

Local Religion Briefs



Submitted photo

The Columbia Squires donated 120 coats to four local school districts. Pictured, from left, state Squires Chairman Ray Prom, Squires Counselor Paul Williams, Meche Brownlow of the Astoria School District and her daughter, Squire Michael Williams, Squire Danyle Lombardi, John McAndrews of the Seaside School District, Squire Charlie Williams, Mary Suever of the Warrenton School District, Squire Joseph Lombardi, Leila Collier of the Knappa School District and Squires Counselor Dan Ewald.

Squires donate 'Coats for Kids'

For their Columbian Squires Christmas project, Charles Turina Circle No. 4669 Squires, located in Astoria, chose to participate in the Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" project, a nationwide project to help get winter coats to needy schoolchildren. The local Knights of Columbus group has members from Knappa, Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside.

Planning for the event, which was coordinated by Squires Counselor Paul Williams, started in October. The Squires chose to continue the previous year's fundraising project, which was the sale of Christmas wreaths. Profits from the sales were used to purchase winter coats from the Knights of Columbus Headquarters. The Knights purchase these coats in extremely large quantities to reduce the price, and help by paying half of the shipping costs.

The goal of raising more than \$2,300 to purchase 120 coats in many different sizes and colors was realized in early November. The plan was to have the coats delivered by early December, but shipping delays pushed back the delivery of the coats to the day after schools got out for Christmas vacation. State Squires Chairman Ray Prom contacted representatives from the four county school districts that would be receiving the coats, and it was agreed to get together after school restarted.

On Jan. 8, Squires and their counselors, and representatives from the local school districts met in the auditorium of the former St. Mary, Star of the Sea School to share cookies and cocoa, and the coats were handed over.

Chief Squire Jordan Gagnon said, "Our group felt it was an honor and a privilege

to be able to help our peers with this project." Columbian Squires is a leadership development program for Catholic boys, ages 10-18, under the organization of the Knights of Columbus. The Charles Turina Circle received a national award for a similar project two years ago, when they sold Christmas trees to raise money for the coats.

'This I Support'

The Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship holds a service at 11 a.m. Sunday at the First Congregational Church, 820 Alameda Ave. The topic is "This I Support." Members talk about organizations and causes that are important to them, and that they support financially and/or with their time and energy.

Arline LaMear is the lay leader, Laurel Fleet is providing refreshments and Kathy and Tim Robertson are the greeters.

For information, call 503-338-6883 or go to www.pac-uuf.org

Community sing in Seaside

SEASIDE — A Seaside Community HU Sing takes place at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway. Regardless of one's beliefs or religion, anyone can sing HU (pronounced hue), an ancient name for God; it is for the spiritual upliftment of those who come, and is not directed to any other purpose. For information, call Seann Valen at 503-717-5485, email access49@gmail.com or go to www.eckankar.org

Society of Friends
SEAVIEW, Wash. — The Lower Columbia Worship Group of the Society of Friends (Quaker) meets at

3 p.m. Sunday in the Peninsula Church Center Fireside Room (south building), 5000 N Place, in Seaview. This is a "silent" (unprogrammed) worship group. All are welcome to visit and participate. For information, call 503-895-7474.

Evensong in Cannon Beach

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St., holds an Evensong service at 6 p.m. the first and third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

Evensong features Wes Warhmund (guitar, flute and clarinet) and meditative songs, Psalms, readings, candlelight and time for quiet reflection.

For information, call the church at 503-436-1222.

Grace's labyrinth

Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., offers a labyrinth for walking on the First Sunday of each month. The labyrinth is available from 3 to 6 p.m., with an introduction at 3 p.m. upon request. It takes an average of 30 minutes to complete the circle. The Grace Church Youth Group will have an activity providing them a labyrinth experience at 6 p.m.

Grace is holding a book and media sale Feb. 6 and 7, and books of all kinds and all interests, CDs, DVDs, can be dropped off during morning hours. The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and proceeds will benefit the Clatsop Assistance League's "duffle bag books" and "Educate for Hope," providing educational scholarships in the Holy Land.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to www.graceastoria.org

Brush up your bridge skills

Beginner/Brush-up Bridge Classes start at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Port of Astoria Building No. 209, at the end of Portway Street. The first class is free; thereafter the cost is \$5 per

class. There is no charge for past students. Walk-ins welcome.

For information, contact Sandy Baker at 503-738-0782 or bakers@q.com

SENIOR NOTES

Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter — Information, referral and counseling services for families and caregivers of people with Alzheimer's, dementia and other related disorders. For information, call 800-272-3900 (24 hours a day).

Astoria Alzheimer's & Other Dementia Family Support Group — 2 to 3:30 p.m. third Monday, Clatsop Care Center, 646 16th St., first floor conference room. Open to all family members of people with dementias. For information, call Rosetta Hurley at 503-325-0313, ext. 216, or email support@clatsopcare.org

Clatsop Behavioral Health After Hours Crisis Line — 503-325-5724.

Clatsop Community Action — 503-325-1400. Respite care services, low-income energy assistance, emergency food assistance, housing information, emergency personal care items.

Columbia Senior Diners — 11:30 a.m. weekdays, Peace Lutheran Church (lower level), 565 12th St. Cost is \$5. For information, or to have a meal

delivered, call 503-325-9693.

Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education (ENCORE) — 503-338-2408. Provides a wide assortment of educational experiences for individuals older than 50.

Elder Friendship Line — 800-971-0016. Available from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; crisis calls taken 24/7.

Food Pantries — 503-325-1400. Clatsop Community Action serves six food pantries in Clatsop County through the Oregon Food Bank Network. Call for area locations and hours.

Grief Support Group, Astoria — 4:30 to 6 p.m. third Tuesday, Pacific Coast Medical Supply, third floor conference room, 1210 Marine Drive. For information, call Lower Columbia Hospice at 503-338-6230.

Grief Support Group, Seaside — 2 to 4 p.m. first Thursday, Bob Chisholm Community Center, Meeting Room 1, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside. For information, call Lower Columbia Hospice at 503-338-6230.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon — 888-245-4091. Provides free

services in civil cases to low income people.

Lifespan Respite — 503-325-1400. Provides information, referral, training and paid respite for family caregivers.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline — 800-273-TALK (8255). A 24-hour, toll-free suicide prevention service for anyone in a suicidal crisis. TTY users should dial 800-799-4TTY (4889).

National Alliance on Mental Illness — 800-950-NAMI (6264) or locally, 503-717-1835. Separate support groups for people with mental illness and families of those with mental illness are available.

Northwest Oregon Housing Authority — 503-861-0119. Rent assistance based on income.

Northwest Senior and Disability Services — 503-861-4202 or 800-442-8614. Medicaid services, food stamps, information and assistance, family caregiver support services, Medicare choice assistance, home delivered meals, senior meal sites and senior peer counseling.



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