

Police offer tips to prevent theft during holidays

The Florence Police Department has taken 11 reports of stolen vehicles within the city limits of Florence since late August. In seven of those incidents, the keys were left inside the vehicles, making the vehicle an easy opportunity for theft.

Florence police remind residents to protect themselves and their property by never leaving a running vehicle unattended and to always lock

vehicle doors. "With the holiday season upon us it is also important to not leave packages or other items of value in your car that can be seen from outside your car, and again always lock your doors," said Commander John Pitcher. "A lot of crimes that are committed are 'crimes of opportunity,' where if we take away the opportunity or make ourselves a harder target the thief will likely move on."



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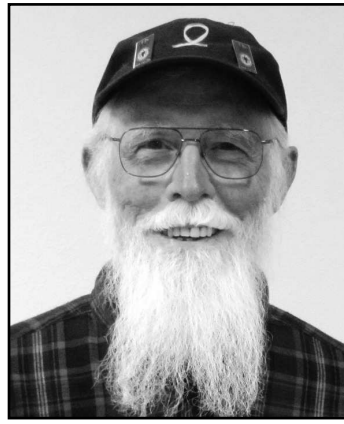
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Us TOO Florence Behind the headlines



By BOB HORNEY
Us TOO FLORENCE FACILITATOR
PROSTATE CANCER SURVIVOR

Last month, the good news was that a 2017 re-analysis of the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian trial (PLCO) showed that PSA screening does, in fact, reduce prostate cancer mortality by 25-32 percent. Unfortunately, we've had about six years of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) holding firmly to the exact opposite, i.e., PSA screening results in more harms than benefits.

The USPSTF makes "evidence-based" recommendations about clinical preventive services (including PSA screenings), and these recommendations then guide the practice of primary care physicians.

"Discourage the use of this service," is what the USPSTF told our primary care physicians when

it gave PSA screening a "D" grade in 2012. The phrase used in the Annals of Internal Medicine was even more blunt: "Do not use prostate-specific antigen (PSA)-based screening for prostate cancer."

So, what happened when the USPSTF recommended doctors eliminate routine PSA testing for all men? We learn from the Chicago Prostate Cancer Center (CPCC) that it had an immediate effect of fewer men being offered periodic PSA testing — and digital rectal examination (DRE) — even at annual physicals.

With fewer PSA tests, DREs, biopsies and diagnoses, what has been the experience at the CPCC? Exactly what was feared.

"With less screening, there has been a significant rise in the rate of men who are now requiring treatment for more advanced prostate cancers, men who missed early stage detection and treatment," the CPCC report said.

Naturally, with less screening and fewer DREs, urologists (who perform biopsies, make prostate cancer diagnoses and treat prostate cancer patients) seldom see the patient with no symptoms. In short: No test results, no referral.

The urologists will see the men if or when they develop advanced symptomatic prostate cancer, at a point that is often beyond the window of curability.

Here's more: A 2015 study led

by Vanderbilt University Medical Center investigators found new diagnoses of prostate cancer in the U.S. declined 28 percent in the year following the USPSTF recommendation against routine PSA screening for men. Twelve months after the USPSTF guidelines were published, diagnoses of new low-risk prostate cancers had fallen by 37.9 percent.

The study also identified a drop of 28.1 percent in diagnoses of intermediate-risk disease and 23.1 percent in high-risk prostate cancer one year after the draft guideline.

Nationwide, about 33,519 fewer men age 50 and older received a diagnosis of prostate cancer in 2012 than in 2011, dropping from 213,562 to 180,043. Tragically, too many of those men, plus others in subsequent years, only delayed their diagnosis from curable to incurable.

Using a simulation model, Roman Gulati and colleagues predicted that compared with continuing screening, completely discontinuing screening in the United States would increase prostate cancer mortality by 13 to 20 percent.

That should cause serious concern for the years ahead as we deal with the effects of six years of USPSTF discouraging use of the PSA test.

The big question now is: Will PSA testing pick up again with the re-analysis of the PLCO along

with the USPSTF "C" recommendation that men should discuss the benefits and harms of PSA testing with their doctor and then decide what they want to do?

A key to it picking up will be the primary care physicians having meaningful discussions about the benefits and harms of being tested and acknowledging that PSA screening has been clearly proven to reduce prostate cancer mortality.

Perhaps the big inhibitor of this taking place now is the minimal amount of time that doctors are allotted for seeing patients.

For the men who really want to have that discussion, they may take their questions and concerns directly to the experts who diagnose and treat prostate cancer (urologists at Oregon Urology Institute). There are two opportunities each month to do that — and without the cost of an office visit.

Attend an Us TOO Florence meeting and talk with survivors as well as a urologist. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw with Dr. Bryan Mehlhaff.

Or come to the meeting held on the third Tuesday of each month, from noon to 1 p.m., at Ichiban Restaurant on Highway 101, with Dr. Roger McKimmy.

Bring your questions and leave with answers.

For more information, call Bob Horney at 541-999-4239.

Holiday Open House

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Citizens sought to fill county commission positions

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications from citizens interested in serving on the commission listed below. This commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Commissioners on a wide variety of topics and issues.

Details about the committee and its meeting schedule and specific duties:

- Lane County Planning Commission: This Commission

makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding comprehensive plan issues and amendments.

The commission also advises and cooperates with other planning agencies within the state and may provide reports to local government officials on issues concerning county, regional or metropolitan planning.

