



The HOPE Coalition

Humboldt Organized for Peace & the Environment

"Working in partnership toward the development of a diverse, just, & sustainable community."

Calendar of Happenings in Humboldt County Inside

Newsletter Editorial Page – Jan. 10, 2012

Forced Military Testing in America's Schools

By Pat Elder

The invasion of student privacy associated with military testing in U.S. high schools has been well documented by mainstream media sources, like USA Today and NPR Radio. The practice of mandatory testing, however, continues largely unnoticed.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASVAB is the military's entrance exam that is given to fresh recruits to determine their aptitude for various military occupations. The test is also used as a recruiting tool in 12,000 high schools across the country. The 3 hour test is used by military recruiting services to gain sensitive, personal information on more than 660,000 high school students across the country every year, the vast majority of whom are under the age of 18. Students typically are given the test at school without parental knowledge or consent. The school-based ASVAB Career Exploration Program is among the military's most effective recruiting tools.

In roughly 11,000 high schools where the ASVAB is administered, students are strongly encouraged to take the test for its alleged value as a career exploration tool, but in more than 1,000 schools, according to information received from the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command through a Freedom of Information Act request, tens of thousands of students are required to take it. It is a particularly egregious violation of civil liberties that has been going on almost entirely unnoticed since the late 1960's.

Federal laws strictly monitor the release of student information, but the military manages to circumvent these laws with the administration of the ASVAB. In fact, ASVAB test results are the only student information that leaves U.S. schools without the opportunity provided for parental consent.

Aside from managing to evade the constraints of federal law, the military may also be violating many state laws on student privacy when it administers the ASVAB in public high schools. Students taking the ASVAB are required to furnish their social security numbers for the tests to be processed, even though many state laws specifically forbid such information being released without parental consent. In addition, the ASVAB requires under-aged students to sign a privacy release statement, a practice that may also be prohibited by many state laws.

A typical school announcement reads, "All Juniors will report to the cafeteria on Monday at 8:10 a.m. to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Whether you're planning on college, a technical school, or you're just not sure yet, the ASVAB Career Exploration Program can provide you with important information about your skills, abilities, and interests—and help put you on the right course for a satisfying career!" This announcement or one very similar to it greets students in more than a thousand high schools across the country. There's no mention of the military or the primary purpose of the test, which is to find leads for recruiters.

Imagine you're Captain Eric W. Johnson, United States Navy, Commander, United States Military Entrance Processing Command and you had the complete cooperation of the Arkansas Department of Education to recruit high school students into the U.S. military. The first step you might take is to require juniors in public high schools to take the ASVAB. ASVAB results are good for enlistment purposes for up to two years. The ASVAB offers a treasure trove of information on students and allows the state's top recruiter to pre-screen the entire crop of incoming potential recruits. "Sit down, shut up, and take this test. That's an order!"

142 Arkansas high schools forced 10,000 children to take this military test without parental consent in Arkansas alone last year. "We've always done it that way and no one has ever complained," explained one school counselor.

The Army recruiter's handbook calls for military recruiters to take ownership of schools and this is one way they're doing it. The U.S. Army Recruiting Command ranks each high school based on how receptive it is to military recruiters. Schools are awarded extra points when they make the ASVAB mandatory. (See page 25 of: USAREC pub. 601-107.)

(Cont'd. on Page 4)

Pat Elder is the Director of the National Coalition to Protect Student Privacy, www.studentprivacy.org and also serves on the Steering Committee of the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth, NNOMY, www.nnomy.org. He can be reached at pelder@studentprivacy.org.

[All opinions in editorials, action items, & calendar items are those of the writers, submitters, and involved organizations; and not necessarily the opinions of the HOPE Coalition or its volunteers. HOPE will consider rebuttal editorials from the progressive viewpoint.]

