course of criminal activities, in conflicts with other black militants or in shootouts with law enforcement that they themselves provoked.

In the years since, many have wanted



## Creek project introduces AmeriCorps

By DAN SWANSON

News-Press managing editor  
National officers greeted an AmeriCorps National Service crew working Monday to clear South Table Creek.

Paul Johnson, chief of the Soil Conservation Service, and Joel Berger of the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited the crew to help launch the program in Nebraska and nationwide. AmeriCorps, which got off the ground on Sept. 12, is considered to be the domestic version of the Peace Corps.

Berger joined the four AmeriCorps workers removing logs and debris from the creek bed on National Arbor Day Foundation property near Steinhart Park Road. There's no better way to learn, than to work alongside your members. You don't really learn by sitting in your office in Washington," he said.

The Nebraska City project is one of the first in the Midwest and is part of the Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy's focus on helping to repair damage from the 1993 floods. When we visited the flood damaged sites, we promised not to go until the job was done. We're here because the job isn't done," Berger said.

AmeriCorps has four branches in Nebraska -- Tecumseh, Omaha, Lincoln and Norfolk. The Omaha and Tecumseh branches are already in operation and the Norfolk branch is recruiting for workers. Workers are paid a minimum of \$7,600 and receive health benefits. They are also eligible for an educational voucher worth \$4,725 to pay for tuition or school debts.

Working in Nebraska City Monday were Crew Leader Chuck Yearley of Lincoln, Eric Bartels of Tecumseh and Theresa and Emily Sherman of Tecumseh. Bartels said he joined AmeriCorps because of the education benefit and the chance to help the community. Bartels, who is married with two children, hopes to go back to college. Yearley said the program is a way to serve the country and gives citizens an example of national service.



Theresa and Emily Sherman, left, USDA director Joel Berger, Eric Bartels and Chuck Yearley take a break from work Monday. Berger and the AmeriCorps crew worked one day clearing debris in South Table Creek that had been left behind by the 1993 floods.

Photo by Dan Swanson

Johnson told the workers that the Soil Conservation Service intends to build on what they do. "You're the first generation of this program," he said. "This is a program that will only strengthen in future years." He said up to 20,000 people will be working in AmeriCorps by the end of the first

year.

Bill Caldwell, a University of Nebraska Extension specialist, was also on hand Monday to inspect the program. He said he is studying the program to use it with other service projects. "The service component is the lasting benefit," he said. "The spirit of volunteerism

and national service are the things I will look for in building components. We are looking for something that adds meaning to the lives of the young people involved."

Johnson said AmeriCorps gives people the opportunity to work on the land and be of service. "Young

people a great deal to contribute. They want to contribute," he said.

NADF employees are expected to work throughout the winter cleaning the creek bed. AmeriCorps crews moved on today to other areas of the district affected by the 1993 floods.



# Americorps project starts with no tools

By George Pawlaczuk

Belleville News-Democrat

EAST ST. LOUIS — President Clinton's plan to revive impoverished pockets of America through "community service" public work programs kicked off in East St. Louis last week at a cost of almost \$22,000 for each of the 30 workers — and no tools to use.

Local Americorps members started their year of community service by delivering saplings to a greenhouse in Jones Park and wondering why the program had no shovels to pass out. The yearlong, federally funded horticulture program involves cleaning up city parks, restoring greenhouses, planting urban gardens and flood control.

Putting 30 people on the job for a year will cost the Americorps program an estimated \$658,050, which includes salaries, supplies,

materials, and staff. State Community College, the project's local host, gets \$75,000 in federal funds to administer the program. The college and state agencies in return will offer about \$90,000 in services, including staff and materials.

Rufus Williams, a soil expert for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and co-director of the East St. Louis program, conceded that the East St. Louis Americorps volunteers are not only without shovels, but lack such basic tools as "rakes, hoes, hole diggers, tractors, trucks, you name it."

But, he added, "It will revitalize East St. Louis.... Don't judge us by what we are now. Come back in a year and see."

Some of the workers said they had no intention of pursuing a career in horticulture — the focus of the park's reclamation and

See JOBS/3A

Monday, October 10, 1994

Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat Page 3, Section A

## Jobs

Continued from 1A

gardening program — but were simply out of work and happy to have the chance to earn \$4.23 per hour. Members also can take advantage of grants worth as much as \$4,725 each, which will allow some to attend college classes and others to repay old education debts.

Americorps volunteer James Pace, 39, of East St. Louis said he took the work to free up his transcript at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

"This is not going to help me except to repay my loan so I can get my grades and get in another school," he said.

And Florine Johnson, 45, a Centreville grandmother and unemployed accountant, said she and her husband signed up not to learn landscaping or flower growing, but "so we have something coming in. Basically, that's why we joined."

The East St. Louis project is twice as costly as a similar Americorps project set to refurbish buildings in the area of Franklin School in Belleville beginning in January. This program also will involve 30 people, but will cost an estimated \$269,000. It receives state, federal and local funds.

Salaries of the 30 workers in East St. Louis amount to \$229,800, plus \$141,750 in education grants, \$68,000 for child care, \$33,000 in health care, \$13,500 to pay team leaders and \$7,000 in a tree-planting grant.

Organizers of the Americorps program argue that \$658,050 in taxpayer funds will do more than benefit just 30 members.

"It's something positive for East St. Louis for a change," said Don Wallace, a professor at SCC who administers the program and helped draw up the grant application papers.

"It's what this community needs to get going. We

need to stop this negative criticism of East St. Louis," he said, adding, "This is not a public works program. It is not an education program. It is community involvement."

But no official would explain exactly how 30 individuals picking up the parks and planting vegetable gardens would economically jump-start a city of 40,000 that is under state financial control and \$100 million in debt.

"Let's emphasize the positive," Wallace said of the Americorps program in general, which has its roots in Clinton's 1993 "Service to America" initiative.

The East St. Louis project is one of 13 statewide Americorps projects costing \$3.2 million. It is the only one to be completely financed by federal money.

Audrey Morgan, 36, of Granite City was the only Americorps member outside the SCC Vocational Education building last Tuesday, the second day of the program, who stated an interest in horticulture.

"I've already got the school book stuff, but I don't have the hands on," she said.

She was part of a group that carried potted saplings into a van for delivery to Jones Park, where they were off-loaded and stored. The groups spent the rest of the day at SCC checking paperwork.

But Morgan said she was displeased that the Americorps program had not arranged to pay her \$75 a week child care cost, as she was promised.

"It's a good thing my husband is working or I wouldn't be able to afford to do this," she said.

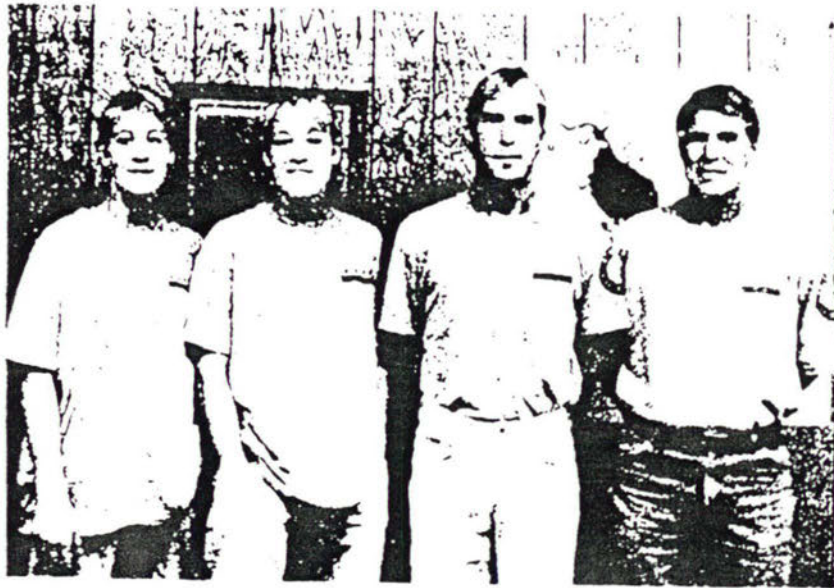
And Rachelle Sanford, 20, a 1992 Belleville West High School graduate, said, "I thought it would be a good deal to beautify East St. Louis. They tell us they want us to accent the positive and skip the negative. Maybe I'll learn some landscaping skills."

