

IN BRIEF

Springfield seeks painters for mural project

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

SPRINGFIELD — Between now and June 14, the City of Springfield's Stormwater Team is looking for artists of all ages and from anywhere in Oregon to apply for the storm drain mural-painting project, UpStream Art.

"This project is perfect for artists who love to paint and who care about protecting the environment," said Peter Jaeger, an environmental services technician who leads the project.

Four artists will be selected to participate and compensated \$1,000 each for painting murals around four strategically selected storm drains in Springfield. Artists will paint their murals July 20-21 and the public will be invited to watch.

One of the biggest threats to the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers is pollution from urban runoff. The murals are a simple-yet-meaningful reminder that the storm drains across the City create a direct connection from Springfield's streets to our local waterways. That's emphasized by this year's UpStream Art theme, "Clean rivers start here." As rain washes over hard surfaces such as roofs, parking lots, and roads, it collects contaminants and carries them directly into local rivers.

"Stormwater is not cleaned before it's released into local rivers. That's why we want to keep pollution out of storm drains in the first place," Jaeger said. "Everyone cares about clean water. We need it for drinking, recre-



BOBBY STEVENS / CHRONICLE FILE PHOTO
Muralist Henry Stubbert settles into the early stages of his piece during last year's UpStream Art project.

ation, agriculture, and industry. Not to mention the countless people, animals, and plants that live downstream from Springfield that also rely on clean water."

Springfield is upstream from Eugene and many other cities that share the Willamette River. By promoting clean water in Springfield, UpStream Art benefits people and wildlife living along the Willamette Valley.

The UpStream Art Artist Application along with a link to the Virtual Tour can be found at bit.ly/upstreamart.



PHOTO PROVIDED / JULIE SONAM

'Love Where You Live' — and do something about it

SPRINGFIELD — The first Love Where You Live Garbage Clean Up this month was deemed a success by organizer Julie Sonam, with 12 adults and three kids picking up trash at Pioneer Memorial Cemetery and around Island Park and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. The crew cleaned up trash for two hours and some volunteers brought a trailer to help remove the haul. The clean-ups will be held on the first Saturday of each month. The next clean-up party will be held on June 3, from 9-11 a.m. The area of concentration will be the Mill Race path parking lot, just past the Booth Kelly building. July's event will focus on the Island Park area again, and the August clean-up will focus on the area around the Springfield Public Library. More info: 541-335-1225 and gratefulrightnow@gmail.com.

Springfield school nurse earns state award

SPRINGFIELD — Tanya Martin, Springfield Public Schools Health Services Coordinator, has been named the 2023 Oregon School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Oregon School Nurses Association. "I felt really honored to be standing in a room full of exceptional, phenomenal school nurses," Martin said. "So many of them have been influential as I've grown in my career and have mentored, taught, and supported me." Martin has been with the Springfield Public School District for eight years. Nomination letters submitted by administrators noted her skilled leadership and contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic. "If I think about the ultimate goal of school nursing as advocating for our students and their health in our world, their health is our top priority so they can learn and be in the best frame of mind to learn," said Martin.

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Payday for Children's Play Day

CRESWELL — The Creswell VFW earlier this month held a celebration to award young artists with a crisp \$10 bill, a certificate of achievement, and of course, bragging rights with all their friends. As part of the National Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Day of Service, the Creswell VFW Post hosted a Children's Play Day and awarded Amelia (kindergarten), Harper (first grade) Lilly (second grade) and Charming (third grade) for their creativity. More than 200 completed coloring pages were picked up and judged by VFW Post members.



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