ENTERTAINMENT, CELEBRATIONS, & CULTURE

- Friday, January 13: Arts Arcata!** 6 - 9 pm at more than 40 locations in downtown, Northtown, South G St., and HSU. Location maps available at Arcata Mainstreet office in the Jacoby Bldg. Info: 822-4500 or www.mainstreet.com.
- Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14: "My Mind is Like an Open Meadow"** from Portland's Hand2Mouth Theater. A meditation on consciousness, memory and things passed down through generations. 8 pm at the Carlo Theatre in Blue Lake. \$10, \$8. Info: 668-5663 or www.dellarte.com.
- Saturday, January 14: Storyteller Baba Jamal Koram.** Internationally known storyteller uses drums and other instruments to share stories from Africa and the African American tradition, as well as personal tales from his life. Joined by members of North Coast Storytellers. 7 – 9 pm at the Arcata Presbyterian Church. \$10/\$5 under 15. Info: 677-3840 or ncst.inkpeople.org.
- Sunday, January 15: Quarterly Breakfast at the Bayside Grange;** supports the repairs and improvements at Bayside's historic community center. Live music will be provided by The Redwood Coast Women's Chorus, and Kathe Lyth on Celtic Harp. The gourmet breakfast menu includes meat and veggie options. 8 am to noon. \$8, \$5, over 80 free. Info: 822-9998.
- Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance.** Noon - 2 pm at the Adorni Center in Eureka. Music, speakers, and more. All ages. Free. Info: 443-1389.
- Monday, January 16: Annual Bowl of Beans Benefit and Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration."** 5 - 8 pm at the Arcata Community Center. Dinner of beans, cornbread, and salad. Performances by local youth. \$6. Proceeds go to the Arts in the Afternoon and Arcata Elementary School's Art program. Info: 822-7091.
- Tuesday, January 17: "Based on the Book" Film Series** featuring "Brief Encounter "based on the play "Still Life" by Noël Coward. A married doctor and a contented housewife meet by chance in a train station every Thursday. Hosted by Philip Wright. Free. 6:30 pm at the Humboldt County Library, 1313 3rd St., Eureka. Info: 269-1910, www.humlib.org.
- Tuesday, January 24: "Based on the Book" Film Series** featuring "Wuthering Heights" (1939). Based on the novel by Emily Brontë and starring Laurence Olivier, Merle Oberon and David Niven. Hosted by Charlie Myers. Free. 6:30 pm at the Humboldt County Library, 1313 3rd St., Eureka. Info: 269-1910, www.humlib.org.
- Friday, January 27: 30th Annual Choices Breakfast,** commemorating the 39th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Guest speaker will be Felicia Brown-Williams, Regional Director of Public Policy, PP Southeast. 7:45 - 9:30 am at the Baywood Country Club. \$30 advance, \$35 at the door. RSVP by January 23 to Six Rivers Planned Parenthood: 442-2961.
- Friday, January 27: Eureka Chamber Music Series: The San Francisco Opera Center Singers.** Enjoy SF Opera right here in Eureka. 7:30 pm at the Cavalry Lutheran Church, 716 South Ave, Eureka. \$30. Info: 445-9650.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & ALL AGES

- Saturday, January 14: Second Saturday Family Arts Day: Japan & the Prints of Hiroshige.** Activities for youth and families, including performances, hands-on arts projects, & interactive storytellers. Presented by the Humboldt Arts Council at the Morris Graves Museum. 2 - 4 pm at 636 F St., Eureka. Info: 442-0278.
- Saturday, January 14: Magician Dale Lorzo.** Nobody would deny that books are magical especially after seeing Magician Dale Lorzo in action! Stories and ideas and magic collide in an experience of wonder and whimsy. 1:30 pm at the Humboldt County Library, 1313 3rd St, Eureka. Info: 269-1910, www.humlib.org.
- Wednesday, January 18: Family Literacy Night** with Sean Powers and his Shadow Puppets. Traditional and original stories are artfully told with Sean's handcrafted shadow puppets, accompanied by music played on instruments from around the world. A free book will be available for each family. 6:30 pm at the Humboldt County Library, 1313 3rd St., Eureka. Info: 269-1910, www.humlib.org.
- Thursday, January 19: Share A Story "Bear Snores On,"** short video, stories, and crafts. A free book is available for each participating family. 6:30 pm at the Arcata Branch Library, 500 7th St. Info: 822-5954 or www.humlib.org.
- Saturday, January 21: Read With a Furry Friend.** Kids have fun and build confidence as they read to a Reading Education Assistance Dog. Please sign up ahead of time to reserve a space. 1:30 – 3 pm at the Humboldt County Library, 1313 3rd St, Eureka. Info: 269-1910, www.humlib.org.