This is funded through St. Comm.



# the tecumseh chieftain

Thursday, October 6, 1994



These participants began working the new AmeriCorps program in Tecumseh, September 19. AmeriCorps is a community service initiative created by President Bill Clinton. The AmeriCorps program has been established in Tecumseh and will serve five counties in southeast Nebraska, to help with flood damage and other community betterment programs. Participants from here are, Theresa Sherman, Emily Sherman, Eric Bartels, and Chuck Yearley, supervisor.



# AmeriCorps Team organized in Tecumseh

An AmeriCorps Team has been organized through the Soil Conservation Service in Tecumseh.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing service in a non-profit or governmental agency. AmeriCorps is sometimes referred to as a "domestic Peace Corps."

The AmeriCorps is similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps, (CCC) camps that was designed for students and the Worker's Project Administration (WPA) which was created before World War II.

According to Wes Pope, the AmeriCorps creates an opportunity for individuals to do service to their country and earn an educational reward in return.

The AmeriCorps Team in Tecumseh will consist of Chuck Yearley of Lincoln, as supervisor; Eric Bartels, Theresa and Emily Sherman. According to Pope, there is a vacancy that still needs to be filled. Anyone interested in applying for this program can contact Wes Pope or Chuck Yearley, at the Soil Conservation Service in Tecumseh at 335-3316.

This team will serve the counties of Richardson, Otoe, Nemaha, Pawnee, Johnson counties.

## **Earn a stipend for work**

The above participants will earn a stipend of \$7,660 for working 1,812 hours over 10 to 12 months. Upon completion of the 1812 hours, an education voucher of \$47,725 will be awarded. The voucher may be used to repay student loans or to pay college tuition for two-year, four-year or graduate programs. AmeriCorps workers can work more than 1,812 period.

## **Flood-related projects**

The Tecumseh AmeriCorps group will be looking at projects in

Southeast Nebraska that are flood-related damages from 1993 that still haven't been taken care of. The projects will include inventory of Nemaha Natural Resources dams, and removing debris from these dams.

Another project will consist of cleaning timber behind Lied Center Creek in Nebraska City. Inventories of other areas which may become problem areas.

## **Community betterment**

The AmeriCorps Team will also welcome any ideas of service projects involving community betterment, they may work on in any of the counties they serve.

Other AmeriCorps teams will be located at Omaha and Lincoln and Norfolk. There will be five members working at each site.

"I feel it's worthwhile," it's a national service," it will help clean up from last year's flood," stated Pope. "It may start a grassroots program in which groups can be involved from year to year," he added.

## **Supervisor of the program**

As supervisor, Yearley will work along side the other participants to make sure the work gets done. Yearley will also make sure there's community interaction in this program.

Yearley has served as a regional planner in Iowa, where he was involved in grant-writing, economic development, water resources, and planning.

Yearley is a native of Lincoln. "It's a good opportunity to serve their country and further their education," stated Yearley.

The AmeriCorps program is a 40 hour week program. The projects involved in this program are ones that wouldn't be normally be accomplished by other resources.

According to Yearley, the main goal of the AmeriCorps program is to get things done.



1/28/95 THE SUN (SAN BERNARDINO)

# Agriculture chief praises AmeriCorps in area visit

By DAVID WAHLBERG  
Sun Staff Writer

LYTLE CREEK — Dion Trujillo led acting U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Rominger along a nature trail that Trujillo and other AmeriCorps members had built.

"We're learning about a lot of new things, like forestry and biology," said Trujillo, 28, of Rialto.

"That's what (AmeriCorps) is all about," Rominger said. "Learning while you're working."

Rominger visited the Lytle Creek Ranger Station on Friday to tout AmeriCorps, the federal service program created by President Clinton that has come under Republican criticism in recent weeks.

AmeriCorps members build

hiking trails, design nature centers, repair fire-ravaged areas and plant vegetation for a year. In return, they get \$4,725 education grants. About 20,000 people are participating around the country.

Rominger, who tentatively replaced former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy this month after Espy resigned, addressed about 80 AmeriCorps members gathered in a circle outside the ranger station.

"I feel like I left Washington, but I came home to the best of government," he said.

More than 400 people applied for the 80 AmeriCorps jobs in the San Bernardino National Forest, he said.

"I don't think anyone can call

See AMERICORPS/A2

## Americorps: Trujillo offers praise

Continued from A1

that coercive volunteerism," he said.

Newt Gingrich and other Republican Congress leaders have criticized the program on those grounds.

"All of you have taken government and made it your own," Rominger said. "You've turned a concept into some solid, practical action."

The trail that Trujillo's crew

built outside the ranger station will display various plants of the national forest, from desert brush to mountain wildflowers.

"It's going to be a nice little place to visit and learn from," said Scott Gorman, 22, a crew member from Pomona. "We're going to be able to take our kids back here someday and say, 'We did this.'"

Lauren Whitechurch, 24, an AmeriCorps member from San Bernardino, said he joined the program to learn more about for-

estry.

"It's a chance to learn about the environment and what we can do to help."

Beth Anglin, who belongs to an AmeriCorps crew in Palm Springs, said she signed up because she was tired of babysitting and telemarketing.

"This gives me a chance to work outside," said Anglin, 19. "I love the outdoors."

Rominger said he hopes AmeriCorps gains enough bipartisan support to continue.

"It's people pulling together to tackle community problems," he said. "This is what government should really be about."



# AmeriCorps program may bring sewer improvements to Bolivar

By Margery Smith  
 BC Staff Writer

Bolivar County may soon be seeing needed developments and improvements in rural sewer systems, thanks to the efforts of those behind the new federal AmeriCorps program.

Lebrunski Richard, Bolivar County-area member of the AmeriCorps program, explained that the program will be used to help pinpoint funds for and assist in the development of a rural sewer system in the county.

The program, which is President Clinton's national service initiative intended to address the nation's education, human service, public safety and environmental needs at the local level, also calls for the improvement of living conditions through urban forestry, according to information given by Richard.

However, Richard noted, the program will initially focus only on obtaining technical assistance with rural sewage systems in the county.

"Right now, we'll just be working on the sewer systems," Richard said. "We're looking at

Stanton subdivision (northwest of Cleveland), Hills and East Boyle subdivisions in Boyle, Shelby Farms, Isaac Daniels subdivision of Mound Bayou and Hogan subdivision of Mound Bayou."

Richard explained that he and Andrea Clark of Cleveland, the other team member of the county AmeriCorps program, will be working with the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors to ascertain money for a rural sewer system,

but the job of determining which area will be designated to receive the system will be left up to supervisors.

