

# VFW Patriotic Essay contest seeks entries

Florence Veterans of Foreign Wars and its auxiliary are sponsoring two essay contests available to middle school and high school students.

The "Patriot's Pen" contest is open to students grades six through eight and requires a typed 300-400 word essay.

The essay topic is: "The America I Believe In."

The top national winner will receive \$5,000 and an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C.

Students in grades nine through 12 can enter the

"Voice of Democracy" contest by submitting a written or CD essay on the theme: "My Responsibility to America."

The top national winner will receive a \$30,000 scholarship.

Each state winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. and a portion of the \$153,000 available in national awards.

The deadline for both contests is Tuesday, Nov. 1.

For more information, visit vfw.org or call Ken Smith, VFW Post 3232, at 626-945-4044 or Tom Benedict at 702-610-9617.

## Council from 1A

Miller recommended the council consider awarding the contract to the lowest of four bidders, Carter & Company, Inc., in the amount of \$2,654,848 for the Phase II Water and Roadway Improvement project.

Miller said the bid was above the amount budgeted by the city for the project, but under the engineer's estimate for the project.

The bid came in at \$139,828 over the budgeted amount, but was \$176,920 under the engineer's estimate. The budget was approved prior to the submission of the engineer's estimate.

The bulk of the budget overage comes from the street fund portion of the bid.

City Manager Erin Reynolds told the council that the city could make up the difference by using funds from the Revision Florence budget.

"Revision Florence is yet to be determined as far as funding goes," she said. "Even if we have a couple hundred thousand dollars from it go toward (the budget deficit), I'm not sure that will make or break ReVision Florence, a \$6 million project happening over several later years."

The council voted to accept the project bid.

Councilor Joshua Greene was absent.

Also in the meeting, Mayor Joe Henry read two proclamations in support of Constitution Week and October being National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

**On Monday, Sept. 19, Mayor Joe Henry (center) proclaims October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Florence. Henry reported that nationally, one in four women experience domestic violence in their lifetime. According to Henry, Siuslaw Outreach Services provides domestic violence advocacy services to an average 150 persons each year.**

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## Volunteer from 1A

of volunteer services.

This is the first year the program has reached out to western Lane County.

Volunteers helped paint the play shed behind the Mapleton Middle School building and worked to distribute food at Florence Food Share.

Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "We were very excited to be able to sign up for the United Way Day of Caring. To have volunteers come out and paint the inside of our shed and show our kids that the community will come together and support their school is important."

Three United Way volunteers joined students and staff to give the shed a badly need-

ed coat of paint.

Michele Sheng-Palnisano, United Way Social Innovation Fund program manager said, "We came out today to provide any kind of help we can. A space like this is really meant for the community."

United Way volunteer Taylor Ludtke said, "We feel really good about what we are doing here today. All three of us work on the education team at United Way. The work we do is to support kids and families throughout Lane County. It was important for us to come out here to Mapleton and connect with this community and help out any way we could."

Two more volunteers met at Florence Food Share to help distribute food to families and individuals in need.

Norma Barton, Florence Food Share Executive Director said, "United Way contacted us. They are a very large supporter of Florence Food Share and every year they grant us money. Day of Caring is an annual event, but we are the first nonprofit in



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

### Mapleton students help with painting.

Florence to participate. We are very pleased that United Way contacted us."

Barton said Florence Food Share has seen an increase in people needing food this fall.

"This time of year we are traditionally very low," Barton said. "Some of our

shelves are bare. We are in desperate need of food and cash to purchase food."

According to Barton, every dollar donated allows Florence Food Share to access and distribute 65 pounds of food.

"Every dollar goes a long way," she said.

## SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF FLORENCE

Presents:

### BRAS FOR A CAUSE



ONE MISSION ...  
... COUNTLESS DREAMS

**October 15, 2016 • 6pm-9pm**

**Florence Events Center**

**TICKETS ARE \$50**

No Host Bar | Dinner | Silent Auction | Dessert Auction | Live Bra Auction

A, B, C Cup Sponsorship Opportunities Available contact Nancy Bosket @ 541-902-7250

Soroptimist International of Florence is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)3 status and sponsorship donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. Tax ID 23-7173303

**Life Chain** is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life American. We stand for 1 1/2 hours, praying for our nation and for an end to abortion.

We invite you to join us on **October 2, 2016**  
**1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

We meet on the sidewalk at **Hwy. 101 at 13th Street.**  
• Bring your whole family  
• Rain or Shine  
• Signs will be furnished

*Florence Chapter of Oregon Right to Life*  
Any Questions?  
Call **Mona Dick**  
**541-997-2065**

## Club from 1A

The corps is comprised of three snare drummers, one tenor drummer, two bass drummers and two cymbal players.

"We have drums and equipment for 12 members or 15, including flag carriers, and backup drummers," Aaron said.

The club is currently fundraising, and looking for sponsors for their uniforms.

All drums and gear were purchased used, and refurbished by Drum Corps Director John Aaron. The official premier will be in the 2017 Rhody Days Parade.

"We hope to have a few dress rehearsals in some other local events," Tracy Aaron said.

Anyone interested in helping, or to learn more about the Boys and Girls Club programs, can call the Teen Center at 541-902-0304.

## Rhody from 1A

Bartlett agreed. "It's going to acknowledge the men and women assigned to Florence and their many contributions to the community," she said.

Since 2017 is the 110th Rhododendron Festival, the chamber wants to encourage more and bigger floats and entries into the Rhododendron Festival Grand Floral Parade,

just like in decades past. "We especially want to emphasize the rhodies this year," Bartlett said. "I'm excited to see what people create."

Soon, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a contest to design this year's Rhododendron Festival logo and commemorative Rhody Days pin.

More details about the Rhododendron Festival can be found at [florencechamber.com](http://florencechamber.com).

# WORD ON THE STREET

What is your favorite book?

With the **Florence Festival of Books** taking place today at the FEC, we thought we'd ask a few local authors about their favorite books!



"Bob Welch's 'American Nightingale' and 'Pebble in the Water.' The first book is a heart-wrenching story of a World War II nurse, and the second is about the research in far-away places to make the first book possible. Bob's writing inspires me."

—JUDY FLEAGLE



"'If You Want to Write: A Book About Art, Independence and Spirit' by Brenda Ueland changed my life as a writer and liberated my true voice. Favorite line: 'Be a lion, be a pirate, when you write! Be bold, be reckless, be free.'"

—CATHERINE ROURKE



"This was very hard, because there are so many. But what I finally settled on is 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens, because it is a profound historical chronicle and a timeless tale of sacrificial love."

—ELLEN TRAYLOR



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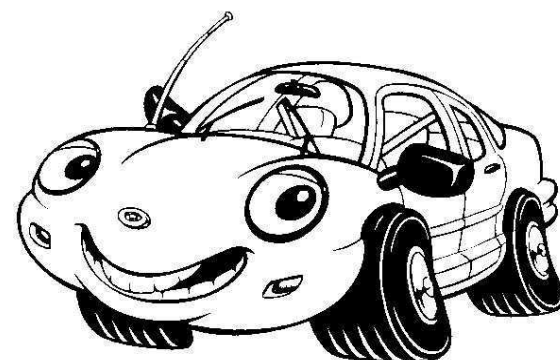
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