PROTECT THE EARTH & ITS LIVING CREATURES

Sunday, January 15: Redwood Region Audubon Society Free Public Field Trip At The Potawot Health Village. Join leader Mark Morrisette for this half-day trip exploring the bird trails that wind through the integrated landscape, the Ku' wah-dahwilth Restoration Area, organic permaculture garden, and storm water system that maintains wetlands on the conservation easement. Meet at 8:30 am in the parking lot at the end of Weott Way in Arcata (off Janes Road opposite Ernest Way). Info: 441-1917.

Saturdays, Ongoing: Redwood Region Audubon Society Free Public Field Trips at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Rain or shine, docent-led field trips. Meet with binoculars in the parking lot at the south end of I Street in Arcata at 8:30 am.

Saturdays, Ongoing: Friends of the Arcata Marsh Docent-Led Walks. A 90-minute, docent-led walk focusing on different topics of the marsh. 2 pm at the Interpretive Center on South G St. Info: 826-2359.

WORKSHOPS AND MISCELLANEOUS

Sunday, January 15: Nor-Cal Congressional Candidate Debate Featuring candidates Jared Huffman, Norman Solomon, Stacey Lawson, Susan Adams, Andy Caffrey, Tiffany Renee and William Courtney. Moderated by Ed Denson and Eric Kirk. 2 pm at the Mateel Community Center, 59 Rusk Lane, Redway. Also broadcast on KMUD at 4 p.m. mateel.org. 923-3368.

Wednesdays, January 18 – April 4 : VITA Volunteer Tax Assistance – Free Tax Help! Trained Volunteer Income Tax Assistance tax preparers will help you receive the largest refund you qualify for this tax season. To be eligible for free tax help, your 2011 income must be less than \$50,000. The tax help is by appointment every Wednesday at the Library and other times and places are also available. Call 441-1001 to make your appointment. Authorized by the IRS as a provider of eFile.

MEETINGS

TALK SHOWS, COMMENTARY, & MEDIA SPECIALS

“Thursday Night Talk” hosted by David Cobb of Democracy Unlimited airs every Thursday 7:30 - 8:30 pm on KHSU FM 90.5. It is a live call-in show, so it's a great way to have your opinion heard by thousands of listeners. The studio line is 826-4805.

Sunday, January 15: Nor-Cal Congressional Candidate Debate Featuring candidates Jared Huffman, Norman Solomon, Stacey Lawson, Susan Adams, Andy Caffrey, Tiffany Renee and William Courtney. Moderated by Ed Denson and Eric Kirk. 2 pm at the Mateel Community Center, 59 Rusk Lane, Redway. Also broadcast on KMUD at 4 p.m. mateel.org. 923-3368.

“Through the Eyes of Women” hosted by Women in our Community. News, views and interviews for, about and by women.
January 16: Amy Sprowls on Stem Cell Research, Part 1; January 23: Amy Sprowls on Stem Cell Research, Part 2. Aircs every Monday 1:30 - 2 pm on KHSU FM 90.5. Info: 826-4805 or <http://khsuwomen.wordpress.com/>.



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 PO Box 385, Arcata, CA 95518 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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Save paper & \$\$. Let us know if you would rather receive this by email.

Editorial: Page 1, **Calendar:** Pages 2 - 3, **Action Item:** this page.

Newsletter, Jan. 10, '12. Vol. 18, Number 1. Published semi-monthly on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays; **next Jan. 24, '12.** For calendar items PO Box 385, Arcata 95518 or e-mail to hopecoalition@igc.org. **Next deadline. Jan. 19, '12.** Write or e-mail for sample newsletter. Newsletter volunteers: Dave Keniston, Mara Segal, Mayer Segal, Michael Welch, Paloma Orinoco. Web site: www.hopecoalition.org.

High School Military Recruitment (Cont'd. from Page 1)

Meanwhile, military recruiting regulations specifically prohibit the test from being made mandatory. "Voluntary aspect of the student ASVAB: School and student participation in the Student Testing Program is voluntary. DOD personnel are prohibited from suggesting to school officials or any other influential individual or group that the test be made mandatory. Schools will be encouraged to recommend most students participate in the ASVAB Career Exploration Program. If the school requires all students of a particular group or grade to test, the MEPS will support it." (See Page 3-1 of USMEPCOM Reg. 601-4)

Is it entirely coincidental that a thousand schools require students to take the test or does the Department of Defense have regulations in place solely for public consumption that it has no intention of following?