Area evaluation surveys have already been conducted in the aforementioned areas, said Richard, adding that he expects to meet with supervisors "in the next couple of weeks" to see if they have settled on a target area in the county for the sewer system.

Clarence Finley of Greenville, coordinator with the Northwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Area (RCD) in Stoneville, confirmed that the AmeriCorps program will focus on rural sewer systems.

"We are a nonprofit organization based in the Mississippi Delta," explained Finley, who supervises Richard and Clark. "We are participating in the AmeriCorps program with the U.S. Forest Service, which is funding the program through RCD."



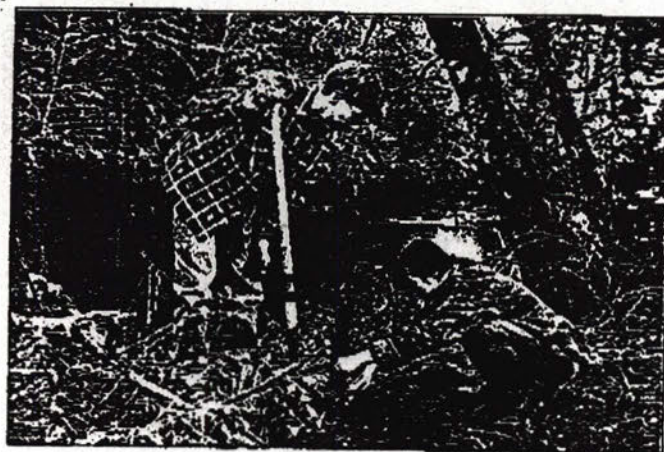


Photo by Robin Kester

Adam Gregory and Hillary Dearborn help the stream bank.

## Volunteers plant trees, partnership

By JIM BOTTORFF  
For the News

Adam Gregory, 15, digs a small hole and carefully sinks a young Western red cedar into the soil.

He stands up and gazes down the 1,600-foot stretch of land along the Mohawk River. Gregory, who lives upstream, knows what erosion can do to the bank of this river.

"We lost a lot of trees last year," he says, referring to his family's farm. "But we will replant."

On Saturday, Gregory and 70 volunteers plant more than 4,000 native trees and shrubs on Dick Eymann's land along the Mohawk's west bank.

Saturday's bank enhancement project, sponsored by the McKenzie Watershed Council, the East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, will enrich fish and wildlife habitat and water quality by stabilizing the river's bank.

The new trees will also provide shade to the river. The shade will choke out non-native blackberries and cool the water, improving wildlife and fish habitat.

Jeff Krueger, one of the project's squad leaders, is excited about the prospects for the river's fish.

"The trees' woody debris will create more than one type of flow," he says pointing to the river, which races southward uninterrupted by any rocks or logs.

"Fish habitat survives better when pools are created in the river," he says.

Krueger, a professional planner, also enjoys getting away from his desk on this springlike day.

"This is not writing or planning," he says, "but doing something that I can come back to in 20 years and look at."

Organizers here are optimistic

that the successes of Saturday's project can be implemented elsewhere.

"This site is a model for what can happen all over Oregon," says project coordinator Lorna Baldwin. "And one of the nice things about today's work is that many of these people have never worked together before."

Indeed, the project brings people together from varying backgrounds on this warm, sunny day.

The job begins Wednesday with Looking Glass Lane-Metro Youth Corps removing blackberry bushes from the stream's bank.

It will end April 1, when a crew from Jobs-in-the-Woods, a federal program for dislocated timber workers, erects a fence to keep Eymann's cows away from the stream.

Val Rogers, of the Pacific River Council and an Oregon State University graduate student, looks at the stream restoration as a part of her academic training. She also believes that the project benefits each volunteer.

"Today's planting makes people feel good," she says as she sinks her shovel into the rich soil. "It allows them to do something for the environment instead of degrading it."

Eymann, who is donating three acres of his farm to the project, has lived at this spot on the river for 43 years. With no dams for flood control, Eymann, 74, watched the Mohawk cover a large portion of his cow pasture last year. He is not worried, however, about the small trees' ability to survive a rising river. He likens freshly planted trees to transplanted people.

"New people in the area eventually find the general store and make friends with the natives," he says. "They put down roots. Just like people, these trees will grow roots, too. Strong enough roots to survive the river."



## 200 farmers eligible for WQIP payments

By Jason Abraham  
Winona Daily News

About 200 farmers in the Middle Branch of the Whitewater River watershed are eligible for incentive payments through a new Water Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) set to begin this winter.

Farmers in Winona, Wabasha and Olmsted counties are included in the program, which was approved by the USDA-Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), recently renamed the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

According to a press release, the goal of the program is to reduce the amount of pollution entering the river from agricultural pollutants. Incentive payments are reimbursement for time and equipment that might be necessary to implement the new techniques.

Under the program, farmers will develop three-year management plans for practices that include pesticide, fertilizer and agricultural waste management. Members of AmeriCorps, the public service group formed by the Clinton administration, will assist farmers with the technical aspects of their management plans.

Linda Dahl, an AmeriCorps member, said they will help farmers come up with their own management plans, which will include projects like specialized crop rotation, contour farming methods and tillage methods. No structural projects — like dams — will be funded through WQIP.

Payments will be made to farmers based on what management practices need to be imple-

### Participation

To participate in Water Quality Incentive Projects, applications are being accepted through Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m. at the ASCS offices in Winona or Olmsted counties. Any farmer or land user in the Middle Branch of the Whitewater River watershed is encouraged to apply.

Further information: Contact Linda Dahl or Mike Aho, 523-2171.

mented and the extent to which they are applied. WQIP payments will be limited to \$3,500 per year for a maximum of three years.

Dahl said a 1989 survey of residents in the Whitewater River watershed asked participants if they felt there was a water quality problem and if they would participate in programs that would address these problems. Fifty percent responded to the survey and 80 percent of the responses were positive.

A somewhat similar program in Rochester that involved residents in the Zumbro River watershed had good results for the past several years, Dahl said.

"We're hoping for a similarly good response with the Middle Branch project and from the survey, it looks like we'll get it," Dahl said.

Any farmers interested in participating in the program can submit an application during a sign-up period, which ends at 4:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at the ASCS office in Lewiston.



*Trailer brought in twice weekly to collect eight categories of discards*

## Problems minimal at Recycling Center as users learn to properly prepare materials

Crete Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts distributed recycling flyers in Crete last week to help residents understand what kinds of materials can be left at the new Recycling Center, and to explain how those materials should be prepared for drop-off.

Residents are still learning how to recycle. A few problems have been encountered at the site with improperly prepared materials, according to Jeff Gorgen, Americorps worker at the Chamber of Commerce office who is assigned to the project. Plastics and cans must be rinsed and flattened, reminds Gorgen. Lids must be removed. Cardboard must be flattened. Plastics that held oils cannot be used. Green glass cannot be used.

A large sign at the Recycling Center also outlines the dos and don'ts of local recycling.

The Recycling Center is located at 9th and Oak, directly south of Crete Foodmart, and

about a half block west of the old depot where the Bicentennial Society conducts monthly recycling drives. It is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., only on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when Mark Tritch of Milford brings in his Dempster Alley Cat, a trailer designed specifically for recycling.

### Acceptable materials at Crete Recycling Center

The Alley Cat is designed with bins for the different categories of recyclables which can currently be dropped at the Crete site. Those categories, and the preparation requirements for them:

- **Paper:** Newspaper and the supplements and ads inside the newspaper. Tie in bundles or place in brown paper grocery bags. **Not Acceptable in this bin:** Telephone books, magazines, catalogs, glossy paper, mail, letter paper, soiled paper products, paper car-

tons.

