

RELIGION BRIEFS

Pacific Unitarian Universalist

The Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is holding a service at 11 a.m. Sunday at the First Congregational Church, 820 Alameda Ave. Seth Tichenor is giving a presentation on "Ecology and Spirituality."

Tichenor currently teaches at Clatsop Community College. He also gives philosophical talks and classes as well as leading philosophical discussions and conversations on various topics throughout the community. He has been teaching philosophy, as well as some religion and politics, at various colleges for the past 21 years.

For information, call 503-325-5225 or go to www.pacuuf.org

Community HU sing

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. This is a "silent" (unprogrammed) worship group. All are welcome to visit and participate. For information, call 503-895-7474.

Cannon Beach Community

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 Warhmd (guitar, flute and clarinet) and meditative songs, Psalms, readings, candlelight and time for quiet reflection.

Crossroads Community

SVENSEN — Crossroads Community Church, a Friends Fellowship, at 40618

Old Highway 30, is holding a Free Family Film Friday at 6:45 p.m. tonight. This event is always held the second Friday of the month. All are welcome.

Holy Nativity Eastern Orthodox

HAMMOND — The Holy Nativity Eastern Orthodox Mission is holding a vespers service at 6 p.m. Saturday at the St. Francis de Sales Mission, 867 Fifth St. in Hammond.

On Sunday, also at St. Francis de Sales Mission, services include Orthos (matins) beginning at 9 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m., featuring the choir from the Church of the Annunciation. The Rev. Kevin Lien, assistant pastor of the Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukie, and rector of Holy Nativity Mission is celebrating the Divine Liturgy.

All Eastern Orthodox are welcome to participate. Those interested in attending an Orthodox Liturgy are encouraged to attend.

For questions, contact Steve Sollars at 503-298-3453 or Linda Andres at 503-440-3930.

Grace Episcopal

Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., celebrates Epiphany Sunday both the 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday services. Those attending are invited to bring gifts, often wrapped in white paper and known as "White Gifts." The gifts are items usable for those who are staying at the Warming Center, and may include such items as socks, gloves, hats, shower supplies, towels, coats, sweat shirts and pants. These "White Gifts" will be blessed and placed before the crèche, and then given to the Astoria Warming Center.

Following the 10 a.m. service there is an Epiphany cake with tokens representing the gifts of love, faith, wealth and labor hidden in the cake. The tokens will be discovered by those sharing the cake during coffee hour, and the recipients will then provide the cake next year.

The Labyrinth is open from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday. A labyrinth introduction is offered at 3 p.m., upon request. It takes an average of 30 minutes to complete the walk.

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

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Seaside TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — 8 to 8:45 a.m. weigh-in, 9 to 10 a.m. meeting Tuesday, North Coast Family Fellowship Church, 2245 N. Wahanna Road, Seaside. For information, call 503-861-2904.

Astoria TOPS — 5 p.m. weigh-in, 5:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday, First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. For information, call Trisha Hayrynen at 503-325-4114.

Warrenton TOPS — 9 to 9:45 a.m. weigh-in, 10 a.m. meeting Wednesday, First Baptist Church, 30 N.E. First St., Warrenton. For information, call Marilyn Barnard 503-861-2918 or Jeannie Pike 503-861-1404.

Alcoholics Anonymous — To find a meeting, call 503-861-5526 or go to www.aa-oregon.org

Kick Butts Group Meets (Nicotine Anonymous) — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.

Al-Anon Family Groups information line for Clatsop and Tillamook counties, 503-338-5688. Oregon Area Al-Anon website. oregonal-anon.org

Astoria Al-Anon — 12 p.m. Wednesday, First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave. For information, call 503-325-1087; 7 p.m. Thursday, Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svensen. For information, call 503-458-6467.

Nehalem Al-Anon — 7 p.m. Monday, Riverbend Room, North County Recreation District, 36155 Ninth St, Nehalem. For information, call 503-368-8255.

