

# 'Christmas Memory' comes to CAT

Class Act Theatre (CAT) will present Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" along with a hilarious 1930s-style Holiday Radio Show Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 17, at 2 p.m. All profits will go to Florence Food Share to help families in need over the holidays.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at catproductions.org, or at the CAT box office, 509 Kingwood St., Monday and Wednesday, from 1 to 5 p.m. starting Nov. 27. Tickets can also be purchased an hour before each show. "Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote is both a sweet

and poignant tale of childhood memories and the Christmas spirit. The program also features other old-time radio type entertainment. For more information, contact David Lauria at 541-999-0939.

## Wish from 1A

Also, Blake adds, "substantial increases" in the teacher's retirement system have further burdened school districts financially.

For decades, teachers have reached into their own pockets to pay for materials that school budgets could not provide. It used to be just reams of paper or pens and pencils, but in this digital age, high-tech teaching tools cost more.

The PTA has fulfilled some off-budget requests, but not all, according to school board member Paul Burns, who encouraged development of the Wish List.

The Wish List still includes items like paper reams, art sketchbooks and paints. But today, from the third-grade up, education is largely computer-based, just like the work environments many students will enter. Students also respond well to computer-based learning because they've grown up

with the Internet as a source of entertainment and social interaction.

Students still read textbooks, but online teaching tools give them an edge.

For example, Google Chromebooks "have proven to be a very useful tool for homework," says Special Programs Director Lisa Utz, and for developing "skills such as writing and keyboarding, collaboration, speaking and presentation, and time management. Apps like speech-to-text can make a huge difference; without that app some [students] may struggle so hard with the output of their thoughts that they are stifled."

This year, the district used an \$825 Wish List donation from the Florence Area Democratic Club to purchase materials ranging from traditional printed books to an online teaching supplement.

Third-grade teacher Dolly Greene received 17 copies of a book by an Oregon State University wildlife biologist

about natural habitats and journal-keeping on field trips.

The books can be shared with other third-grade teachers and makes a permanent resource for students.

In sixth-grade science classes, McKenzie Perry's students can now visit kidsdiscover.com for additional articles about classroom content.

"The website also comes with educational games and quizzes," Perry points out, "that will help me see their growth as well as provide extra practice for kids who need it."

Fulfilled Wish List requests evoke gratitude among teachers and administrators alike.

"We really appreciate the Wish List and the donors that have helped us fill some of the items on it," says High School Principal Kerri Tatum. "Unfortunately, we are not always able to buy all of the supplies that our teachers need, so this has really helped us fill in some of those gaps."

For Perry, the support is touching.

"Having community members step up and help out with these things is so wonderful and makes us feel so supported by the community," she says.

"The Wish List provides an avenue for those in the community that want to participate, but may not have time to volunteer," Utz says. "Knowing that the gift they give will directly affect students can be a way to feel connected. It can also be a very meaningful way to choose how to give to the schools, as each item on the wish list is individual and unique, as individual and unique as our Florence community."

Readers can visit the Wish List through the school district's home page at www.siuslaw.k12.or.us. Click on the link to "Siuslaw School District Wish List."

Cash donations in any amount are also welcome. Cash, goods, or services all qualify as tax-deductible, charitable donations.

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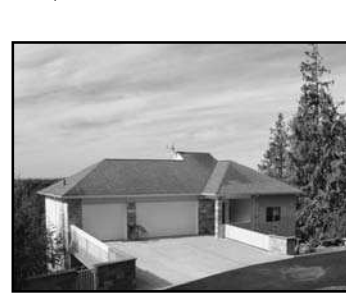
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Fleetwood on Cul-de-Sac. Double glass doors in permitted sunroom with wall of windows. Skylight & ceiling fan. Private backyard.  
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**NEW LISTING**  
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**\$185,000** BH7602 ML#17063339




**NEW LISTING**  
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**\$239,000** BH7603 ML#17024222




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Panoramic views of Florence & the Siuslaw Bridge, distant Ocean views & amazing sunsets. Elevator to make this home accessible on every level  
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**\$432,000** BH7607 ML#17443224



**NEW LISTING**  
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