- **Cardboard:** Shipping boxes and corrugated cartons. **Flatten. Not Acceptable:** Pizza boxes, soiled cardboard.

- **Aluminum Cans:** Aluminum beverage containers. Rinse and crush.

- **Tin Cans:** Tin food containers. Rinse, remove both lids and labels and flatten.

- **Clear Glass:** Beverage bottles and jars. Rinse, remove lids and metal neck rings. **Not acceptable:** Broken glass, light bulbs, window glass, mirrors, drinking glasses, ceramics, Pyrex cookware, perfume bottles, personal care product bottles, colored bottles.

- **Brown Glass:** Same requirements as for clear glass.

- **Plastic Jugs:** Plastic milk or juice jugs. Rinse, remove lids, and flatten.

- **Other Plastic Containers:** Containers imprinted with No. "1"

or No. "2" recycling emblems, including pop bottles, cleaning product bottles and personal care bottles that have smaller necks than bases, such as shampoo bottles. **Not acceptable:** Containers that held any kind of oil, gas treatment fluid, windshield washer fluid, brake fluid, pesticides, or herbicides, plastic toys and plastics imprinted with recycling emblems numbered 3 through 7.

There is no payment for or charge to individuals taking recyclables to the center. Any profits resulting from ultimate sale of the recyclables goes to Tritch who owns the equipment.

The purpose of recycling is to eliminate, through reuse, some of the waste which is filling landfills.

Tritch reports that recycling has been light the last couple of recycling days, probably because of the weather.



## AmeriCorps team member Gorgen is assigned to Crete

Crete is hosting 1995-1996 AmeriCorps-Team USDA member Jeff Gorgen. Gorgen, a full-time member of the Rural Development Corps, is working out of the Crete Chamber of Commerce office. He will be here 10 months.

Gorgen has already been working with local volunteers on the new recycling program in Crete and has been working with other AmeriCorps workers on a Southeast Nebraska community resource directory scheduled for completion in February. He is also interested in developing of a data base to match volunteers with community needs.

Gorgen, 28, was born and raised in O'Neill. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1992, studying history, political science and English. After managing a finance company branch office in Indiana for three years, he returned to Lincoln in January. He completed 17 hours of AmeriCorps training and four days of orientation before his arrival in Crete.

"I joined AmeriCorps in order to fill a void in my life," says Gorgen. "I believe that all Americans owe a debt of service to their communities, either on a small scale or a large scale. I'm looking forward to doing a lot of good for Crete and Southeast Nebraska over the next 10 months."

AmeriCorps is President Bill Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support from Congress. The program

engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in community service projects. In exchange, the AmeriCorps workers receive educational awards that can be used for college, job training, graduate school or student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

"Our primary goal is to improve communities by meeting their education, public safety, human and environmental needs," says Gorgen.

CRETE NEWS  
CRETE, NEBRASKA  
DECEMBER 18, 1995

## Early recycling efforts are encouraging says Gorgen

The turnout at the new recycling bin on south Main has been very encouraging, reports Jeff Gorgen, AmeriCorps volunteer with the Crete Chamber of Commerce who is helping area residents learn to use the new system.

"From 9 a.m. until around 1:30 p.m., Saturday" Gorgen says, "the site was filled with recyclers. The pace slowed after 1:30 p.m., but the amount of material deposited in the afternoon was significant also. The bin used for plastic milk jugs was filled and replaced four times.

The recycling trailer, parked at 9th and Oak every Wednesday and Saturday, provides recyclers a place to deposit newspaper, aluminum cans, brown and clear glass, plastic pop bottles, milk

jugs, colored plastics and tin cans."

Flyers are being prepared for distribution to help residents understand what can be recycled and how the materials should be prepared for the recycling site, says Gorgen.

Mark Tritch of Milford, owner of the trailer, has been at the site to answer questions about the new program, as well as Recycling Task Force members Glennys Ziegler, Lou Albrecht and Tom Sorensen.



# the tecumseh chieftain

Thursday, November 16, 1995

TECUMSEH, NEBRASKA

## Second group of AmeriCorps workers begin area projects

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service began its AmeriCorps program the last week of October at Niobrara State Park. Members from South Dakota and Nebraska took their oath of service, received basic training about the program, learned CPR, and completed personality assessments in readiness to begin helping communities and others with important rural development and environmental projects.

Those selected for the program in Southeast Nebraska include: Jo Anne Britt of Peru, Travis Dunekacke of Elk Creek, Jeff Gorgen of Lincoln, Dawn Kirkwood of Steinauer, and Michelle Hummel-McCaslin of Talmage. They will be working out of the communities of Nebraska City, Tecumseh and Crete.

AmeriCorps members will work with Resource Conservation and Development (R, C and D) Councils throughout the state and with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Chambers of Commerce in their host communities.

Area communities will be able to access AmeriCorps assistance by submitting a request through the R, C, and D Councils, P.O. Box 626, Tecumseh, NE. 68450 or by calling 402-335-3347.

These AmeriCorps members will work mainly in the areas of tourism development, recreational trail construction, recycling program creation and household hazardous waste disposal.

(Continued on page 2-A)

## AmeriCorps...

(Continued from front page)

According to Merri Johnson, representative of the Five Rivers Conservation and Development Area, in Tecumseh, the above workers have the educational knowledge and experience in doing community development types of projects are are completely focused on projects in this area.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, engages Americans of diverse backgrounds to help communities meet some of their needs. In return, they receive a living stipend and an educational award which can be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. AmeriCorps gives back to America by performing critical services daily. AmeriCorps members help by getting things done while building community, opportunity and responsibility.

AmeriCorps workers are paid on an hourly basis. They receive wages on an annual basis of \$12,000. The workers are required to work a total 1812 hours over the course of their year.

The above workers are currently working on development of a resource manual for a workshop for small communities which is scheduled for early 1996. With this manual, leaders in small communities will be able to know what resources are available and where to find those resources.

Another project these workers will be instrumental in achieving is a recreational trail along the Missouri River between Nebraska City and Brownville.

This is the second group of AmeriCorps workers to assist with projects in Southeast Nebraska. In 1994, AmeriCorps workers concentrated on removing debris in recreational areas which occurred during the 1993 floods. The AmeriCorps workers assisted with projects in Nebraska City, Brownville, Falls City, and Pawnee City.



These are the new AmeriCorps workers who will be working in the Crete, Nebraska City and Tecumseh areas this year on community development projects. Members from l-r, Michelle McCaslin, Dawn Kirkwood, JoAnne Britt, and Jeff Gorgen. Not pictured, Travis Dunekacke.



**BASSETT, NEBRASKA**  
**DECEMBER 13, 1995**



**Bonnie Tyrrell**

## **AmeriCorps comes to north central Nebr.**

Bonnie Tyrrell of Atkinson, formerly of Lincoln, has been hired as one of the nine individuals participating in the AmeriCorps program in Nebraska. Mrs. Tyrrell will be located in the North Central RC&D office in Bassett.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of diverse backgrounds to help communities meet some of their needs. In return, AmeriCorps members receive an educational award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back students loans. Most AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

USDA has three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger team, a Public Lands and Environment team and a Rural Development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects will be sponsored by community-based organizations. In Nebraska, Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) and the Department of Economic Development (DED) are participating with NRCS.