In addition, the Pentagon is grossly under reporting the number of schools with mandatory testing. There are hundreds of schools with required testing that are not reported by the DoD. For instance, the information released by the DoD for the '09-'10 school year shows there is no mandatory testing in Ohio. However, it is possible, using a simple Google search tool, in this case ("k12.oh.us" asvab "all juniors") to uncover several dozen schools that require students to take the ASVAB that are not reported by the Pentagon.

Why can't we get traction on this issue? There is great reluctance in American society to stand up to the U.S. military, particularly concerning the way it runs a dozen programs in the nation's schools. Calls for transparency are met with silence and indignation, a terrible lesson for American high school students.



- - - HOPE Coalition Needs Your Support - - -

The Objective of the HOPE Coalition:

To synthesize & promote the individual visions of the organizations that make up Humboldt's environmentally & socially just community. These include, but are not limited to, the following organizations: Environmental, Social Justice, Peace, Labor, & Human Service.

Yes, I would like to help support the HOPE Coalition's newsletter and other efforts:

- \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$500 \$15 \$_____ other

Make checks to payable to: HOPE Coalition.

I wish to receive newsletter by

- US mail Email Both

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

The HOPE Coalition • PO Box 385 Arcata, CA 95518 • hopecoalition@igc.org • www.hopecoalition.org

The HOPE Coalition Newsletter is available at the Arcata & Eureka Co-ops, the Booklegger, Wildberries, and Eureka Natural Foods.

HOPE Coalition Newsletter Insert—this insert contains regularly scheduled events. For special happenings and one-time events, see the regular calendar that follows the page one editorial.

PEACE NEWS

GI Rights Hotline; provides accurate, helpful military counseling and information on military discharges, AWOL and UA, and GI Rights. [www. Glrightshotline.org](http://www.Glrightshotline.org) or 877-447-4487.

Peace Vigils Fridays 5 - 6 pm on the Arcata Plaza. Mondays at 4 pm at the Courthouse in Eureka, 445-5100 ext. 215, ask for Jack.

Vets for Peace Silent Vigil; Fridays, 5 - 6 pm: SW corner Arcata Plaza.

Vets for Peace, Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 meets 1st Thurs. at 7 pm: at 550 Union St. Arcata in the Common Room (next door to Equinox). Info: 826-7124.

Women in Black stand in silent vigil every **Friday 5 - 6 pm** at the **Arcata Plaza**, 8th & G, at the **Humboldt County Courthouse** (also Saturdays at noon), the **McKinleyville Shopping Center** on the grassy area out front, and **Fridays 4 - 5 pm** in **Trinidad** at the intersection of Scenic Dr. and Main St.

TALK SHOWS, WORKSHOPS & COMMENTARY

Access Humboldt: Public, education, & government media access. Cable channels 8, 10, 11 & 12. For program schedule, submission policies, and program request forms go to www.accesshumboldt.net. Call or email for further info. 476-1798 or info@accesshumboldt.net.

Commentary on KEET TV Channel 13 445-8013: **Wide Angle** Tues. at 9 pm

NOW with David Brancaccio. Fri. at 8:30 pm:

Commentary on KGOE 1480 am, 442-2000: **Thom Hartmann**, weekdays 9 am - noon.

Peter B. Collins, weekdays 3 - 6 pm. Progressive talk show from San Francisco.

Commentary on KHSU, 90.5 fm, 826-6089. **Democracy Now!** with Amy Goodman: weekdays 9 - 10 am.

The Econews Report with Greg King. 1:30 pm Thursdays.

A World of Possibilities locally produced syndicated public affairs program. 1:30 pm Wednesdays. Info: 826-9111 ext. 18.

Commentary on KMUD, 88.3 fm, 923-2513. **Counterspin**, Sunday 1 - 1:30 pm.

Alternative Radio, Mondays 9 am. Boulder-based award-winning weekly series with David Barsamian.

Animal Advocate, 2nd Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. Animal welfare issues. Info: Barbara Shultz at 986-7835, animaladvocate4@yahoo.com.

A World of Possibilities locally produced syndicated public affairs program. 9 am Tuesdays. Info: 826-9111 ext. 18.

Democracy Now! with Amy Goodman; noon, Mon. - Fri. Also 4 pm Access Humboldt Channel 12. Also 11 am on KIDE 91.3 fm. Also on Free Speech TV (FSTV) Mon. - Fri. midnight, 8 am, noon, or 7 pm.

Civil Liberties Monitoring Project Report; 1st Wednesday, 7 - 8 pm. 923-4646.

