

Shelter from 1A

Currently, rain is predicted for Christmas. "My guess is, first thing Wednesday morning we'll

know if we will be open throughout the week," Wood said.

Christmas Day can be particularly challenging. "Usually we close at 8 a.m., but on Christmas we have

nowhere to send people. The library is closed, along with lots of things that are normally open."

If the emergency shelter is needed on Christmas, Wood said they are prepared.

"We've gotten several people that have stepped up for Christmas," he said. "We have a cook, and somebody said that they would bring a bunch of board games and they would be there part of the day. Others said they would be there for different parts of the day, so it looks like that's coming together too."

But for now, Wednesday night the shelter will be open.

Registration will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The emergency shelter is located at the Presbyterian Church at 3996 Highway 101, just south of Bi-Mart.

To find out if the emergency shelter will continue to be open through the week, the public can check the shelter's Facebook page (Florence Emergency Cold Weather

Shelter), email blast or look for the shelter flag hung throughout the area, including at the Siuslaw Public Library.

For those who cannot walk to the shelter, a pickup service will be available beginning at 5 p.m. with locations at the library, Safeway and Fred Meyer.

For more information, contact Wood at 541-991-8208.

**Perception vs. Reality
What Rotary Is vs. What Rotary is NOT!**

Perception: Rotary is a business networking organization



Reality: Business connections are often made at Rotary meetings. However, the Florence Rotary Club is more interested in supporting the next generation of Rotarians through its sponsorship of the Interact Club for high school students.

Fast Facts about Interact:

- The Siuslaw High School club has 23 members
- They baked and sold 4,800 cookies this year —their only club fundraiser
- A new Interact club started at Mapleton High School on November 29.
- Interact members manage the annual Easter Egg Hunt, assist Rotary with the annual auction, the Rhody parade, and many other club functions.



The Rotary Club meets at the Florence Events Center
715 Quince Street, Florence, Oregon 97439
Each Tuesday From Noon to 1 p.m.

www.theflorenceclub.org

For more information • Call President, Craig Sanders 541-999-1713

Interact Club:
the Rotarians of tomorrow



Firefighters from 1A

assist with firefighting efforts in Southern California on Dec. 12.

Operations Chief Jim Dickerson said, "The crew of Jeff Larson, Kyle Orosco and Colten Griswold have been on the Thomas fire the entire two-week deployment. A crew of four was deployed the next day, and that crew deployed on both the Thomas fire and the Lilac fire in San Diego during the deployment. Volunteers Shannon Curry and Levi Green, along with career firefighters Andy Gray and PJ Crescioni, were manning that engine."

The firefighters worked a "24 on, 24 off" schedule and gained valuable experience working with other agencies,

Dickerson said, which will translate to improved responses for those served by SVFR.

"The experience that crews gain in these deployments further solidifies our training and community preparedness programs. SVFR was glad to be able to send the crews to assist the firefighters," Dickerson said. "We continue to build our volunteer ranks to meet such requests as well as offer uninterrupted quality service."

Updated information from the office of the California State Fire Marshal indicates the Thomas fire has burned approximately 271,750 acres and is currently 50 percent contained.

More than a thousand structures have been destroyed, causing more than \$140 million dollars in damage.

There has been no civilian

loss of life in the current California fires, although one firefighter died.

As of Tuesday at noon, California fire officials rescinded evacuation orders for many previously restricted parts of Santa Barbara County.

Emergency conditions can arise at any time and SVFR is working with Lane County to address ongoing demands for blood products by holding a blood drive on Friday, Dec. 22, for Lane Bloodworks.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SVFR Station No. 1. It will be closed for a one-hour lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Individuals interested in donating should bring a photo ID, have a good meal two to four hours before donating, drink lots of water and not participate in strenuous activity for 12 hours after donating.

Backstreet Gallery announces winner

Backstreet Gallery's Community Invitational Art Exhibit, currently at Florence Events Center (FEC) until January, held a reception last week to announce the winner of the People's Choice Award.

The public has had since November to vote for their favorite art piece in FEC Galleries One and Five, and the honor went to local artist Ronald Hildenbrand for his oil painting "Where Eagles Dare."

Hildenbrand will receive a month-long exhibit at Backstreet Gallery on Bay Street in April.

Hildenbrand is a member and exhibitor at Florence Regional Arts Alliance's Art Center and Gallery, as well as a member of the Florence Public Art Committee. He was chosen as one of the artists to paint a Sea Lion for the FEC's "Dancing with Sea Lions"

exhibit in 2016.

The reception also featured several soloists from CROW, singing beautiful Christmas carols and upbeat songs.

The guests enjoyed the vocal talents of these youth, directed by Melanie Heard.

During a reception in November, award ribbons were presented as judged by nationally recognized artist Cat Deuter.

Winners were: Best of Show — Colleen Goodwin Chronister; First Place — Bill Stone; Second Place — Susan Thomas; Third Place — Kassy Keppol; Honorable Mention:



COURTESY PHOTO

Ronald Hildenbrand wins the People's Choice Award for his oil painting "Where Eagles Dare."

John Leasure, Stephanie Ames, Betty Romero and Kat Cunningham.

Holiday **GiftGuide**

Gift Certificates now available for any ticketed event at the FEC.
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