The participants in Nebraska will work individually with rural de-

velopment issues in communities located within RC&D areas. They'll be involved in tourism development, recreational trail construction, starting recycling programs where none now exist, and working to educate people on proper handling and disposal of household hazardous wastes as well as other projects identified by RC&D Councils and DED.

Bonnie's first project will involve assisting those communities located on the Cowboy Trail in Rock and Brown counties to develop plans for future development.

If a region, county or community would like assistance on any of the above projects, contact the RC&D office at (402) 684-3346 for more information.



## AmeriCorps/Team USDA staff members are located in area

In Nebraska, Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the USDA with Nebraska Department of Economic Development were able to recruit for 10 AmeriCorps positions for fiscal year 1996, Oct. 1, 1995, through Sep. 30, 1996. The Nebraska team could have five members in southeast Nebraska and five in northeast Nebraska. They will be housed in various city office, chamber, bank or RC&D locations where someone has agreed to act as site supervisor.

Three main community service objectives have been written and accepted by the Corporation for National Service for the Nebraska sites: 1) Identify and reduce the volume of solid waste reaching landfills by 20% through establishment of five community programs; 2) Initiate the collection and recycling of household hazardous wastes by the establishment of one collection center, and 3) Develop and implement a recreational trail. In addition, each rural development team member performing an individual task must have an individual community service objective.

Northeast Nebraska RC&D in Plainview, North Central RC&D in Bassett and Ponca City Hall are homes to four AmeriCorps/Team USDA members in northeast Nebraska. Members in Ponca are Mary Rose Backhaus and Stephen Wilson Cook, while in Plainview and Bassett they are Carmen Shaffer and Bonnie Tyrrell, respectively. Mary Rose and Carmen are from Randolph. Mary Rose has a bachelor of arts in education degree in English and home economics from Wayne State College and is beginning a gradu-

ate program in counseling. Carmen has an associate of arts degree from Northeast Community College and bachelor of science degree in business administration from Wayne State College. She is considering an MBA program. Stephen lives in Sioux City and has an MS-ABD in EDER. He received his degrees from University of South Dakota and Morningside College. Bonnie moved from Lincoln to Atkinson. She has attended the University of Nebraska and completed programs at Lincoln School of Commerce and academic transfer programs at Southeast Community College and Peru State College. She has been accepted at the College of St. Mary in occupational therapy for fall 1996.

The Resource Conservation and Development Councils in Nebraska have been assigned a total of nine AmeriCorps/Team USDA members. Five others are located in southeast Nebraska. AmeriCorps members are available to assist communities and their volunteers with rural development projects. Communities within the RC&D Councils are able to request professional assistance from AmeriCorps/Team USDA by submitting a completed AmeriCorps service request form. This form may be obtained from the Northeast Nebraska RC&D/AmeriCorps location on east Highway 20 in Plainview; by writing to RR2 Box 67, Plainview, Ne. 68769-9504 or by phone, (402) 582-4866 or FAX, (402) 582-3799.

**OSMOND REPUBLICAN  
OSMOND, NEBRASKA  
DECEMBER 6, 1995**



# AmeriCorps members underway

Having recruited only nine persons previously for the possible 10 positions available for the Nebraska AmeriCorps/Team USDA Program, the Plainview position has now been filled by Nadene Chavet of Plainview.

AmeriCorps is the president's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety and environmental needs at the community level.

Of the 10 positions filled by the program, five are located in southeast Nebraska and five in northeast Nebraska.

Chavet was recently added to the northeast's staff and will be located at the Plainview Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) office.

Chavet graduated from Wayne State College in December with a BS degree in Business Administration and is beginning to work on a MBA program this month.

The other four in northeast Nebraska are Mary Rose Backhaus of Randolph and Stephen Wilson Cook of Sioux City at the Ponca site, Carmen Shaffer of Randolph at the Plainview office and Bonnie Tyrrell at the North Central RC&D office in Bassett.

AmeriCorps members are available to assist communities and their volunteers with rural development projects. Community projects considered can be in areas other than the three main objectives of the group. The three objectives are:

1. Identify and reduce the volume of solid waste reaching landfills by 20 percent through establishment of five community programs.

2. Initiate the collection and recycling of household hazardous waste by the establishment of one collection center, and



Members of the AmeriCorps/Team USDA are, front row, left to right: Mary Rose Backhaus and Nadene Chavet; back row: Stephen Wilson Cook, Bonnie Tyrrell and Carmen Shaffer.

3. Develop and implement a recreational trail.

Each member of AmeriCorp also will have an individual community service objective.

Shaffer has set a goal of updating or establishing eight community profiles. A community profile is information about a town. Each profile will list a variety of information, like housing, transportation, health facilities, education, among other items.

Chavet, who is the newest member, has yet to set up her individual goal.

Other goals being looked at are recycling in five communities, hazardous waste collection day in three RC&D offices, a strategic plan for

economic development of multiple communities along the Cowboy Trail, establishment of park restrooms and flower gardens in Chambers, develop an educational presentation on the importance of recycling and develop an extended database of recycling resources and providers.

The Ponca group has already accomplished one of their goals, which was a photometric index of Ponca.

With the help of Ponca High School students, Wilson and Backhaus mapped and photographed areas of Ponca to watch the increase or decrease of waste material in parts of town.



CRETE NEWS  
CRETE, NEBRASKA  
DECEMBER 18, 1995

## Local AmeriCorps Members Make Presentation at Bloomfield

The Northeast Nebraska RC & D held its annual meeting and election of officers Monday, Nov. 27, at the new Bloomfield Community Center. Their hosts for the evening were outgoing president, Ryan Bloomquist and his wife, Janice. The evening began with a meal provided by the Bloomquists, followed by a tour of the new facility.

A presentation was made by AmeriCorps members; Mary Rose Backhaus and Stephen Wilson Cook from the Ponca site, and Carmen Shaffer from the Plainview site. Information was presented on the AmeriCorps program in Nebraska, particularly Northeast Nebraska.

During the business meeting several trivia questions, relating to various projects of the RC & D, were asked of those present and various appropriate prizes were awarded. Election of officers was

held with Garry Anderson of Dixon, president-elect; Carmen Shaffer of Randolph, vice president; Kate Boswell of Allen, secretary and Ardith Carr of rural Elgin, treasurer. A slate of board members was accepted for vacancies of the RC & D, they are Leonard Beckman for Antelope County; Carmen Shaffer, Cedar County; Dave Krusemark, Dixon County; Bob Lundholm and Bill Stonacek, Pierce County and Susan Gilmore, Wayne County.

Following the election of officers, Linda Kastning, outgoing vice president, presented a desk-pen set to Ryan Bloomquist with the inscription *1st President of Northeast Nebraska RC & D - 1992-1995*. Donna Christiansen, an Earth Team volunteer, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and gift for volunteering over 84 hours, for fiscal year 1995, at the RC & D office.



# REGION

A6

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1995

The Forum

## Communities, collegians gain from Corps

N.D. students say experience is as valuable as the financial incentives that the program provides

Minot, N.D. (AP)

Kelly Boesch and Jessica Krumwiede both were looking for a way to finance their college educations. They found in a relatively new program similar to the Peace Corps, and their experience is paying off in more ways than just financially.

