

Anonymous donor doubles kettle campaign funds

A local Florence donor who wants to remain anonymous wanted to reward the hard work of more than 50 local volunteers who stood at kettles for The Salvation Army this past Christmas season. She decided to match dollar for dollar the total amount that was raised.

"Amazing," said Janet Snow, local volunteer coordinator of the Red Kettle Campaign in Western Lane County. "We raised nearly \$17,000 by year's end, including the \$1,000 that was donated by Ladies of the Elks in Florence.

"With individual checks people sent to our local post office box, we felt we far exceeded our initial goal of \$10,000 — and now this.

"Our community is truly the blessed with good people who care about others."

This was the first Red Kettle Campaign locally in memory.

The bulk of the money raised is intended for the formation of a new "quasi-endowment" for The Salvation Army, which will pay 5 percent a year to the commanding officers who oversee services in this area of Western Lane County.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kettle Campaign volunteers and First Citizen nominees Geraldine Lucio and Janet Snow display a donation total by an anonymous donor.

With the matching gift from the anonymous donor, more than \$30,000 will start the new endowment fund.

"Once established, we plan to invite the officers in Eugene who oversee their services to join us for another Making A Difference Dinner at the Riverside Restaurant," said volunteer Geraldine Lucio, owner of Old Town Barber Shop. "Anyone who participated in the local campaign will be invited to meet the officers and share their ideas as to how best to spend the money locally."

Both Snow and Lucio were nominated for Citizen of the Year in the recent Chamber Siuslaw Awards. The Salvation Army was nominated as the local nonprofit of the year.

Local supporters plan to hold future events before next Christmas season. Anyone who would like to contribute or volunteer locally should write to: The Salvation Army - Western Lane County, P.O. Box 1041 Florence, Ore., 97439.

'Vision' results to be revealed

On Wednesday, March 16, community members will gather at a Siuslaw Pathways regional forum to hear the results of the Siuslaw Vision Project and begin to identify key action items that will enhance our community.

The family friendly event is open to all interested community members living in the region. It will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Florence Senior Center community meeting space.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be play space for young children.

Priorities that have emerged in the visioning work include an all-ages community center, reliable form of public transportation between Deadwood and the coast, fiber optics available to all, increased affordable and safe housing options and better access to health care.

The forum is the culmination of the community visioning process that began with an online survey about community vitality and has continued through a series of community meetings and targeted focus group discussions.

The meeting will include a presentation and discussion of the Vision Statement, as well as a call to action, with an opportunity to meet in small focus groups to examine how to move forward.

"This is an opportunity for people to step up and help champion key priorities, like community centers at the coast and upriver, or exploring affordable housing, fiber optics or other projects that will strengthen our region," said Becky Goehring, one of the co-leaders of the Pathways Visioning Project.

The Siuslaw Region shares the same boundaries as the Mapleton and Siuslaw School Districts and includes the communities of Deadwood, Swisshome, Tide, Mapleton, Florence and Dunes City.

All ages are welcomed and encouraged to attend to help shape the future of our Region.

SMS Nerd Squad to screen debut film

The Siuslaw Nerd Squad's debut student film, "Robot Apocalypse," will be shown for the public at City Lights Cinemas on Monday, March 14, at 5:30 p.m.

The Nerd Squad is made up of Siuslaw Middle School sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade "techies" who meet after school for activities, including Lego robotics and filming daily announcements, among other activities involving science, technical, engineering, arts and mechanics (STEAM).

"Robot Apocalypse" is a half-hour film combining most of these components. The film was conceived, filmed and edited by the Nerd Squad and was shot in the spring of last year and edited this past fall.

The public is invited for this one-time showing of this film. Suggested donation is \$3, and all proceeds go to the Siuslaw Nerd Squad.

WEATHER DATA

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
March 1	55	47	0.36
March 2	58	43	0.50
March 3	60	46	0.00
March 4	60	41	0.22
March 5	55	47	0.95
March 6	53	41	0.69
March 7	52	37	0.28

Rainfall Week: 3.00"
Month: 3.00" Year: 24.59"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham

Second Saturday Gallery Tour this Saturday

Enjoy works by local artists during the Second Saturday Gallery Tour this Saturday, March 12, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Enjoy great local art, interactions with artists, refresh-

ments and live entertainment.

The tour begins at any of the participating locations.

For more information, visit www.2ndSaturdayGalleryTour.com.



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- **Maintaining a Positive Mental Outlook on Life**
Thursday, January 21st, 2pm
Learn how to maintain a positive outlook on life while you age.
- **Learn How to Keep Your Memory Sharp**
Thursday, February 18th, 2pm
As we age, we start to notice some changes in our ability to remember things. Discover ways to keep your memory sharp and fresh at any age.
- **Diabetes and Diet—Making Food Choices That Work for You**
Thursday, March 17th, 2pm
Learn about diabetes prevention, management, and care. Understand diabetes in a simpler and clearer way than ever before.

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For more information, you may contact:

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