

Donations allow purchase of K-9 equipment

The Lane County Search and Rescue K-9 Team, called Pacific Northwest Search Dogs, recently received a donation of \$2,000 from the McKenzie Cascade Dog Fanciers, a nonprofit dog club in Lane County.

The donation will be used to purchase Garmin Astro canine collars, a device that allows K-9s to search off lead and still be monitored electronically by their handlers and incident command.

The Astro uses a handheld device that maps where the dog has searched and the dog's current location, and is used for training and in rescue and recovery missions.

The technology will increase safety during training and searches, and will allow

the teams to cover more ground in less time.

Cabela's in Springfield also offered to pass on a vendor discount and gift card to the team so that between the two donations so that five collars and three Astro devices can be purchased.

The Pacific Northwest Search Dogs are one of eight specialty search and rescue teams under the direction of the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

The current team has 12 members and seven certified dogs.

The Search and Rescue K-9 Team is made up of volunteers, who train with their dogs on ground and water search, skills that are used to save lives during rescue missions.

FRAA to host first quarterly meeting Jan. 26

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance will be hosting its first quarterly meeting of 2015 at the Art Center on Jan. 26, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. In addition to a short business meeting, members are encouraged to bring in items they are working on, or have completed, that represent their artistic areas of interest.

This members show-and-tell will include some of the many talents and accomplishments of FRAA members, such as: published books, poetry, two- and three-dimensional art, sculpture, jewelry, carvings, scratch board, photography, Zentangle, sewing, knitting and cards.

Anyone interested in find-

ing out about FRAA membership, this would be a great meeting to attend.

Also at this meeting, members will hear about a grant the FRAA has recently received, from the Arts Commission Recognition Grants, for \$1,000.

As the grant criteria states, these grants are given to "exemplary arts organizations that have a record of excellence in programming, service and organizational capacity."

The awards support activities that advance the organizations marketing and outreach efforts, raising their profile in the community.

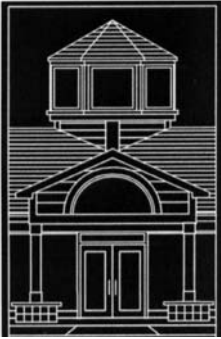
Members attending the quarterly meeting will also be viewing equipment purchased through the recent grant received from the Oregon Community Foundation.

The equipment purchased from this grant, such as computer, camera and big screen television, will allow students to view teaching demonstrations close-up on a big screen, as well as internet presentations.

The FRAA Art Center is located at 4969 Highway 101, Munsel Lake Plaza No. 4, just north of Fred Meyer.

More information about all the classes and events happening at FRAA can be found at www.fraaoregon.org.

Library Tidings



News about the Siuslaw Public Library

Library Tidings, a regular feature of The Siuslaw News, features news about upcoming Siuslaw Public Library programs for adults and children, new books and videos, and other library news of interest to the community. Library Tidings by Kevin Mittge

Author Review by Susie Voth

John Grisham does not as a rule write books in a series. He doesn't have a character like Alex Cross or V. I. Warshawski or Kinsey Millhone who show up in book after book.

Characters that have lives that their followers, well... follow. Characters that change and grow over time.

Grisham did, however, write three loosely connected books that take place in Clanton, Mississippi.

Jake Brigrance makes an appearance in two of these books and Lucien Wilbanks shows up in all three. The books are "A Time to Kill" (Grisham's first book but not published until after the astounding success of "The Firm"), "The Last Juror," and "Sycamore Row."

Brigrance is a lawyer with little trial experience in A Time to Kill. His case is a hard one; a black man killed two white men in front of many people. Of course there is a reason for the sensational killings and that makes the very beginning of the book difficult to read, but it sets the scene for all that comes next.

Don't expect the same characters to show up in Sycamore

Row, the other Brigrance novel. Lucien Wilbanks is one of the few holdovers. The story is completely different, and rightly so.

The one element that remains constant between the books is racial tension.

Willie Traynor is the main protagonist in The Last Juror. Traynor is a 23-year-old college dropout. He gets a job at The Ford County Times, the local newspaper in Clanton, which he eventually buys. A gruesome murder becomes front page news and Traynor uses the murder to the newspapers' advantage and makes a few enemies in doing so.

(Okay, there is one exception to this Grisham series rule: the juvenile series featuring Theodore Boone. Be that as it may, for the most part Grisham writes stand-alone novels.)

Best Books of 2014

Did you have a favorite new book you read in 2014? Each year the library solicits recommendations from patrons, volunteers, and staff on the previous year's best books.

A selection of these books will be presented during a "Best Books," with about "60 book

reviews in 60 minutes" and a bibliography will be prepared of everyone's suggestions.

We encourage our patrons to let us know which were their favorite books.

We do have a few guidelines: the books can be adult, young adult, or children; the books can be any genre, including fiction, mystery, science fiction or non-fiction; the books can be any format, such as print, audiobook, e-book, etc.; the publication date should be late 2013 through 2014, but if you've read something older that was really wonderful that you want to share, feel free to include it.

If you can, please provide a short description of the book or what you really liked about it, but please limit your suggestions to no more than five books.

Email your recommendations to the library at ref@siuslaw.lib.or.us or stop by the reference desk and pick up a blank questionnaire form.

Holiday Closure

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19.