Boesch and Krumwiede, both of Devils Lake, signed up for AmeriCorps, a national service program started by President Clinton in 1994. Boesch is in his first year of service, Krumwiede in her second. They don't regret postponing their educations to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It's a worthy project - I really believe in it," Boesch said. "It's good for

*"These are services that are not offered by anyone else. There's kind of a void, and that's where AmeriCorps comes in."*

Jay Mar, North Dakota AmeriCorps director

the experience and the scholarship."

Those who complete 1,700 hours of community work during nine months in the program earn a \$4,725 grant, said Jay Mar, manager of the Natural Resource Conservation Service Lake Agassiz Regional Council in Fargo. Mar is directing the AmeriCorps project in North Dakota this year.

The grant can be used to pay tuition or to pay off student loans.

Boesch, 19, and Krumwiede, 21, are two of five people in North Dakota working in AmeriCorps this year.

In North Dakota, AmeriCorps is run through the conservation service. The program's main objective this year is to increase awareness in rural commu-

nities and on farms - particularly in the southeastern part of the state - of the need for protecting ground and surface water from contamination.

That involves identifying potential sources of contamination both on farms and in towns, and documenting those sources, Krumwiede said.

"We put all that on a map, in case there was ever an accident," she said. "The town would then come up with a plan of what they would do in that situation."

Identifying possible sources of contamination means a lot of knocking on doors and asking questions, Boesch said.

"A lot is with farmers, and I can relate there," said Boesch, who grew up

on a farm. "That helps. If a vehicle with government plates pulls up, you never know what farmers will think."

The AmeriCorps members are also helping ranchers in the southeastern part of the state implement proper grazing management plans. They're doing that by sponsoring workshops and by doing inventories of field plant species for ranchers.

Communities can request workers for local projects, Mar said.

"These are services that are not offered by anyone else," he said. "There's kind of a void, and that's where AmeriCorps comes in and provides assistance. And the beauty of the program is ... AmeriCorps does not charge the community."



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# Work begins on Roosevelt trail

Volunteers being  
sought to help with  
milelong project

BY BRIAN DONAHUE

Staff Writer

ROOSEVELT — Borough officials have found a way to take advantage of the area's greenbelt in a way that will help keep the natural environment safe and give local admirers a better glimpse of their own ecosystem.

The borough recently matched a \$2,500 state Department of Environmental Protection grant to design a milelong nature trail in the woods around South Rochdale Avenue, according to public works employee Gayle Donnelly. The total sum of \$5,000 was used for analysis and design. Officials will decide how to fund construction or work fees in the future.

In the meantime, Donnelly and interns from state and federal environmental groups already are getting started at no extra cost to the borough.

The trail, which will begin near the post office, will contain several different resources depending on the land on which it is built. For example, in the wet portions of the forest, boardwalks will be designed. Other areas of the trail will be made of crushed stone or woodchips.

"This will allow the trail to be preserved and will also give access (to the forest). It is all part of a master plan report," according to Alan Goodheart, a Princeton-based landscape architect who, along with the borough's environmental commission, designed the trail over the past year.

"Signs will mark the trail and certain features, and there will also be tree markers," Goodheart said.

Last week, Donnelly and a student intern from AmeriCorps, the nationwide volunteer program, began cutting "invasive species" from the trail. "Invasive, exotic plants come and take over (the natural vegetation)," Donnelly said. "And the area loses its biodiversity."

Donnelly said future work will include digging holes for small amphibian ponds, and just "making the area accessible to learn about the environment." The project, she said, is designed to be more educational than anything else.

Goodheart said officials did not have to worry about regulations from state or federal environmental groups because the area of the trail was cleared recently to repair a sewer line that runs through the woods.

The job now for the borough is to find ways to get the construction done, according to Mayor Lee Allen.

"The funding of the construction is up to the borough," he said.

For now, he said, the borough is accepting interns to work on the project at no cost to taxpayers.





*Amy Wilson, Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development AmeriCorps Supervisor and Brad Pearce, AmeriCorps member spread bark mulch on the trail around the perimeter of the land lab which is*

*located west of the Elkton Elementary School in the wooded area next to the Umpqua River. A variety of trees donated by Coquille Watershed Association were planted for a tree identification project.*



*Attendance at the AmeriCorps meeting included: Back row, left to right, Jim Collins, Brad Pearce, Dave Jacobs, J.R. Van Slyke, Ronald Yockim; middle row, Lee Russell, Amy Wilson, Dave Harris, Leigh Baker, Linda Higgins, Denise Troxell; front, Ed Cooley, Pat McVean.*



## WEEDING in the WILD

*EnviroCorps workers toil on island  
in effort to stamp out Scotch Broom*

By JANET GOETZE  
of The Oregonian staff

**WEST LINN** — The bright yellow flowers of Scotch broom are pretty in their native land — Scotland.

In this country, however, the plant introduced as an ornamental species about 140 years ago has become a threat to native flowers.

For the past several years, The Nature Conservancy has recruited volunteers to fight the ornamental-turned-pest on an island it owns a mile upstream from West Linn's Willamette Park. This year, however, it has special help from the government.

About a dozen members of the EnviroCorps, a branch of the federal AmeriCorps program which helps meet critical needs in cities and natural areas, are on the island this week. They are pulling up young shoots, cutting down large clusters. Scotch broom, which some plant experts also call Scotch heather,

The Conservancy, a private, non-profit organization specializing in preservation of natural areas, wants the nonnative off the 20-acre island to save the habitat of the white-rock larkspur.

The larkspur, also called a delphinium because its full scientific name is *Delphinium leucophaeum*, is found in only a half-dozen places in the upper Willamette Valley.

The Conservancy's Little Rock Island has one of the largest colonies of the larkspur, which is doing well this spring despite the Scotch broom threat, said Daniel W. Salzer, the research coordinator for the organization.

Over the past half-dozen years, however, drought kept down the numbers of the white flowers that bloom on pale, slender stalks.

For members of the federal program, snipping away at broom branches was wet work in Wednesday's drizzle. Nevertheless, several said the seedling remains re-

**"**  
*I've learned a lot about the Northwest's habitat and native species versus the exotic plants. Everyone is very motivated.*

Kathryn Heriza,  
EnviroCorps volunteer

**"**

warding, both intellectually and financially.

Most members of EnviroCorps are 18 to 22 years old, though some are in their 30s and 40s. Some have completed college degrees and are working, in part, to pay off student loans. Some are still working on degrees, and their pay goes toward college expenses.

For Jonathan Mugglestone, 21, a Colorado native majoring in biology at Lewis and Clark College, the federal program offers experience in managing natural areas and cleaning up waterways.

Before his crew went to Little Rock Island, Mugglestone worked on Columbia Slough projects and helped disconnect downspouts that could direct polluted storm water into the Willamette River.

For Kathryn Heriza, 28, who graduated from Pendleton High School and went to Pomona College near Los Angeles a decade ago, the EnviroCorps is a chance to explore new career possibilities.

Heriza majored in English and taught school in California and Portland for several years. Last



KATHRYN SCOTT/The Oregonian

**EnviroCorps worker Kathryn Heriza helps pay off her government loans by weeding out Scotch broom on Little Rock Island in the Willamette River.**

fall, she decided to join EnviroCorps to see how she liked working outdoors. She had held summer jobs with the U.S. Forest Service while going to college, but she never thought of them as full-time possibilities.

"I've learned a lot about the Northwest's habitat and native species versus the exotic plants," she said.

She also liked meeting fellow EnviroCorps members from all over the country.

"Everyone is very motivated," she said.

