

## 'Kinder ready' workshops planned for local parents, preschoolers

Free workshops to help get children ready for kindergarten will be held at three locations in Clatsop County in May:

- 10 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Seaside Public Library (1131 Broadway St.).

- 4 to 5:45 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at the Cannon Beach Conference Center Charis Kids Preschool (East Third and Fir streets)

- 10 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Astoria Library (450 10th St.)

At these interactive one-session workshops, parents and caregivers, and their 2- to 5-year-old children, "explore a tote bag full of educational materi-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A child plays at a previous "Kinder Ready" workshop.

als with the guidance of a facilitator who shows them many creative ways to use the materials to teach their children pre-academic skills they will need to be successful in today's modern full-day kindergarten," according to press materials. Families take home their

bag of materials to continue playing and learning at home.

To register, contact Northwest Parenting at [ddeni@q.com](mailto:ddeni@q.com) or 503-325-8673 ext. 2 or 503-738-2109.

All families with preschoolers (2-5 years old) are invited to register for any of these free workshops.

Preregistration is required for all workshops in order to ensure enough materials for all participant families. Early registration is encouraged.

Kinder Ready workshops are sponsored by Clatsop Kinder Ready, Northwest Parenting and the hosting programs. Clatsop Kinder Ready website [www.clatsopkr.com](http://www.clatsopkr.com).

## Symphony to tell stories

ASTORIA — The Columbia River Symphony is mounting two upcoming Saturday concerts: 7 p.m. May 6 at Astoria High School, and 7 p.m. May 13 at North Coast Family Fellowship in Seaside.

Titled "Symphonic Stories: Colorful Memories 2017," the shows are family friendly and free, but donations are welcome.

"Symphonic Stories" centers on a collection of nine inspiring short stories, some based upon facts, others pure fiction. Each story looks at the kind of beautiful memories that can save lives, better mankind and change the world.

The colored pictures accompanying each story — the result of a coloring competition that took place along Oregon/Washington coast and inland — have been colored by community members, and will be presented with special musical selections performed by the symphony.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cory Pederson conducts the Columbia River Symphony.

"Creativity is such an integral part of learning and provides everyone with an opportunity to express themselves, that combining writing, coloring and music makes for a comfortable fit," organizers wrote. "The great creativity provided by the youth and adults for 'Symphonic Stories' is astonishingly, absurdly, rationally and irrationally powerful."

Musical selections will include Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," by Alan Menken; Dvorak's "Largo"; and the symphony's first percussion ensemble piece titled "Lulla-

by for P.J."

Conducted by Cory Pederson, the symphony is an all-volunteer, nonprofit performing arts group. The organization's mission is to provide quality musical entertainment, increase visibility of performers' talents and serve a leadership role in the community while providing cultural enrichment.

Anyone interested in joining the symphony — whether as a musician, board member or supporter — can visit [www.columbiariversymphony.org](http://www.columbiariversymphony.org), the symphony's Facebook page.

## Help the land conservancy bust some Scotch broom

To help beat back the invasive Scotch broom plant — which has overrun areas of the Oregon Coast, out-competed native plants and destroyed vital habitat — the North Coast Land Conservancy is has declared May "Broom-Buster Month."

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 6, volunteers will bust broom at the conservancy's Thompson Creek and Stanley March Habitat Reserve in Seaside.

"These 80 acres of creek and wetland are now one of (the conservancy's) most visible success stories, with beavers actively building dams throughout the property," the conservancy wrote "As time permits, volunteers might use the same loppers they're wielding against Scotch broom to cut back weeds encroaching on young willows that volunteers planted here in December."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volunteer Jeff Roehm uses loppers to snip a Scotch broom stem at North Coast Land Conservancy's Reed Ranch Habitat Reserve in May 2016.

Then, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, volunteers will uproot broom at Surf Pines Prairie in Warrenton.

To volunteer for either event, contact conservancy Stewardship Director Melissa Reich at [melissar@nclctrust.org](mailto:melissar@nclctrust.org) or 503-738-

9126 to let her know and to get directions.

Sturdy boots and gloves are needed, and volunteers are asked to bring loppers if they have them. All other equipment will be provided. Volunteers must bring water and lunch. No toilet or potable water will be on site.

Details on both events are at [NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship](http://NCLCtrust.org/hands-on-stewardship).

For more broom-busting, join the conservancy's "Wednesday Weed Warriors."

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays through September, volunteers will help the stewardship crew with various projects on conservancy lands. For details, visit [NCLCtrust.org/weed-warrior-Wednesdays](http://NCLCtrust.org/weed-warrior-Wednesdays).

## The Franklin Apartments



Providing Elegance & Efficiency to Downtown Astoria for Over 100 Years

1432 Franklin Avenue  
Easom Property Management, Inc.

503-325-5678

North Coast Chorale Spring Concert

# Joyful Masses

May 6th, 7 pm, & May 7th, 2 pm

CCC Performing Arts Center (PAC)  
16th & Franklin Sts. Tickets: \$10

Gospel Mass - Robert Ray  
Misa Criolla - Ariel Ramirez  
Messe de Minuit pour Noël - Marc-Antoine Charpentier

[www.northcoastchorale.org](http://www.northcoastchorale.org)