

McGill named Volunteer of the Month at OCHS

Most Florence area residents are familiar with and look forward to the Oregon Coast Humane Society's (OCHS) Christmas Store each year.

Not only is it one of two important annual fundraisers that help to support the animal shelter, but it is a cheerful, fun shopping experience as visitors to the store discover new gift and decorating items added daily.

Preparation for each November event begins back in January with one dedicated volunteer, working in a tiny sorting room at the OCHS Thrift Store.

Her name?

Elaine McGill.

Before moving from Salinas, Calif., to Florence in 2005 and, prior to her retirement, McGill was an emergency room nurse for 35 years in California and Arizona. She



COURTESY PHOTO

Elaine McGill

has also volunteered setting up triathlon First Aid stations for several years. Shortly after arriving in Florence,

McGill met Mary Beth Hodson while both were volunteering for Relay for Life. Hodson invited McGill to join her, working together sorting and pricing items for the next project that was in need of volunteers. In this case, it was the Oregon Coast Humane Society's Christmas Store — and the rest, as they say, is history.

McGill has continued every year since that time sorting and pricing items year round in preparation for what has become one of Florence's favorite traditions, the annual Christmas Store each November.

Her years of experience setting up the OCHS Christmas Store operation each year and teaching new volunteers has been invaluable.

Naming McGill as December's Volunteer of the Month was a very easy choice.

Christmases are a little merrier at OCHS each year thanks to McGill.

Cinemas from 1A

Falter said, "They used a trashcan to carry it out. They did some damage to our counter."

"It could have been a lot worse."

Despite the break-in, he said the weekend ended with an overwhelming show of support from Florence residents.

"What made this a good weekend instead of a bad weekend was once I posted the pictures on Facebook, it was amazing to see the outpouring of support. We had over 12,000 views in 48 hours," Falter said.

He added, "That was the most comments we have ever had since we opened. The theme was 'How can we help you? How can we support you?' We are very appreciative of all that support."

Falter said the break in

would not delay the Dec. 16 Florence premier of the latest Star Wars movie, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story."

According to Florence Police Department Commander John Pitcher, police are offering a \$250 reward for the arrest and conviction of the suspect or suspects involved.

Anyone who has information should contact Sgt. Brandon Ott at 541-997-3515.

Falter maintained his wry sense of humor over the ordeal when describing something he discovered at the crime scene that to him was unsettling.

"Over in the corner there was a cookie. We don't sell cookies here, so I knew it was most likely left by the perpetrators. We have a very strict no outside food or drink policy," he said.

City Lights Cinemas can be reached at www.citylightscinemas.com.

Conference from 1A

were among several local agency representatives to attend the conference.

Langborg said, "It was a good conference and reinforced much of what I already knew."

He added, "Even being a part of the Western Lane Emergency Operations Group, we still know that we personally need to be pre-

pared. There is no way local government will be able to meet the immediate needs of everyone in the face of a tsunami event. People need to be prepared on their own."

For more information on tsunami preparedness, visit Western Lane Emergency Operations Group's website at www.wleog.org or go to ci.florence.or.us/community/western-lane-emergency-operations-group.

Fire from 1A

Region is assisting the displaced family of four with immediate basic needs.

Barrett said, "Remember to stay in the kitchen when cooking. Do not use candles around anything that can burn, and have a fun and safe holiday season."




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