After they cut down mature Scotch broom laden with seed pods, the work crew piled the branches on a rocky area blackened by someone's campfire that obviously had burned out of control. But it was an area with little

soil to nourish any seeds that might burst from the Scotch broom pods before volunteers can haul it away to a composting site.

The fire-blackened area was a reminder of the human threats The Conservancy faces on the 50 preserves it manages in Oregon.

The organization encourages visitors to study the plants, birds and insects on its private property. But visitors should stay on marked trails to avoid trampling sensitive plants, Salzer said.

They also aren't permitted to camp overnight, build fires or erect outhouses. Salzer recently had to remove one of those from Little Rock Island.

People, he said, can be greater threats to a natural area than Scotch broom.





A collaborating effort was made to continue the improvement of the land lab at Elkton Elementary School. North County Economic Development provided money for the bark mulch and Boyce and Sons of Cottage Grove provided more bark mulch than the funds could purchase. Bill and Roxy Long picked up the mulch and hauled it to Elkton. Volunteers from North County Economic Development, AmeriCorps, and

Elkton Elementary School all worked together to shovel and spread the bark.

Pictured left to right were: Lee Russell, North County Economic Development; Tim Wilgus, 6th grade student, Ron Owings, 6th grade teacher, right front, Paul Vincent, 8th grade student, right back, Ryan Brownson, 6th grade student, J.R. Van Slyke, AmeriCorps.

## Elkton hosts group, visits Brush Creek, works on land lab project

The City of Elkton hosted an AmeriCorps Team meeting Feb. 2 at the nearly completed Community Center/City Hall. Mayor Alfred Tyson and City Manager Linda Higgins welcomed the group and gave a tour of the facility. They explained the project will be completed in February for an open house in March.

Dave Harris, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) gave a brief but informative field trip to Brush Creek. The area is a showcase of a variety of ecosystem management projects. Ron Yockim and Doug McVean (BLM) both with the Umpqua Basin Fisheries Restoration Initiative (UBFRI) gave input on projects, which was a collaborative effort between state and federal agencies, private landowners and non profit organizations and citizen volunteers.

In the afternoon AmeriCorps members joined forces with North County Economic Development group to assist Elkton teacher Ron Owings and students to shovel bark mulch into wheel barrels, haul to the land lab trail and spread with rakes. A variety of trees were planted around the perimeter of the trail. Donations were made by North County Economic Development, Boyce and Sons of Cottage Grove, Coquille Water Shed Association and Bill and Roxy Long.

Sixth graders working on the land lab trail were: Jennifer Baird, Carrie, Ball, Brenton Breed, Ryan Brownson, Sarah Compton, Rebecca Duncan, Jody Folkedahl, Darin Hammons, Tyree Koester, Samuel May, Jen-



AmeriCorps member Pat McVean introduces Mayor Al Tyson and City Manager Linda Higgins. They welcomed the group and gave a tour of Elkton City Hall/Community Center. The facility will be completed at the end of February for the open house planned for March.



## THE DRAIN ENTERPRISE

In the Heart of the Douglas Fir Region—Gateway to the Pacific Coast

SERVING ALL NORTH DOUGLAS COUNTY

VOL. 73 DRAIN, OREGON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1996 NO. 40 30¢



December 3-10 CLAREMORE PROGRESS  
CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA

# S P R O G R E S S

## O T L I G H T



Progress Photo by Grant Fairmond

Joel Berg (right), National Service director, visits AmeriCorps workers at Rogers State



*National leader visits Cheyenne...*

## *AmeriCorps team looks for renovation projects*

AmeriCorps/USDA projects celebrated the beginning of the second year of participation in the country's national service program during October with swearing ceremonies nationwide.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

U.S. Department of Agriculture will sponsor approximately 1,350 members in 45 states during 1995-96. Members will continue to serve on one of three types of teams: Anti-Hunger, Public Lands and Environment, and Rural Development.

On November 29th the AmeriCorps Team stationed at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Cheyenne was visited by Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA) Washington, D.C. Berg's goal for his trip to Oklahoma was to personally meet and work alongside



*AmeriCorps Team Leader Brant Rogers (left) and Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA), Washington D.C., clean up an old shelterbelt in Roger Mills County.*

AmeriCorps members. During his visit to the area Berg helped the team renovate a tree row in western Roger Mills County. Renovations involved removing old, dead and diseased trees and planting new seedlings in the spring.

The team members are Octavio Villa, Jr., Elk City; Jeremy Moler, Charles Hughes, Robert

Jencks, all of Cheyenne; and Brant Rogers, Reydon.

The AmeriCorps Team will be looking for renovation projects throughout the next nine months. If you are an interested landowner, please contact your local USDA-NRCS office. The Cheyenne Team will be working in Roger Mills, Beckham, and Custer Counties.

**CHEYENNE STAR  
CHEYENNE, OKLAHOMA  
DECEMBER 3, 1995**



# AmeriCorps students work at RSC Reserve

By ROGERS STATE COLLEGE

The Rogers State College Conservation Education Reserve has five new caretakers this semester thanks to President Clinton's AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps is the national service program that allows students to work in a variety of community programs. In return, students are gi-

ven an educational award which may be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school or to pay back loans.

Arnold Hamilton, district conservation-national resource conservation service representative, said the college's reserve has five AmeriCorps students working in a variety of projects. The team's main

project is to complete the development of the hardwoods trail, but they assist in all projects at the reserve.

The RSC AmeriCorps students are Tonia D.L. Fitzpatrick and Taniisha Laverne Brooks, both of Oklahoma City; Steven M. Southard of Tahlequah; Melanie D. Sumter of Stillwater (formerly of Claremore); and Heather J. Dawson of Nowata.

"I think the AmeriCorps program is a very good idea," said Sumter. "It gives people a chance to get out in the world and get some experience for their future and it helps to pay off college."

Sumter has a degree in animal science from Oklahoma State University. She plans to work with youth in an extension program.

"I am looking forward to this spring when we get to present the programs and give educational tours to kids who visit the reserve," she said. "That will be great experience for me."

Nowata native Heather Dawson said she became interested in AmeriCorps while working in the National Resources Conservation Service office in Nowata.

"I was told about the program and decided it would be a good experience for me," she said. "I am planning on attending Rogers State College when I finish the program and to use AmeriCorps to pay for college. The fact that the program is giving me the opportunity to go to school is the biggest thing for me."

Hamilton said the students have undergone training in the environmental programs available at the reserve, such as "Project Wet, Wild and Learning Tree" and other environmental issues relating to tallgrass, forest and wetlands ecology.

"They have been trained to present the environmental education programs for the more than 10,000 visitors the reserve expects to have next spring," Hamilton said. "They will present the various programs and serve as staff members of the reserve."

Hamilton said the students were selected from a diverse background and have different environmental concerns. He said the goal is to teach the AmeriCorps students how to present programs to younger children so that they will be more interested and have a better understanding of the environment.

"We think the AmeriCorps students will be able to present these

programs in a new way so that younger kids will be able to relate better to the subject matter," he said. "The visitors will learn more, the AmeriCorps students will learn more, and the reserve will benefit tremendously from this program."

The RSC program is part of the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service's participation in AmeriCorps. Participants in this program will renovate windbreaks in western Oklahoma and develop conservation and environmental education opportunities in northeast Oklahoma, including the RSC group.

Hamilton said the five AmeriCorps students at RSC have the opportunity for self-improvement such

## Education

as public speaking, management, team building and study skills. They also will be trained in natural sciences, stewardship projects, conservation education, wildlife management, environment and ecosystem relationships.

