

# Resolve to donate blood in January

This January, during National Blood Donor Month, the American Red Cross encourages people to roll up their sleeves to give blood to help maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients.

Since 1970, National Blood Donor Month has been observed in January to not only honor blood and platelet donors, but also to help increase donations during the winter months. Maintaining a sufficient blood supply for patients is difficult at this time of year because extreme winter weather and seasonal illnesses often impact donor turnout.

Karla Essmiller became a blood donor in college, but the importance of giving blood hit home when several family members had medical emergencies.

"It only takes once sitting in a hospital, praying that your loved one will live through the

day, to know how thankful you are for every single thing done to help them," she said. "Donating blood is a simple gift that I can make that may help up to three people live another day. That makes me feel like a hero."

The Red Cross encourages eligible donors to resolve to give blood regularly, beginning in January.

Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types AB, O, B negative and A negative.

To make an appointment to donate blood, download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App from app stores, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12 and 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Angell Job Corps, 335 NE Blodgett Road, in Yachats.

# Boys and Girls share holiday cheer with seniors



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County Teen Center members gave out handmade gift baskets filled with treats to residents at Spruce Point Assisted Living Community as part of the club's community outreach program Dec. 11. Spruce Point resident Everett Butler (inset) shows club members how to play the "bones" during the party. Teen Center members made more than 90 gift baskets during the weeks prior to the event. The Boys and Girls Club plans to have similar events with Spruce Point on a monthly basis.

# Premier Landscaping holiday light show continues nightly

More than 50,000 led lights, an hour of holiday music and more than 100 channels of synchronized special effects are all part of the annual free holiday light show at Premier Landscaping.

All broadcasts are on 97.9 FM every night from 5 to 10 p.m., allowing visitors to enjoy lights synced to music from their cars.

Come watch the dancing

favorites, four singing characters: Santa, Rudolf, a tree and a snowman.

The show includes eight RGB flood lights, a 50-foot-tall mega tree and more.

Premier Landscaping is at 812 Quince St. in Florence, one block before Highway 101.

Park in either the True-Value parking lot or behind Kari's Dunes Cafe for the best possible viewing.

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# Local Dining

## Creative solutions for table centerpieces

Entertaining guests is a great way to open and share your home and make memories with family and friends. If your entertaining includes a meal, chances are everyone will be sitting at the table to dine and converse. A beautifully set table can make guests feel welcome and establish the ambiance for the meal.

A centerpiece is at the heart of a well-dressed table. While centerpieces are most often associated with formal affairs, any meal or gathering is enhanced with the right centerpiece. Here are some easy and elegant centerpiece ideas to dress up your dinner table.

### Fresh flowers

Floral arrangements make for great centerpieces. Such arrangements can be as simple or as extravagant as you desire. For casual meals, consider picking some flowers from your own garden or a nearby field. Spring daffodils or cherry blossom branches can add color to a table. Some smaller, potted impatiens or begonias make great centerpieces for summer soirées, while autumn and winter blooms work for holiday gatherings and parties.

If you want an even more special touch, consider working

with a florist. Explain the theme of your party and ask the florist to recommend appropriate flowers for the gathering based on your theme.

### Fruit and foods

Floral centerpieces may be some of the most popular, but food also works as a base for interesting centerpieces. Grab an unused soup tureen or some decorative vases and fill them with an assortment of items. Lemons, oranges and other citrus fruits add a splash of bold color to a table. Otherwise, look for exotic foods that have interesting appearances, like prickly pears or artichokes. Fill a tall vessel with walnuts or chestnuts for an earthy look. A large basket brimming with assorted breads and crackers looks attractive and is also ready for guests to dig in.

### Candy

Whimsical parties or children's events can be made more fun with clever centerpieces made from candy. Stick lollipops into buckets filled with sand or push them into a foam form to make

a candy topiary. Canisters filled with candy of all shapes, sizes and colors appeal to guests' eyes and their affinity for sweets.

### Miscellaneous items

Look around the house for any number of other items that can be placed inside vases or clear containers. Bells, tissue paper, pebbles or confetti can be used to create attractive centerpieces for the table.

With some inspiration and a little creativity, hosts and hostesses can create centerpieces that add a touch of elegance to any dinner party.



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Every Month Mo's has brought in special "Motivation for Kids" tables which raise money for local charities that are devoted to helping the wellbeing of local children. This month Headstart of Florence is the local charity being honored.

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