Seaside Al-Anon — 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, Seaside, call 503-810-5196 for information.

Tillamook Al-Anon — 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, St. Albans Episcopal Church, 2102 Sixth St., Tillamook, call

503-842-5094 for information; noon Friday, 5012 Third St., Tillamook, call 503-730-5863 for information.

Tillamook Alateen — 5 p.m. Thursday, 5012 Third St., Tillamook. For information, call 503-730-5863.

Warrenton Al-Anon — noon Friday, United Methodist Church, 679 S. Main Ave. For information, call 503-738-5727.

Narcotics Anonymous — The Northwest Oregon Area of Narcotics Anonymous (NwONA) holds meetings in Clatsop County. For full schedule details, as well as upcoming special events, call the Helpline at 503-717-3702, or go to www.nworegonna.org

Men's Sexual Purity Recovery Group — Tuesday nights. Part of the Pure Life Alliance (www.purelifealliance.org) in Portland. For information, call the confidential voice mail at 503-750-0817 and leave a message.

Register now for January workshops

Clatsop Economic Development Resources will hold several workshops in January touching on various aspects of running a small business. They include:

- "Financing Your Business Future" from 9 to 11 a.m. Jan. 19 in Columbia Hall Room 219 on Clatsop Community College's main campus, 1651 Lexington Ave. in Astoria. Noah Brockman, who leads the state's Small Business Development Center's Network Capital Access Team, will teach the workshop. He will explain what lenders and investors are looking for, financing strategies, available capi-

tal, crowdfunding and steps to get financing.

- "Ready, Set, Start Your Business" leads prospective entrepreneurs through taking their idea to reality. The workshop is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Jan. 13 in Columbia Hall Room 224. It is taught by David Reid, an Aflac Insurance agent and full-time adviser with the college's small business center.

- "The Power of the Inbox" will provide tips for email marketing from noon to 3 p.m. Jan. 6 in the college's South County Campus at 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside. Don Richardson, a digital marketing consultant with Digital

Popcorn, will teach the workshop.

- "Quickbooks – Level 2" will continue teaching participants how to use the accounting software. The class is from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 12 at the South County Campus, and another class is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Towler Hall Room 105 on the college's main campus.

Preregistration for each workshop is required. Each workshop costs between \$15 and \$20, payable at the workshop by check or credit card. Email SBDC@clatsopcc.edu, or call 503-338-2402, to register.

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To all of you that ever sat under a tree on a hot August afternoon sipping lemonade or after school doing homework, or climbed a tree and sat on its branches, slept overnight in a tree house, swung in a tire from a tree branch, jumped from a branch into a swimming hole, or just had a tree best friend growing up — this letter is directed to you.

The trees need your help and they deserve your help. On Jan. 19, three units of the Homesteader Tract of Buster Creek Basin in the Clatsop State Forest will be auctioned off by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) despite the thousands of phone calls and letters to Doug Decker, Oregon chief forester, asking (actually begging) him to either cancel or delay this auction.

This tract is home to trees that are over 200 feet tall, over 100 years old, and up to five feet in diameter. The forest floor boasts ferns as tall as a man's chest. This is a multi-culture forest and needs to be saved. For pictures showing the beauty of this amazing piece of north Oregon coast, go to the North Coast State Forest Coalition website. On the north coast of Oregon, for an old growth forest — this is it — a healthy ecosystem home to some of the few remaining old trees on the north coast.

ODF says they are raising revenues for Clatsop County. The question is: Does Clatsop County need funds bad enough to destroy this forest, or is ODF creating a fake revenue crisis to support their plans to destroy this forest? Have the citizens of Clatsop County been polled to see how they feel? After all, the state forests, just like the state parks, belong to the public. In my naiveté I thought the job of ODF was to protect these assets for all of us.

We have just survived a very serious storm with floods, slides and road washouts. This tract is along the Nehalem River and is part of the watershed for both Clatsop and Tillamook counties. Destroying this forest would create additional complications for the watershed during serious storms.

