#### Informational meetings set for next week.

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

Habitat for 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.

Serving our community for over 15 years.

TREE & LANDSCAPE

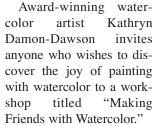
541-268-6914

Tree Removal & Trimming

Brush Cutting & Maintenance

"Making Friends One Job at a Time."

licensed, bonded, insured



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



KB Gallery to host watercolor workshop

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

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

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

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

### 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

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, Minute to Win it challenge and live music!

For more information, contact Nicole Hundley at (541) 554-9862



### State parks department offers local grants

SALEM - The Oregon districts, and port districts ed from voter-approved lottery 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

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-

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 \_

about safety, enjoys helping others and strives to make their community a better opportunities available for place, AARP Driver Safety would like to meet you.

driver safety initiative, is recruiting volunteers to instruct, coordinate and pro-

Breaking news, photo galleries and MORE!

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Anyone who is passionate mote the AARP Smart Driver However, volunteers are reim-Course.

AARP Driver Safety has instructors who will organize and teach AARP Smart Driver AARP Driver Safety, the classroom courses at local collibraries, hospitals and senior

> 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.

bursed for approved out-ofpocket expenses, such as mileage, parking and basic

If you have a prior teaching or instructor background, or nation's first and largest older leges, community centers, 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.



We focus on building genuine relationships with our clients, being there in person whenever you need us.

MEMBER FDIC

### Processing 2014 state, federal tax filing begins Tuesday

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 efile their state and federal tax

"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

SALEM - The 2015 tax 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 efiling for federal and Oregon returns.

For more information on efiling, 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-

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