Politically Correct Week in Review, call-in radio show, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Mondays at 7 pm 923-3911.

All Things Reconsidered with Eric Kirk. 3rd Thursday at 7 pm.

Global Stuff call-in talk show with Jimmy Durchslag, last Friday, 7 - 8 pm.

PROTECT THE EARTH & ITS LIVING CREATURES

Adopt-the-Bay. Participate in a number of tasks aimed at maintaining a healthy Humboldt Bay. All welcome. Info: 443-0801.

Audubon Society Field Trips; Free field trips through the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary every Saturday at 8:30 am at the Klopp Lake parking lot (foot of I St. in Arcata). Bring your binoculars. Rain or shine. Info: 268-8052 or 822-3613.

Campus Center for Appropriate Technology; info: 826-3551.

Friends of the Dunes; Restoration workdays the first 3 Saturdays every month, 9 am - 1 pm. Info: 444-1397 or info@friendsofthedunes.org. Complete calendar: www.friendsofthedunes.org.

Friends of the Marsh guided interpretive walks every Saturday 2 pm at the Interpretive Center on South G St., Arcata. Info: 826-2359.

Wild Urban Gardeners! Meets Wednesdays at 7 pm, 1552 Spear Ave. in Arcata. Promoting food & native plant species, information about compost, greenhouses, seed banks, and community gardens. Info: 822-5861.

ARTS

Arcata Artisans Cooperative Gallery; H St. on the Plaza. Mon. - Sat. 10 - 6, Sun. 12 - 5. Info: 825-9133, www.arcataartisans.com.

Arts Alive! Eureka; first Saturday of the month at venues around town. Art, music, dance, refreshments. Info: 442-9054.

Arts! Arcata; second Friday of the month at venues around town and at HSU. Art, music, dance, refreshments. Info: 822-4500.

Clarke Historical Museum; 240 E St., Eureka. Info: 443-1947 or www.clarkemuseum.org.

First Street Gallery; 422 First Street, Eureka. Tuesday - Sunday from noon - 5 pm. Info: 443-6363 or www.humboldt.edu/~first.

Morris Graves Museum; 636 F St., Eureka. Wed. - Sun. 12 - 5 pm. www.humboldtarts.org

The Ink People; 411 12th St, Eureka. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 4 pm. Info: 442-8413 www.inkpeople.org.

Westhaven Center for the Arts; 501 S. Westhaven Dr. Info: 677-0860, www.westhavenarts.org.

MEETINGS

Arcata's Committee on Democracy & Corporations meets the third Tuesday of each month and was established in response to Arcata's Measure F. Info: 822-5951 or www.cityofarcata.org.

Arcata's Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and Peace Commission. On indefinite hiatus due to lack of a quorum. Applications available at www.cityofarcata.org or at city hall. Info: 822-5951.

Commission on Status of Women meets 3d Tuesday at 6 pm. Call for place: 822-2502 or www.co.humboldt.ca.us/commissions/csw/.

Eureka Greens meet 3rd Saturday of every month. 3:30-5pm. 321 Coffee (321 Third St. in Old Town). Info: www.EurekaGreens.com.

Green Wheels; Mondays 6:30 pm at the Northcoast Environmental Center. Info: mail@green-wheels.org or www.green-wheels.org.

Humboldt County Human Rights Commission meets 2nd Tues. City Courthouse, Rm. B, Eureka, 6 pm. Info: 268-2548.

Humboldt Democratic Central Committee; 2nd Wednesday at 7 pm. 129 Fifth St. Info: 445-3366 or www.humboltdemocrats.org.

Humboldt Exchange Community Currency Project. Call for meetings: 269-0984.

Humboldt Watershed Council at NEC, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm. Info: sheds@humboldt1.com.

Mother Jones Club & Humboldt Communist Alliance. Call for meeting times: ncalview@igc.org or 839-3824.

NAACP; Monthly meetings: 3rd Sunday at 3:30 pm, Boys & Girls Club, 3015 J St., Eureka. Info: 268-8287.

North Coast IWW, the Wobblies meets every 3rd Wed. 6:30 - 8 pm at the Labor Temple, 840 E St., Eureka. Info: 725-8090.

Northern Humboldt Greens meet 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 - 8 pm. Info: Shaye, 237-2790 or email arcata@greens.org.

Redwood Chapter ACLU meets 3rd Tuesday at noon at 917 Third St. in Eureka. Info: 336-2258, redwoodaclu@hotmail.com.