Interesting enough is the ODF website where they describe the type of forests they plan to create in Oregon. That description fits the Homesteader Tract in Buster Basin. So why destroy it?

At the Paris Climate Conference, major corporations and countries around the

world committed to plans that would protect the world's forests, and to regenerate those destroyed. ODF should be leading and supporting these efforts.

There are many, many arguments against destruction of this forest. The North Coast State Forest Coalition website, the Upper Left Edge website, and the Aug. 15 issue of HipFISH all carry articles discussing why destruction of this forest is a very bad idea.

The Coast Range Association, Oregon Wild and the Portland office of the Nature Conservancy have all been notified. They are only effective because you are behind them. A call to these organizations for help could make a positive difference.

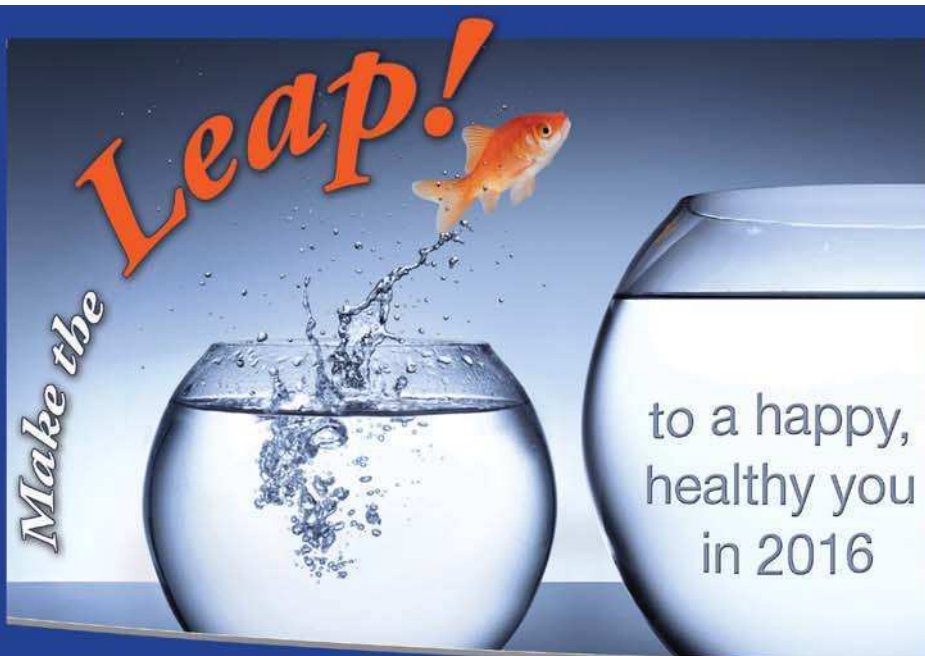
I would like to suggest you call Mr. Decker but he won't take your calls. He has, instead, forwarded calls to the Astoria ODF office. You can try writing but there is no guarantee he will read your letter. Still, you all need to know that this is going down.

ODF did request public input before it was decided to clear-cut this tract. I wonder, was the decision to clear-cut this forest decided before the public commented? It seems to me if ODF cared about public opinion, this coming auction would be delayed in the hope that a win-win solution could be worked out. I am still naive enough to believe this is possible.

I am a 76-year-old single woman living in Nehalem. It is the time of the year when, like you, I re-evaluate my goals: What is precious to me, what makes me smile, what makes me feel joy. It is time for us (like our lobbyists, our major corporations) to be relentless in pursuit of what is important to us.

I am not anti-logging. I use wood like many others, but I subscribe to the Nature Conservancy approach. Spare the old trees; select cutting or thinning the forests is a healthy way to provide needed wood and to provide necessary funds.

Louise Christianson
Nehalem



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- Living Well with Diabetes class **503-338-7564**
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- Tobacco Cessation **503-338-7564**

Help Others

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- Donate **503-325-3208**

Tai Chi is back!

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