

Homeless advocates plan to sleep outside on Friday

Leaders of the Washington County Interfaith Committee on Homelessness are encouraging area residents to sleep outside this Friday, Nov. 20 in observance of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Those with homes of their own can choose to spend the night outside — no matter what the weather — in a vehi-

cle or a tent from 6 p.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday.

Participants are planning to consume only simple food, such as granola bars, drink boxes, pull-top soup, fruit, small boxes of raisins, bags of jerky and nuts.

Those who sleep in their car are asked not to run it for heat, thinking like a homeless person who is almost out of

gas. Instead, they'll take blankets and pillows with them and layer their clothing. If participants have children who need to do homework, they'll attempt it by flashlight.

The goal is to sensitize people to the plight of the homeless as winter approaches. "For them, there is no anticipation of going home Saturday to a hot shower, curl up with

a book and tea or have friends over for dinner," said Eric Canon, chair of the ICH.

"In this season of Thanksgiving we need to consider those who struggle with hopelessness and want," said Canon. "Consider giving in this way. It will change your life."

Call 503-357-3282 for more information.