

Students, Aspen Lakes come through

Sisters High School (SHS) students delivered and sorted 1,645 pounds of food for the Kiwanis Food Bank last week.

Aspen Lakes contributed very significantly to that total.

Ethan Morgan, Sam Mitchell, and Jordan Pollard picked up 1,350 pounds of canned food from Aspen Lakes Golf Course. Every fall, Aspen Lakes has a canned-food-drive golf special in which golfers donate cans of food and in turn receive a reduced greens fee. This year the food was added to the high school canned-food drive.

The donations had an even greater impact when multiplied by a cash matching grant to be donated by The Roundhouse Foundation.

"A huge thanks goes out to (Aspen Lakes)," said SHS



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Sisters High School students delivered donations to the Kiwanis Food Bank last week.

leadership coordinator Kristy Rawls. That raised \$1,645 for the food bank from The

Roundhouse Foundation. What a great community we live in!"

Hike for free to start the New Year

For the fifth year in a row, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is partnering with America's State Parks to offer free guided First Day Hikes in state parks across Oregon on New Year's Day. Information about the special hike to take place at Smith Rock State Park follows. The usual \$5 day-use parking fee will be waived on January 1 only.

Hike time is 10 a.m., starting at the park Welcome Center (green yurt).

This is a moderate three-mile hike on the Wolf Tree

Trail. The first quarter-mile and last quarter-mile are on a fairly steep gravel trail, and the entire trail could be slippery if icy.

Participants may see a variety of wildlife including golden eagle nests high in the cliffs. Dogs must be on a six-foot leash.

Participants should dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water as well as a camera or binoculars for wildlife viewing. In case of inclement weather, the park should be contacted directly to find out about cancellation.

This year, OPRD is asking participants to share photos of their First Day Hike via social media by using the hashtag #ORfirstdayhikes on Twitter and Instagram or tagging "Oregon State Parks" on Facebook. Images can also be emailed to oprd.social@oregon.gov.

For more information call Contact information call 541-548-7501.

Search and rescue seeks volunteers

The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications from members of the community who are interested in becoming a search and rescue volunteer. Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (DCSO SAR) is one of the busiest search and rescue units in the state of Oregon.

In 2015, DCSO SAR completed more than 300 missions and trainings. Volunteers are highly skilled and range from general searchers to those capable of highly technical missions such as mountain rescue, swift-water rescue, diving operations and more.

Selected applicants, who must be at least 21 years of age, are required to complete the DCSO SAR Academy, which consists of approximately 100 hours of training. This year's academy will begin on March 28, with volunteers graduating on May 12. Generally, training occurs on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m., which consist of classroom exercises and is followed up with a day of training on Saturday for outdoor practical exercises.

Academy attendees will receive instruction in several areas including, but not limited to: navigation, tracking, wilderness survival, search tactics, first aid/CPR and how DCSO SAR operates.

Included in the academy is a "pack test," which consists of a five-mile hike (2-1/2 miles uphill and 2-1/2 miles downhill) carrying a 25-pound backpack. The time limit for this test is 100 minutes. Each academy attendee will be assigned a mentor to assist with the successful completion of the academy.

Applications can be found online at www.deschutes.org/jobs and must be submitted by January 29, 2016, at 5 p.m.

Once applications are reviewed, applicants that meet minimum qualifications will be contacted and required to attend an informational session. Applicants will also be required to attend an oral board interview. A background investigation will be completed for all applicants who are selected after the oral board interview. Some qualities necessary include the ability to fit in with our current volunteers, a good attitude and the ability to function as a team player.

There is a \$100 entry fee for those selected, which covers initial search and rescue volunteer clothing, issued upon graduation from the academy.

For more information call 541-388-6501 or visit <http://sheriff.deschutes.org/Special-Services/sar/> and www.deschutessearchandrescue.org.

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