The commission serves as the Citizen Involvement

Program Committee for Lane County on matters relating to land use and promotes public interest in and understanding of the comprehensive plan and of planning and zoning in general.

The commission meets twice a month, generally the first and third Tuesday of every month with occasional special meetings on other evenings.

The board includes nine members. Currently there is one vacancy.

The board will make a reasonable attempt to select voting membership from different geographic areas of the County.

For other requirements, see Lane Manual 3.575.

Among them, no more than two voting members of each Planning Commission will be engaged principally in the buying, selling or developing of real estate for profit as individuals, or be members of any partnership or officers or employees of any corporation that is engaged principally in the buying, selling or developing of real estate for profit.

No more than two voting members of each Planning Commission will be engaged in the same kind of occupation, business, trade or profession.

Applications will be evaluated for consistency with membership criteria by Board subcommittee.

The application deadline will remain open until it is filled.

Applications are available at the Lane County Public Works Customer Service Center, 3050 N. Delta Highway. Hard copy applications can be turned in at the Lane County Public Works Customer Service Center between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For more information or online applications, email Keir.Miller@co.lane.or.us.

Friends of the Library meet Dec. 14

The Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library (FOL) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m. in the Bromley Room at the library, 1460 Ninth St. Anyone interested in supporting the library or learning more about the FOL is invited to attend.

Officers and board members for 2018 will be elected at this meeting.

Light snacks and beverages will be offered.

The group encourages people to join and learn more about FOL.

The Friends meet the fourth Thursday of each month, except for November and December when they meet on the third Thursday.

The group's purpose is to support the Siuslaw Public Library District through advocacy and fundraising.

For more information about FOL, contact siuslawlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

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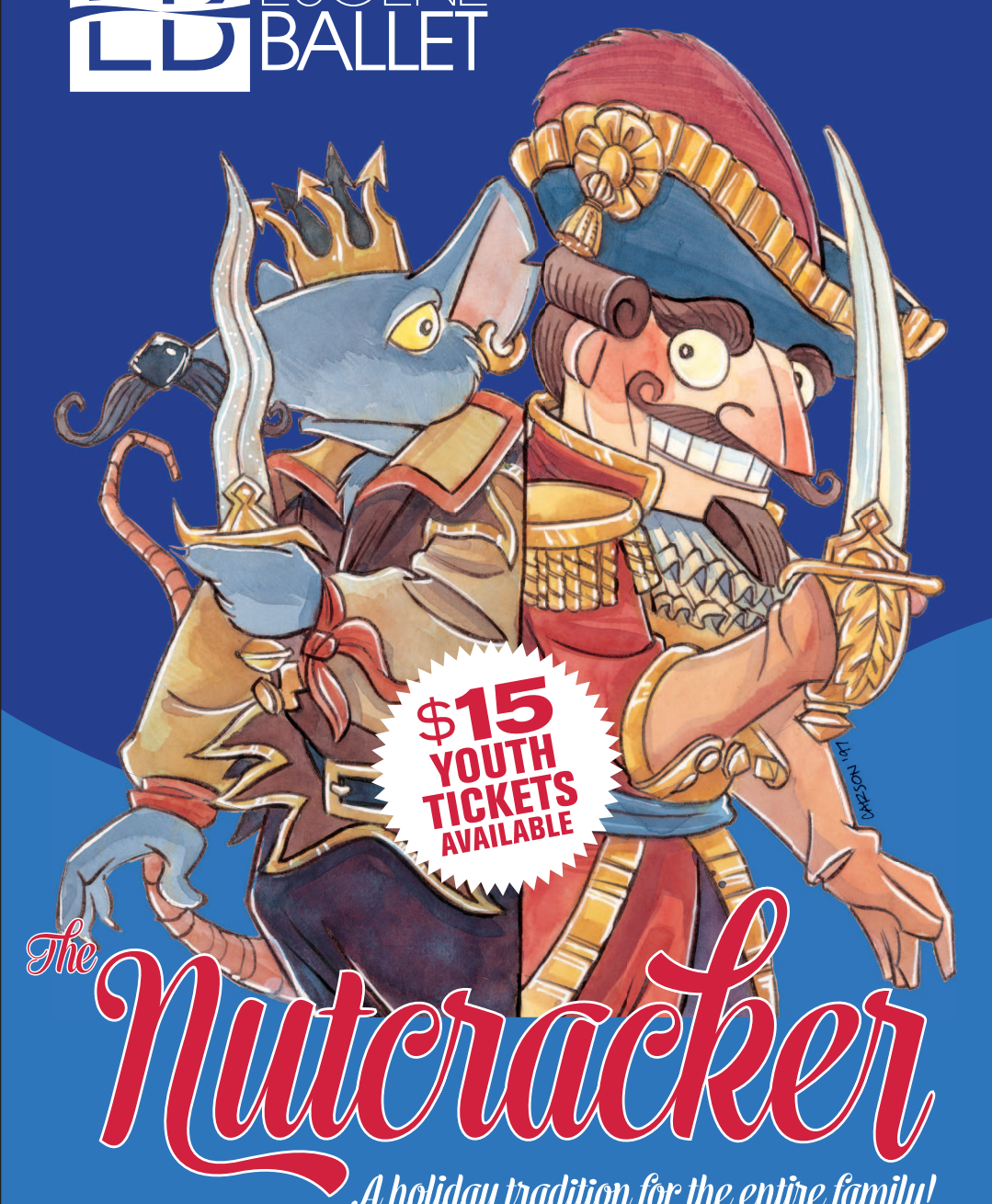


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