

All fired up for Christmas



Brent Bunker



Gyotaku instructor Bruce Koike

Harp, the herald angels sing...

The sound of long-forgotten instruments will fill Newport's Pacific Maritime Heritage Center this Saturday, Dec. 7, as Lincoln County Historical Society hosts its annual Holiday Gathering.

Brent Bunker will be playing his extensive collection of rare vintage instruments in the Doerfler Family Theater starting at 1 pm and chatting with guests about musical oddities including the ukalin, harp o'lyre and Marxophone.

Upstairs on the mezzanine, gyotaku artist and teacher Bruce Koike will be demonstrating the fascinating art of fish printing and offering guests the chance to try their hand at this ancient Japanese artform.

In the Great Room, refreshments will

be served around the glowing fireplace. Guests at this long-standing community tradition can also check out the museum's exhibits and enjoy unmatched views of Newport's Historic Bayfront.

Be sure to bring your Christmas shopping list as the gift shop will be offering a special holiday discount only available during this event. The museum gift shop has an outstanding selection of maritime and history publications, as well as locally produced items.

The Holiday Gathering will run from 1 to 4 pm at 333 SE Bay Blvd on Newport's Historic Bayfront.

Admission is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Parking is available at the top of the hill.

For more information, call 541-265-7509.

Inquiring minds have often pondered just how Santa Claus manages to deliver so many presents in one night — so much so that NORAD set up a tracking system purely to allow kids to follow Saint Nick's laden sleigh as it makes its way round the globe.

On a more local scale, the yuletide heroics of firefighters from North Lincoln Fire & Rescue are just about as impressive. Each year, first responders don their Santa hats to deliver presents to hundreds of families throughout North Lincoln County.

The annual Christmas Toy Drive is a partnership between the fire district, the Lincoln City Eagles Lodge #2576 and the Lincoln City Elks Lodge #1886. Firefighter Marc McPherson said the origins of the tradition are a mystery.

"We don't know when it started," he said. "I went back through all the newspaper clippings and can't track it down."

But the scope of the program is very clear; families that live within the district's coverage area from Kernville to Rose Lodge and who complete an application will get presents delivered for their kids — no questions asked. Gifts are available for kids aged one to 17, with deliveries taking place on Saturday, Dec. 21. An adult must be present at the home at time of delivery.

McPherson said this year's drive will see firefighters visit between 350 and 400 homes, traveling by fire truck and personal vehicle.

In order to make all these Christmas wishes come true, the program relies on gift donations from the public. Donation bins are set up at more than 30 locations throughout the district's coverage area, including most large grocery stores.



While donations are needed for kids of all ages, McPherson said teenagers are where the need is greatest.

"They've often moved on from toys and are more into gift cards," he said, adding that gift cards are best dropped off at either the Eagles Lodge, 737 SW 32nd Street, or the St. Claire Station, 4520 SE Hwy. 101 in Taft.

Christmas Toy Drive application forms are due by Saturday, Dec. 7 and can be picked up at the St. Claire Station.



Dreaming of a green Christmas?

The Seal Rock Garden Club will hold its annual Christmas Greens and Gift Sale this Saturday, Dec. 7, offering a wide range of wreaths and centerpieces as well as small decorated trees.

With two decades experience behind them, members use special machines designed for wreath making to craft and shape tree cuttings into fragrant wreaths, swags, arrangements and gifts. The greens come directly from a farm in Waldport about half an hour's drive from Seal Rock.

Now in its 21st year, the sale sees the club's wreath makers, decorators and designers at their creative and fanciful best, transforming cuttings from local gardens into designs for every taste and budget.

There will be a raffle with great holiday gifts, and homemade cookies, hot apple cider and holiday cheer will be served throughout the day.

The sale will run from 9 am to 1 pm at the Seal Rock Garden Club on the east side on Highway 101, next to the old Seal Rock Fire Station at 10377 NW Rand Street.