staff photo by Janie Nafsinger

MEETING NEEDS — Jerralynn Ness, executive director of the Washington County Community Action Organization, looks toward the future as the agency continues to help the county's low-income population. The sign behind Ness marks the 2-acre site in Hillsboro where WCCAO plans to build a new multi-service center next year.

At war against poverty

Jerralynn Ness sees pockets of it around Washington County

by JANIE NAFSINGER

[illegible]

In 1973 as a VISTA volunteer. Armed with a bachelor's degree in [illegible] and [illegible] as a paralegal, she brought Legal Aid to Washington County and worked with low-income elderly and disabled people that first year.

Ness worked her way up in WCCAO and became its executive director 10 years ago. The petite, soft-spoken workhorse starts with it be[illegible] she simply believes in social change, as she put it [illegible] yesterday.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]