

Applicants sought for Habitat for Humanity homes

Informational meetings set for next week.

Florence Habitat for Humanity is looking for people with moderate incomes who would like to become Habitat homeowners.

Anyone who has lived or worked within the Siuslaw Fire District for at least one year and is a legal U.S. resident may be eligible.

Applications will be considered based on need, ability to make mortgage payments and

willingness to work with Habitat for Humanity volunteers in building the home.

Information and home ownership applications will be available at three meetings in the Florence Habitat for Humanity office, 2004 Highway 101, north of City Lights Cinemas. The meetings are Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, at 1 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 24, at 10 a.m.

KB Gallery to host watercolor workshop

Award-winning watercolor artist Kathryn Damon-Dawson invites anyone who wishes to discover the joy of painting with watercolor to a workshop titled "Making Friends with Watercolor."

The workshop is Sunday, Jan. 25, from 2 to 5 p.m., at Kenneth B Gallery, 1458 First St., in Old Town.

This will be an introductory workshop offering an exploration of beginning methods and various techniques of watercolor painting.

Cost is \$30 and includes all materials necessary for a



Award-winning watercolor "White Bishop, Black Knight" by Kathryn Damon-Dawson (courtesy photo)

three-hour session.

Damon-Dawson recently received an award for her painting, "White Bishop, Black Knight" in the Watercolor Society of Oregon's Fall 2014 exhibition.

Besides painting, she is a published author and founding member of Backstreet Gallery, where her works are available for sale, 1421 Bay St., in Old Town.

Tickets and workshop information are available online at www.KennethBGallery.com, or call SK Lindsey at 541-999-5875.

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Garden Club seeks student applicants for scholarship

The Florence Garden Club invites Siuslaw and Mapleton high school seniors to apply for the Garden Club scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year.

Applicants must be planning a post-high school career in horticulture or a related field, such as forestry or environmental science.

Awards are typically \$1,000

or more. Applications are available through high school counseling departments.

Deadline for applying is April 1.

Since the first scholarship was awarded in 1994, more than \$47,000 has been distributed to local students. The Garden Club raises funds throughout the year from donations, raffles and the

spring community plant sale.

Florence and Mapleton area merchants have contributed merchandise and services for raffles as well as monetary donations to the club for scholarship fundraising.

The Florence Garden Club was formed in 1949 to improve the community and to promote the knowledge of horticulture.

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church on Highway 101 in Florence.

The club currently has more than 100 members.

For more information about scholarship applications, contact a school counselor or call Carol Jolley, scholarship chairwoman, at 541-902-9343.

RELAY FOR LIFE
FLORENCE KICK OFF

Join us Saturday, January 31st
4:00pm - 7:00pm

At the Elks Lodge (back dining room)
1686 12th Street, Florence OR

CHILI COOK OFF & DESSERT AUCTION!

Chili Winners announced at 6:00pm
Dessert Auction starts at 5:30pm
Bowl of Chili - \$3.00

Stick around for fun and games,
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For more information, contact Nicole Hundley at (541) 554-9862

State parks department offers local grants

SALEM — The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has announced the opening of the 2015 Local Government Grant Program grant cycle for funding public parks and recreation projects.

Large, small and planning grants are available for cities, counties, metropolitan service districts, park and recreation

districts, and port districts looking to fund the following types of projects: planning, development, rehabilitation, acquisition and acquisition and development.

The program is designed to help local government agencies acquire property for park purposes and fund outdoor park and recreation areas and facilities. The grants are fund-

ed from voter-approved lottery money.

OPRD gives more than \$4 million annually to Oregon communities for outdoor recreation projects and has awarded nearly \$50 million in grants since 1999.

Applications, a grant manual, application deadlines and other information are online at www.oprdgrants.org.

AARP seeks volunteers for Florence 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 pro-

vide 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.

There are 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 enforcement, trucking, taxi driving or if you just like interacting 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 go online to www.aarp.org/drive. Click the Volunteer, Teach or Promote a Class button, and fill in the application at the bottom of the screen.

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Processing 2014 state, federal tax filing begins Tuesday

SALEM — The 2015 tax filing season has begun for both the Oregon Department of Revenue and the Internal Revenue Service.

Both agencies will begin accepting returns electronically and processing all returns on Jan. 20. Revenue encourages Oregon taxpayers to e-file their state and federal tax returns.

"Taxpayers can get their refunds sooner if they e-file," said Ken Ross, manager of the Personal Income Tax program. "You can get your refund in seven to 10 business days, instead of the six to eight weeks it takes to get your refund if you file a paper return."

Other e-filing benefits include: Fewer errors, faster return processing, quicker and safer return transmission, and

acknowledgement of receipt from Revenue and the IRS.

There are a number of e-filing software options.

Oregon has teamed up with the IRS Free File Alliance, which means some of the Oregon-approved online tax preparation sites offer free e-filing for federal and Oregon returns.

For more information on e-filing, visit www.oregon.gov/dor/e-filing.

Visit www.oregon.gov/dor to get tax forms, check the status of your refund, or make tax payments; or call 1-800-356-4222 toll-free from an Oregon prefix (English or Spanish); 503-378-4988 in Salem and outside Oregon; or email questions.dor@oregon.gov.

For TTY (hearing or speech impaired), call 1-800-886-7204.

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