

Evangelicals host toy, shoebox drive

Florence will soon become a local drop-off point for the world's largest project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child.

During National Collection Week, Monday, Nov. 16, to Monday, Nov. 23, Florence Evangelical Church will collect shoeboxes — packed with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement — from generous donors.

This year, Florence project coordinators hope to collect 500 shoebox gifts to deliver to children in need overseas.

The annual Samaritan's Purse project is a favorite of many Florence residents, families, churches and groups who spread joy to millions of children around the world by filling shoeboxes for the holiday.

"Through the simple act of filling a shoebox, someone in Florence can make a tangible difference in the life of a child halfway around the world. Anyone can participate and bring joy to a child facing difficult circumstances," said regional project director Michael Ishmael.

At Florence Evangelical Church, anyone can drop off a gift-filled shoebox to send to a child overseas.

The Florence team hopes to help reach Samaritan's Purse's 2015 global goal of reaching 11 million children in need.

Florence Evangelical Church is at 1318 Rhododendron Drive. It is open every day of the week.

For more information, go to www.samaritanpurse.org/occ.

FAHS seeks volunteers

The Florence Area Humane Society is seeking volunteers to work in the FAHS Christmas Store through November.

Hours are flexible and it's a lot of fun meeting and assisting people who are shopping for treasures and bargain prices in a very festive atmosphere.

Anyone interested in volunteering a few hours a week should stop by the Christmas Store during business hours and ask for Elaine, or call Lynda at 541-997-4457 after 5 p.m.

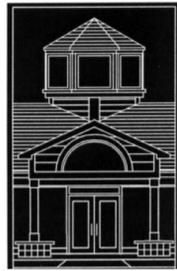
The Christmas Store is open daily at its new location, 2520 Highway 101, at 25th Street, between Taco Bell and Mini Pet Mart.

The store is open through Sunday, Nov. 29, but is closed Thanksgiving Day.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

All proceeds benefit the Florence Area Humane Society, feeding and caring for dogs and cats each waiting for their own forever home.

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

The Murderer's Daughter

By Jonathan Kellerman
Book Review by Susie Voth
Readers of Jonathan Kellerman's Alex Delaware series will be surprised by "The Murderer's Daughter," a standalone novel featuring a new character, Dr. Grace Blades.

Dr. Blades is a psychologist who specializes in treating patients that have suffered extreme trauma. She is very good at her job, having a personal history with extreme trauma.

However, Dr. Blades has a dark side and readers get to know it through both her backstory (given in flashbacks throughout the book) as well as her late night escapades described in her present day story.

As a child, Grace Blades lived a dismal life. Her parents (whom she referred to as "the strangers") were low-life drug users. Home life in the down and out trailer park did not nourish young Grace, who always excelled, teaching herself to read, fend for herself and stay out of the way.

Blades is a character admired for the obstacles that she has overcome.

After the deaths of her parents, she becomes a child of the foster care system, and most of her foster care placements were

less than desirable.

However, because of a dedicated case worker, Wayne Knutsen, ultimately she arrives in the home and comes under the care of Ramona Stage.

She has three years at Stagecoach Ranch before unpredictable events move Grace onto her next foster care placement.

This is a book of murder and mayhem, a book about a strong female character who knows her own mind, makes no excuses for her actions and is able to defend herself. This is a book in which events from Grace's past circle into her present and catch the reader off guard.

An FYI for audiobook listeners — Kathe Mazur narrates the audiobook and does an excellent job.

Author Tim Palmer to discuss Oregon rivers

On Friday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m., award-winning author Tim Palmer, will be presenting a beautiful slide program about Oregon's rivers.

The author of the newly published "Field Guide to Oregon Rivers," Palmer is the author of 22 books about rivers, conservation and adventure travel, and has been featured on OPB's Oregon Field Guide show.

For over 30 years, Palmer's

writing and photography work have braided together his love of rivers and nature with his drive for creative expression and his deep commitment to conservation.

He has also served on the board of the national river advocacy group American Rivers and on the board of the national river organizing group River Network.

Palmer is currently an associate at the Pennsylvania State University's Riparia Center and is a visiting scholar at Portland State University.

Library survey

The Siuslaw Public Library District has started its strategic planning process which will result in a new five-year strategic plan, directing how the library will proceed in the coming years. One element of the process is to seek input from the community. The public is invited to fill out a library survey form. Hard copies are available at the library or you can visit www.SiuslawLibrary.org and fill out the survey online.

We want to hear from everyone, from Florence to Deadwood, young and old, library users and non-users alike.

Thank you very much for sharing your ideas!

RAIN to begin in Florence this Thursday

Get involved in the continuing efforts to catalyze a new entrepreneurial movement in Florence.

The City of Florence, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and Lane Community College Florence Center, in collaboration with the Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN), will host the first in a series of educa-

tional seminars for entrepreneurs and startup businesses Thursday, Nov. 12, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street.

The event is free and light food and beverage will be served.

The seminar will cover how to avoid common mistakes startup companies make and how to make a compelling one-page business plan that

meets the needs of investors.

Attendees are encouraged to register through the City of Florence website at www.ci.florence.or.us. Just click the "StartupFloCo Free Seminar for Entrepreneurs and Innovators" link on the home page.

"Mentorship and access to capital are two of the most critical elements of a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem," said Caroline Cummings, venture catalyst for RAIN and the seminar's host.

The Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) is an Oregon consortium of government, higher education, and the business community.

RAIN was founded by the State of Oregon's Regional Solutions network and funded by the 77th Oregon State

Legislative Assembly to advance the formation of high-growth innovative start-up companies located in Lane, Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties.

In coordination with the Cities of Corvallis and Eugene, as well as communities throughout the region, RAIN is partnered with two accelerators to create a collaborative environment to assist entrepreneurs in establishing viable companies that generate jobs, wealth and opportunities for the region.

The RAIN Eugene Accelerator is a partnership between the University of Oregon and the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about RAIN, visit www.oregonrain.org.

Rhododendron Court applications due Friday

Siuslaw and Mapleton high school juniors and seniors can still apply to be on the 2016 Rhododendron Senior Court.

The Rhody Court committee will accept completed applications through Friday, Nov. 13.

The application is online at www.florencechamber.com

and at the counselor's office at Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools.

This is an ambassador opportunity for public speaking and leadership roles in the community. Chosen students (boys and girls) also get a chance to show their talents as well as earn a scholarship.

Members of the court will visit community events, business leaders, senior living centers, youth organizations and civic groups.

Court members receive one-on-one mentorship. Each junior prince or princess will be matched with a corresponding member from the senior court.

The Junior Court deadline has passed, and students should find out if they made it in the third week in November.

The Rhododendron Royal Courts will demonstrate their talents in the Rhododendron Showcase on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, where the Senior Court will compete for the title of Queen Rhododendron and King of the Coast and scholarship money.

For more information, contact Annette Foglio at 503-381-7943, Cindy Wobbe at cindywobbe@msn.com or go the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce website.



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240 HOURS

Is your family prepared?

If an emergency happens in our community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

Get your emergency kit started with these essentials:

- Battery powered radio
- First aid kit an manual
- Sleeping bags and blankets (wool or thermal)
- Manual can opener
- Waterproof/windproof matches
- Water storage (1 gallon/person/day)
- Water purification tablets
- Non-Perishable Food
- Utility knife
- Emergency candles
- Extra eyeglasses and contact lenses
- Essential medications

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