Regular hours resume at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Volunteer retreat for 90 by 30 set for Jan. 22

Organizing and orientation efforts for the West Lane 90 by 30 Child Abuse and Prevention program continue this month with a volunteer orientation and leadership retreat on Thursday, Jan. 22, at Mapleton High School.

The program is from 3 to 7 p.m. at the high school on E. Mapleton Road.

"We are still actively recruiting community members in our West Lane region to step up and participate in this effort," said Lynn Anderson, co-chair of the program. "We absolutely

invite anyone who cares about the future for our children to come and learn more about the program."

The West Lane 90 by 30 program is exploring ways to stop child abuse before it starts by examining a number of programs that address those concerns. It is part of the Lane County 90 by 30 Program that has as its goal to reduce child abuse and neglect 90 percent by the year 2030.

Upcoming projects for the volunteers and leadership team include a community survey

that asks about beliefs and attitudes to end child abuse. The survey will create a baseline to see how community beliefs and attitudes change as work is done to educate and inform people about child abuse and neglect.

The group also will begin to identify what helps build safe families in local communities and what is needed to create an even stronger support system for families.

They will also begin work to plan the first county-wide Child Abuse Prevention Month

for April, 2015.

Guests are welcome at all leadership meetings.

The upcoming schedule includes meetings Jan. 23 at Siuslaw Elementary School, March 6 at Mapleton High School and May 8 at Siuslaw Elementary School.

Meetings are held from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Lynn Anderson at 541-997-5458 or Jesika Kaczinski at 503-440-7427, or email Rose Wilde at rosew@90by30.com.

AARP seeks volunteers for Florence drivers program

Anyone who is passionate about safety, enjoys helping others and strives to make their community a better place, AARP Driver Safety would like to meet you.

AARP Driver Safety, the nation's first and largest older driver safety initiative, is recruiting volunteers to instruct, coordinate and promote the AARP Smart Driver Course.

AARP Driver Safety has

opportunities available for instructors who will organize and teach AARP Smart Driver classroom courses at local colleges, community centers, libraries, hospitals and senior centers.

We have immediate openings in the Florence and adjacent areas.

This is a great opportunity to help seniors avoid crashes, brush up on basic driving skills and learn how to adapt to new

driving conditions and most importantly continue to maintain their independence longer.

All AARP Driver Safety volunteer positions are unpaid. However, volunteers are reimbursed for approved out-of-pocket expenses, such as mileage, parking and basic supplies.

If you have a prior teaching or instructor background, or have been an associated with driving, such as in law enforce-

ment, trucking, taxi driving or if you just like interfacing and helping people, AARP would like to tell you more about this opportunity.

Send an email with a brief note about your background to dennisdater@gmail.com, or visit www.aarp.org/drive. Click the Volunteer, Teach or Promote a Class button, and fill in the application at the bottom of the screen.

Food Share receives \$5,000 Cow Creek Grant

Florence Food Share recently thanked the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation for its generous grant of \$5,000 in support of Food Share's new program, The Culturally Diverse Food Project.

As the population of western Lane County becomes increasingly diverse, Florence Food

Share has identified the need to adjust its food purchases in order to better serve the clients that are utilizing its food pantry.

In the past five years, it' Latino clientele has increased by 160 percent.

However, staff have found that these clients do not choose

much of the food offered to them, because it is not a typical staple in their diet.

Food Share believes that purchasing food staples specific to the Latino population will more adequately fulfill their nutritional needs because these items are typically found in their diet and are familiar to

them.

Florence Food Share's mission is to alleviate hunger in western Lane County for all its clients, and its hope that these new additions to the pantry will satisfy that need.

Thank You to my Community!

I want to express my deepest thanks to all that contributed to this years "Teen Giving Tree". Sponsored by Twin Lake Store

Your gifts did make a difference. The shoes, boots and clothing fit perfectly and most importantly for teens, they got what they wished for.

A Special Thank You Ladies of the Elks for your generous support both this year and Last and for everything you do for this community.

~Vicki Ambrosio

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Wishes to say a very Special THANK YOU to the many supporters of the successful

Community Holiday food baskets and toys give away to:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Abby's Pizza | Trees for Toys in 21 businesses: |
| Camp Florence Boys | Abel Insurance |
| Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors | AIC Insurance |
| Church of the Nazarene | Bi-Mart |
| Florence Volleyball Club | Coastal Fitness & Aquatics |
| Gary Cargill (Flowers by Bobbi) | Real Food Co-op |
| Grocery Outlet | Fred Meyer |
| Heceta Self Storage | Hoberg Muffler |
| Interact Club | Lane County Community College |
| Kiwanis of Florence | On Your Feet with a Splash |
| Les Schwab | First Community Credit Union |
| Rotary of Florence | Oregon Pacific Bank |
| Saint Vincent DePaul | Pro Lumber |
| Siuslaw Fire Department | Rite Aid |
| Siuslaw Middle School | Umqua Bank |
| Three Rivers Casino and Hotel | WA Federal Savings |
| | West Coast Autobody |
| | 321 Video |
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and
The many other Community Volunteers of Florence

Without the support and help of this wonderful Florence Community, The Soroptimist Club of Florence would not have been able to give out 400 food baskets and serve 152 families with 396 children with toys.

THANK YOU FLORENCE FROM SOROPTIMIST