

Community News

Filling bowls for the area's hungry



Buy an empty, hand-made ceramic bowl created by local artists and, in the process, help someone who may otherwise go hungry for the holidays.

That's been the idea behind the annual Empty Bowls event for the past 21 years. This year's event will offer more than 700 handmade ceramic bowls to the public, created by many local artists, with the purchase price of \$10 each.

Smaller bowls will also be available at \$5 each.

Each bowl will be accompanied by a coupon redeemable for one cup of the soup of the day at a participating restaurant during the month of December.

Participating restaurants menus and locations will be featured at the "Soup Table" at the event for viewing by the public.

There will be a wide variety of eating establishments participating this year so that many different cuisines will be available to choose from.

Along with local Florence artists from throughout the area, more than 75 Siuslaw High School students will be involved in the production of handmade ceramic bowls. Through the Empty Bowls event, ceramics students are not only learning how to create handcrafted ceramic bowls, they are also learning how to give back to their community in a unique way.



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

More than 700 handmade bowls will be available to purchase during this weekend's annual Empty Bowls fundraiser for Florence Food Share.

This project has helped raise their awareness of the needs of others and how they might assist in meeting those needs.

Also, for the third year, the Siuslaw High School Culinary Class will join forces with Empty Bowls, providing refreshments for the Artists

Reception and the Empty Bowls Fundraiser.

Under the direction of instructor Kyle Lewis, students will be creating delicious snacks for Empty Bowls attendees.

A silent auction is also available for attendants to par-

ticipate in.

The 21st Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser opens Friday, Dec. 2, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and continues Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and concludes Sunday, Dec. 4, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Every year, sponsors, local

restaurants, artists, Lane Community College, Siuslaw High School and numerous volunteers join together to make this community event a success.

All proceeds from this fundraiser make it possible for our local food pantry to pro-

vide services to those in need in the area.

Admission is free.

So come purchase a one-of-a-kind piece of art that is beautiful to look at, functional and will help the needy.

Free acoustic concert at library Saturday

David Helfand and Justin Lader, a multi-talented acoustic team, will perform their original eclectic mix of music on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library.

Helfand and Lader have been touring around the Pacific Northwest and northern California the last few years sharing their signature blend of music at coffeehouses, festivals (including the Eugene Irish Festival), libraries, private homes and the Lane ESD Planetarium.

Their music has been called "an eclectic blend of original multi-cultural inspired music of passion and transcendence with inspirations from the Celtic lands, the Middle East, pentatonic meditation music, space music and progressive rock."

Helfand himself is a multi-talented instrumentalist who composes as well as plays the Celtic harp, mandocello, octave mandolin, guitar and keyboards.



COURTESY PHOTO

Multi-instrumentalist David Helfand and Violinist Justin Lader will perform Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Siuslaw Public Library.

Lader, who teaches the violin and viola, also composes and is an accomplished violist.

To date, the duo has released three albums: acoustic works of harp and viola titled "After

the Rain" (2012); "From a Distant Land" (2013), which embraces the spirit of Celtic music; and, most recently, a sacred journey through space searching for lost loved ones in "Through the Portal" (2016).

Prior to collaborating with Lader on these three albums, Helfand recorded six albums both as a solo artist and with ensembles.

Lader has also collaborated on albums with Jake McNeillie and Albert Howell.

David Macdonald of White Horse Coffee and Tea in Sutherlin, Ore., said of Helfand, "His style is contemporary, but rooted in ancient values and connections, resonating the theme of change moving in an outward spiral with an orbit around tradition and ancestral heritage."

"His work is beautiful. This is what he aims to project."

For more information about this concert, call the Siuslaw Public Library at 541-997-3132.

St. Vincent seeks help with gift-giving program

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County is looking for community support for "Holiday Joy," a gift-giving program that helps Florence residents living in affordable housing.

"Holiday Joy is a wonderful program that benefits residents in our affordable housing that could use a little extra help during this holiday season of giving," said Ashely Hensley, St. Vincent de Paul's community engagement coordinator. "For many people living in our housing or participating in one of our assistance programs, covering the base necessities like rent and power can be challenging enough. While the holiday season is about far more than gifts, a kind gesture can go a long way in

reminding folks that we're all in this together."

Hensley said that currently there are about 24 Florence residents, including families led by single mothers, grandmothers and seniors living alone. She added that those who have applied to the program include single mothers, large families and seniors.

"Their wishes include educational toys for their children, new scrubs for work, diapers and basic household supplies," Hensley said. "No gift is too small in helping us meet the needs of these residents who have made great strides in getting housed."

In addition to its thrift store in Florence, St. Vincent de Paul operates

See **GIVING 3B**

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