Sequoia Greens of southern Humboldt. Call for meetings: 923-4488 or encimer@hotmail.com.

Veterans for Peace (SoHum Chapter); 1st Tuesday of Each Month at 7 pm at Haynes Vets Hall, Garberville.

Vets for Peace (Humboldt Chapter 56); 550 Union St. Arcata in the Common Room (next door to Equinox) first Thursday of the month. Info: 826-7124.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); meets the 4th Wednesday, location varies. Info: Sue at 822-3405 or suejh@humboldt1.com.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Arts in the Afternoon; a free art studio for teens (6th - 12th grade). Open week days during the school year, 3 - 6 pm at Arcata Community Center. Sponsored by City of Arcata's Recreation Division. Info: 825-2028.

HSU's Natural History Museum, 1315 G St. Arcata. Closed to public, available for classroom visits. Info: 826-4478.

Humboldt County Library in Eureka Story Hour: 10 am Fridays & other programs. Info: Jo Ann Bauer, 269-1900.

Humboldt County Teen Court is looking for teen volunteers. Info: 444-0153.

Mondays, Fridays, & Saturdays: PULSE, new Teen Recreation Center; regular programming from 6 - 9 pm at the John Ryan Youth Center, 1653 J St, Eureka. Info: 268-1858.

Raven Project Queer Coffee House for Youth; Tuesday, 6:30 - 9 pm. Also, girls & women 10 - 24 years meet Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, 523 T St., Eureka, 443-7099.

COMMUNITY & WELL-BEING SERVICES

Buddhist Queers (lesbian, gay, bi, transsexual) Vipassana, Zen, etc. Beginners welcome. phone 269-7044.

Eureka Mindfulness Buddhist Meditation & Discussion. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. 7:15 pm First Christian Church 730 K St. Wheelchair accessible, fragrance free, beginners welcome. Info: 269-7044.

Fridays, Ongoing: Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance: Arcata Support Groups; free, voluntary, and open peer-support groups for those experiencing depression (seasonal, situational, or chronic) and/or mood swings. Open to the public. Family and friends are also welcome. 6 pm at the Arcata Library Conference Room. Info: 443-9659 or dbsahumb@sbcglobal.net.

Health Insurance and Advocacy Program (HICAP) provides objective information, help, and advocacy for people relying on Medicare. Info and appointments: 444-3000.

Healthy Kids Humboldt Enrollment Headquarters offers health care insurance by assisting with Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Cal Kids applications for children. 517 3rd Street, Eureka. 442.6066.

Humboldt Community Switchboard can direct anyone to services in Humboldt County. Info: 441-1001 or www.theswitchboard.org.

Humboldt Domestic Violence Services Support Groups; all services are free. Support groups Thurs. eves and Fri. afternoons, with therapeutic childcare offered. Info & child care: 444-9255. 24-hour crisis line: 443-6042 or toll free 866-668-6543.

Humboldt Literacy Project, to improve adult reading skills necessary to function on the job, in the family, & in the community. Free & confidential. Info: 445-3655 or www.humlit.org.

Nature-Based Spiritual Queers (GLBT) pagan, Native American traditions, etc. Newcomers welcome. phone 269-7044.

North Coast Rape Crisis Team; 24 hour crisis line: 445-2881. Business phone: 443-2737.

Ongoing: Drop-in Grief Support Groups. Hospice offers free, drop-in grief support groups in Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna and McKinleyville. These groups are open to anyone in the community experiencing grief and loss of a loved one. Info and schedules: 445-8443.

Ongoing: Volunteer Center of the Redwoods (VCOR): The Drop of a Hat Brigade connects volunteers of all ages with one time and short-term events. RSVP provides benefits such as limited mileage reimbursement for volunteers ages 55 and older. Info on these and other volunteer opportunities: 442-3711 or www.a1aa.org/VCOR/.

The Area 1 Agency on Aging sponsors many senior programs. Info: 442-9591 or www.a1aa.org.

The Emma Center Advocacy, support, referral services, library, and classes for trauma and abuse survivors. 920 Samoa Blvd. Suite 207, Arcata. Info: 825-6680 or info@emmacenter.org or www.emmacenter.org.

Vision Loss Services; Lighthouse of the North Coast, solutions for living with vision loss. Info: 268-5646 or www.lighthouse-sf.org.