

## Old Town Coffee to feature Stender paintings in May

Old Town Coffee Roasters will be featuring the acrylic and watercolor paintings of local artist Carol Stender during the month of May.

Included in this showing will be colorful, large scale-spring and summer flowers. Also shown will be California poppies adorning a windswept hillside, a pair of powder pink tea rose twins, and fuchsias in the company of an adoring hummingbird.

Landscapes reflective of our local area, and a still-life of the artist's glass float and bottle collection, will also be on display.

Stender is a graduate of the Oregon College of Art (Ashland, Or.) where she met her husband, artist Greg Stender.

She regularly shows her work and is currently a member of the Bay Area Art Association, the Coos Art Museum and has shown locally through the Florence Regional Art Alliance (FRAA).

Stender's paintings, and the work of other local artists, can be seen every day in May from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Old Town Coffee in Florence.

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## DISASTER PREP

By DAVE ROBINSON  
Special to the Siuslaw News

# Water purification

I have already confessed to being a gadget lover. Some gadgets are just that, gadgets. But I have just acquired a new "essential item" you may want to add to your kit. I still get requests regarding storing sufficient quantities of water. I don't need to tell you of the necessity of having enough water on hand. I can also tell you that logistically speaking, it is usually not very practical to store that much water in your closet.

The Red Cross and FEMA suggest that you make storing water a priority. The amounts seem to be a bit of overkill until you actually have to dip into your supply. If you are reduced to gathering rainwater off your roof or dipping water from a creek, then it too must be purified. Boiling or adding bleach will do the trick. Boiling is considered the best method. Bring the water to a rolling boil for one minute then allow to cool.

Unscented household bleach is typically between five and six percent chlorine. Cloudy water should be filtered before boiling or "bleached." Use 1/8 teaspoon of bleach per gallon of water and up to 1/4 teaspoon if the water is cloudy or very cold.

I have noticed that several folks who depend on rain water, wells or springs, use an in-line, ultra-violet filter for purifying their household water. I won't try to go into the technical description of how UV rays work, but they have been in use for purifying water for the past 100 years.

Ultraviolet filters are simple and effective, capable of killing 99.99 percent of germs, parasites and other illness-causing organisms.

Which brings us to the gadget. This item is called a steriPEN. It is about the same size and shape as a regular screwdriver. There are batteries in the handle and the "blade" portion of the thing is actually an ultra-violet wand. The one I have come with a water bottle and a built-in filter for use on cloudy water.

Fill a container with water, then simply insert the wand portion into the water, push the button on the handle and use a stirring motion while you wait. In less than a minute, the green light comes on, indicating your water is now safe to drink. Watertight seals keep moisture away from the electronics.

The company claims to be able to purify 16 oz of water in approximately

48 seconds, while a 32 oz. container takes roughly 90 seconds. Cost varies from \$50.00 up to the \$200 range, depending on the model you choose. When's the last time you visited a foreign country and felt uncomfortable drinking their water?

Has your municipality issued a "boil your water" order lately?

This item would be handy for any foreign travel and also whenever you had a question about your water. I carry mine in my get home bag in the event something happens and I have to spend unexpected time away from home. Check it out and see if this is something in which you might want to invest.

As always send your comments and questions to [disasterprep.dave@gmail.com](mailto:disasterprep.dave@gmail.com).

*Dave Robinson is the postmaster in Bandon, Ore., and author of "Disaster Prep for the Rest of Us." He may be contacted at [disasterprep.dave@gmail.com](mailto:disasterprep.dave@gmail.com). Visit his website for more disaster preparedness tips, [www.disasterprep.dave.blog.spot.com](http://www.disasterprep.dave.blog.spot.com).*

## SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

# Firefighting academy



By PETE "BOA" WARREN  
Recruitment & Retention  
Coordinator for SVFR

Who are all those black-helmeted people you've been seeing these past few week-

ends over at the main fire station and other locations in town?

They are your community's latest group of Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue academy recruits training to become volunteer firefighters.

Once they've interviewed for a spot on the academy, paperwork is submitted for a background check, drug testing and DMV reports.

They are then assigned online classwork which will teach them the theoretical side of their training.

Looming ahead for them is the mandatory Agility Test.

Physical fitness is their next trial. The agility test confirms they are fit enough to meet the rigorous demands of firefighting.

Each recruit will don a set of 28-pound turnouts, slip into a 23-pound backpack and work through the seven-station course wearing a total of 51 extra pounds. Starting off,

they crawl and lift hose reels, then head over to pull a 100-foot, 2.5-inch hose, dragging it 50 feet one way and 50 feet back.

Next is the 165-pound dummy drag, which really elevates the old ticker!

From there, recruits lift and carry a 20 foot ladder a set distance. Once they return with the ladder, they hoist a weight repeatedly up and down the side of the building, taxing their already shaky arms.

A test of balance is next, with them required to walk back and forth on a narrow beam.

(Truth be told, I fell off three times doing this one.)

Finally, they show their dexterity and tenacity by assembling and disassembling a multitude of hose couplings.

Congrats to this academy's recruits, all of whom finished the course within the allotted time; we have some tough trainees in this class!

They are now ready for the three-weekend practical and entirely hands-on firefighter training course. Their training consists of "repeatedly" focusing on donning their turnouts (protective clothing), charging hose lines, using SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses), utilizing ladders and water supply techniques, along with other standard firefighting skills. They will do these tasks repeatedly, over and over, to acquire important muscle memory.

Finally, they will graduate after successfully entering a room with roaring flames and putting the wet stuff on the red stuff — and knocking the fire down.

*Pete "Boa" Warren can be contacted at 541-997-3212, or the main SVFR station, 2625 Highway 101, or email [Boa@svfr.org](mailto:Boa@svfr.org).*

## Rhody Society annual Early Rhody Show set

The Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will host its Early Rhododendron and Azalea Flower Show and plant sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

The flower show is open to

the public and is free of charge. Hours will be Saturday (after judging) from 1 to 5 p.m., and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The plant sale opens will be open to the public both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be located outside on south side of building.

The public can bring flower trusses for judging on Saturday, from 7 to 9 a.m.

The truss must come from a plant the owner has grown for at least six months

Ribbons, trophies and raffle prizes will be awarded to non-members and members.



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