



PHOTO PROVIDED

Members of the Aspen Lakes Estates Owners' Association contributed significantly to this year's Spirit of Christmas Giving drive.

Homeowners contribute to spirit of giving

The Aspen Lakes Estates Owners' Association (ALEOA) contributed in the spirit of giving to the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District's annual gift drive.

The association held its annual Holiday Quarterly Connection at the Brand 33 clubhouse on the evening of Thursday, December 5.

In addition to bringing appetizers to share that celebratory evening, homeowners wished to contribute to the Sisters community in a meaningful and charitable manner. In conjunction with Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District's annual sponsorship of the "Spirit of Christmas Giving 2019," providing Christmas gifts and assistance to families in need in Sisters Country this holiday season, the ALEOA members gifted over \$1,000 in monetary donations, as well as purchasing many specific

gifts requested by the receiving families for their children.

This local opportunity, developed and coordinated with the Fire District's personnel, added a new and refreshing meaning to the annual Aspen Lakes' holiday evening, the association reported.

More than 50 residents gathered at Brand 33, sharing a little holiday cheer; each guest drew a tag from the freshly decorated ponderosa pine tree and proudly deposited their donation into the fireman's boot. Donning a fireman's helmet, Social Committee Co-Chairperson Laurel Olson and her committee members gathered to showcase the "Spirit of Christmas Giving" opportunity.

The ALEOA will now make this a tradition at their annual Holiday Quarterly Connection.

Academy offers public safety education

Registration is now open for the 2020 Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Academy, to be held in the Bend office. This 6-week course is designed to give attendees an in-depth look at the different divisions of the sheriff's office and educate the community about what the sheriff's office is responsible for.

In addition to the classroom instruction, participants can go out on patrol ride-along and tour the Deschutes County Jail. There are also two optional Saturday sessions during the academy.

The academy is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, January 22 and will run Monday and Wednesday evenings through February, excluding President's Day. There is no cost to attend the academy.

The deadline for receiving applications is January 10.

Interested persons can pick up an application at the main sheriff's office in Bend at 63333 W. Highway 20, Bend, OR 97703. Additional information and an online application can be found at www.deschutes.org/sheriff. Click on "Community" then "Community Programs" and then select "Public Safety Academy."

For more information call Lt. Joe DeLuca at 541-312-6020.

Writing contest open to high-school students

The Waterston Desert Writing Prize has announced a new award focused on writing about the Oregon High Desert — open only to high-school students in Central Oregon. The winner, to be notified in early April, will receive a \$250 cash prize and will be celebrated at the prize's annual award ceremony at the High Desert Museum on June 24.

The competition is open to students in grades nine through 12, in public or private school, or home-schooled, who live in Crook, Deschutes or Jefferson counties. Students may submit essays of 750 to 1,000 words from January 1 through February 29, 2020. The essays may address any aspect of the Oregon High Desert and will be judged on their contribution to the understanding and appreciation of the high desert area

of Oregon, originality, clarity of expression, accuracy, and grammar, spelling and punctuation. Submissions will be judged on a blind jury basis by the prize's board of directors.

The mission of the Waterston Desert Writing Prize is to strengthen and support the literary arts and humanities in the high desert region of the Northwest through recognition of literary excellence in nonfiction writing about desert landscapes, through community interaction with the winning authors of the annual prize, and presentations and programs that take place in association with the prize.

For more information about the Waterston Desert Writing Prize, the new high school student award, and how to enter the contest, visit www.waterstondesertwritingprize.org/student-contest.

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