AmeriCorps participants may serve up to one year earning a stipend of at least \$7,945 and an educational award worth \$4,725 that may be used to pay back student loans or as a scholarship for higher education or vocational training.

Currently, there are more than 20,000 young Americans participating in the AmeriCorps program nationwide.

The AmeriCorps program is just one new aspect of the RSC Conservation Education Reserve.

This year, a new indoor wetlands lab was constructed. Hamilton said the lab will enable reserve staff members to present programs indoors on rainy days, as well as providing a place for student lab work.

The reserve is a 120-acre outdoor facility that features an amphitheatre for programs, a butterfly garden, walking trails, pond and dock, viewing tower, and a challenge course. Each year, thousands of visitors take advantage of the educational programs and other services available at the reserve.

For more information, call Hamilton at 341-4147.



## AmeriCorps trainees

Melanie Sumter (right) of Claremore and Heather Dawson of Nowata work at the pond on the Rogers State Conservation Education Reserve. They are two of five AmeriCorps students working to help pay for their college. (RSC Photo)



# CAPITAL

Monday, November 20, 1995 Vol. XVI, No. 18

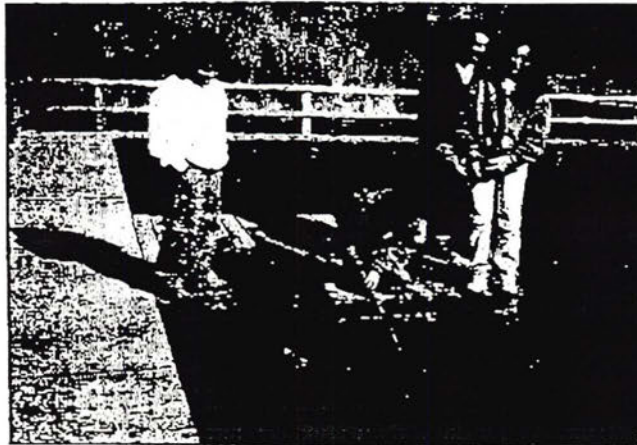
Rogers State College, Claremore, Oklahoma

## AMERICORPS STUDENTS WORKING THE RSC CONSERVATION EDUCATION RESERVE

The Rogers State College Conservation Education Reserve has five new caretakers this semester thanks to President Clinton's AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps is the national service program that allows students to work in a variety of community programs. In return, the students are given an educational award which may be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back loans.

Arnold Hamilton, district conservation/national resource conservation service representative, said the college's reserve has five AmeriCorps students working in a variety of projects. The team's main project is to complete the development of the hardwoods trail, but they assist in all projects at the reserve.

The RSC AmeriCorps students are Tonia D.L. Fitzpatrick and Tanisha Laverne



*RSC's AmeriCorps students are pictured working at the reserve's pond dock.*

Brooks, both of Oklahoma City; Steven M. Southard of Tahlequah; Melanie D. Sumter of Stillwater; and Heather J. Dawson of Nowata.

Hamilton said the students have undergone training in the environmental programs available at the reserve such as "Project Wet, Wild and Learning Tree" and

other environmental issues relating to tallgrass ecology, forest ecology and wetlands ecology.

"They have been trained to present the environmental education programs for the more than 10,000 visitors the reserve

expects to have next spring," Hamilton said. "They will present the various programs and serve as staff members of the reserve."

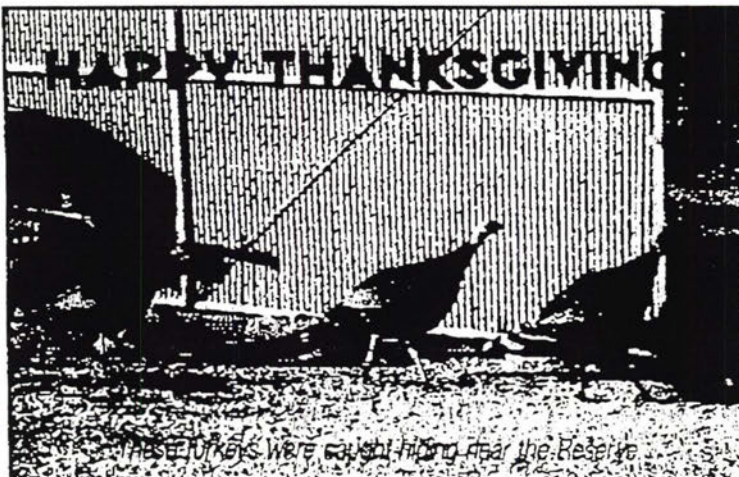
Hamilton said the students were selected from a diverse background who have different environmental concerns. He said the goal is to teach the AmeriCorps students how to present programs to younger children so that they will be more interested and have a better understanding of the environment.

"We think the AmeriCorps students will be able to present these programs in a new way so that younger kids will be able to relate better to the subject matter," he said. "The visitors will learn more, the AmeriCorps students will learn more, and the reserve will benefit tremendously from this program."

The RSC program is part of the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service's participation in AmeriCorps. Participants in this program will renovate windbreaks in western Oklahoma and develop conservation and environmental education opportunities in northeast Oklahoma, including the RSC group.

Hamilton said the five AmeriCorps students at RSC have the opportunity for self-improvement such as public speaking, management, team building, and study skills. They also will be trained in natural sciences, stewardship projects, conservation educa-

(See "AMERICORP" on page 4)



*These turkeys were caught near the Reserve.*



# FARM FOCUS



Rod Atterberry, coordinator for the USDA/FSA Illinois River Valley Ameri-

Corps team, received a plaque of recognition and supports from Nancy Teg-

meier, Director of the Illinois Conference of Churches.



Jean Stufflebean and Roger Fahnestock presented

a certificate of appreciation to Randy Fornoff for his

support of the summer gleaning program.

## Sheep referendum set for October 1

On October 1, 1996, the Department of Agriculture will conduct a second referendum on the sheep and wool promotion, research, education and information order. This referendum is being carried out under the authority of the sheep promotion, research, and information act of 1994. The order will go into effect if it is approved in this referendum by sheep producers and feeders, and importers of sheep and sheep products. If the order is approved, it will become final, and a nationwide program will go into effect to collect assessments from the sheep and wool industry to carry out research and promotion activities to benefit the industry. A referendum on this same issue was conducted February 6, 1996, but the Secretary determined that the results were invalid because the procedures were applied incorrectly and inconsistently.

In-person voting will take place in the County CES Offices on October 1, 1996. Voters who wish to vote absentee may request an absentee ballot from the County CES Office that serves the voter's residence or, if the voter is a business entity, the office that serves the entity's main office or headquarters. Requests for absentee ballots may be made from August 26 through September 17, 1996. Completed absentee ballots must be received in the County CES Office by close of business on September 27, 1996. Ballots will be counted on October 16, 1996.

To be eligible to vote in this referendum, you must have been a person engaged in the production, feeding, or importation of sheep or sheep products during calendar year 1994.



Preparing the special luncheon of gleaned vegetables from the AmeriCorps special program were Jennifer

Clark, Wes Hilst and Mary Catherine Peters at the River Park Bed and Breakfast.



Donna Hines of the USDA AmeriCorps in Washington, D.C. presented Coordinator Rod Atterberry with a plaque at the closing ceremonies on Tuesday.

"Harvesting Hope" served 3,400 persons with 17,000 pounds of gleaned food during this project in the United States.

PHOTOGRAPHY PRESERVATION