

Spirituali-Tea to discuss progressive taxation

This Monday, April 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m., the community is invited to join a group that enjoys diverse spiritual thoughts and paths. The topic for Monday’s gathering is “Progressive Taxation.”

The Bahá’i teachings, since their introduction to the world 150 years ago, have called for progressive, fair and graduated taxes, all based on the fundamental idea that everyone is part of one human family.

Progressive taxation isn’t new; Great Britain first implemented progressive tax policies centuries ago, and President Abraham Lincoln signed the first progressive income tax law in the U.S. in 1862.

Bahá’is believe strongly that just, well-ordered societies tax progressively to encourage kindness and compassion toward all.

“Although the body politic is one family, yet because of lack of harmonious relations some members are comfortable and some in direst misery, some members are satisfied and some are hungry, some members are clothed in most costly garments and some families are in need of food and shelter. Why? Because this family lacks the necessary reciprocity and symmetry,” the Bahá’i writings say.

Bring your thoughts on the subject for open discussion.

The gathering will end at 8 p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

Meetings are held at 875 Seventh St. in Florence.

For more information call Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0779.

Florence Unitarian Universalists to hear about wisdom

Sunday, April 15, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, guest speaker Rev. Stephen Landale will lead the worship service titled: Even the Wise Cannot See All Ends.

“In a time of deep divisions in our country, where can we turn for counsel? It turns out that J.R.R. Tolkien’s character Gandalf, the wizard from “The Lord of the Rings,” has wisdom that is both reassuring and challenging for our times,” Landale said. “This message, while encouraging, also challenges us to be less focused on ends, particularly short-term ends, and more

focused on ... well, that’s what we’ll be exploring.”

Landale has served as a hospice chaplain in Corvallis and Eugene for nearly 6 years and previously served for 11 years as a full-time UU minister in New England and Eugene.

Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org.

Visit the Siuslaw News online at WWW.THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

WLAD paramedic releases first (mostly) fiction novel

Albert Kreitz, a 25-year veteran WLAD Paramedic, has published his first novel, “Partners For Life.”

Kreitz was just 20 years old when he worked as an EMT-B in Los Angeles.

Kreitz said the inspiration to write the book came from his many personal experiences as a medic there.

“I was 19, living with friends in Hollywood and looking for a job when I saw the word “Emergency” in all-caps in the L.A. Times classifieds,” recalled Kreitz. “Before I knew



COURTESY PHOTO

Al Krietz

it, I was done with school and on the streets of Los Angeles County with my polar opposite,

“Big Jeff.”

This sets the initial conflict of the fictional novel, as Jeff and “Joe,” the character Kreitz draws from, begin their epic journey as first responders in Los Angeles.

“All the emergency medical calls in the book are real and happened either in L.A., Oakland, Calif. or in Oregon, where I eventually moved to,” said Krietz, whose story includes a cult, escapes through northern California pot farms, encounters on the ocean, rivers and finally a major showdown

in Oregon.

The book, which is only available online at Amazon.com and KDP Kindle, has received a 5-star rating from readers — the highest level possible. Kreitz hasn’t decided if he’ll write a follow-up book, saying that it depends on how sales of his first attempt goes.

“This last one about did me in,” he admitted. “My kids thought I was going to lose my mind working 24/7 the last week to get it done. But people seem to like it, which made all the effort worth it.”

Siuslaw Watershed Council announces new Executive Director

The Siuslaw Watershed Council's (SWC) Board of Directors president, David Eisler, is thrilled to announce that Eli Tome will be the new Executive Director of the non-profit organization.

“SWC’s board and staff could not be more pleased to welcome Eli to his new position and for him to bring his experience in restoration and community resiliency to help challenges we face here in our watershed,” Eisler said.

Prior to assuming the Executive Director position at the Council, Eli was working as a watershed restoration projects manager for the last year at

the SWC.

Eli came to the Watershed Council after working in Moab, UT where he sought to restore natural functions on the Colorado River. Before his time in the desert, Eli went to the University of Oregon for a masters in Community and Regional Planning, and his passion for communities and healthy environments has led him to the Siuslaw today.

“I’m excited to meet diverse members of our community throughout the Siuslaw, and to hear from folks new and innovative ways that the watershed council can support community resilience, economic vitality

and most importantly work to support a healthy and productive ecosystem,” Eli said. “I’m excited to lead an organization committed to these core values.”

The Watershed Council has been diligently working with partners to restore natural habitat-forming processes in the basin for the last two decades and is embarking on new efforts to increase their outreach and education efforts throughout the basin while also continuing the restoration work that the organization is known for.

Eli wants to hear from the community; what purpose can

SWC serve to better support a resilient community in addition to supporting and working to create a healthy and productive environment?

The SWC president, David Eisler, encourages interested residents to reach out to Eli and welcome him to his new position and help him grow the watershed council as a community organization dedicated to the health of our river and our people.

Eli can be reached at the watershed council office at (541) 268-3044 or by email at coordinator@siuslaw.org.

LEARN TO CONQUER WRITING BLOCKS AT FRAA WORKSHOP APRIL 21

Many people feel inspired to write but often feel paralyzed by the blank page. Even experienced writers can become stuck and struggle to begin flowing their ideas onto paper.

“The Blank Page: Tips to Fill It, Conquer and Master It” will take place on Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), 120 Maple St. in Historic Old Town

Florence.

Presented by Writers on the River, the class will show writers of all levels and genres how to overcome the blank page and get their writing going.

“Together we’ll explore the world of creative possibilities presented by the blank page and learn tips for filling it with powerful prose,” said event organizer Catherine Rourke.

The cost is \$20 for FRAA

members or \$25 for non-members, payable at the door.

For more information, call 541-708-2120 or email CJReditor@gmail.com.

FRAA creative writing instructor Catherine J. Rourke is an award-winning journalist, editor, author and writer educated at the City University of New York, the University of Oxford/England and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism.

With more than 30 years’ experience as a staff editor and writer for newspapers and magazines, she is the author of “Forgive Us Our Press Passes — Confessions of a Modern-Day Muckraker” and a recipient of a 2017 national first-place press award for her columns in the Siuslaw News.

Screening Presented by: Siuslaw News & KCST & KCFM Coast Radio

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Two Showings @ City Lights Cinema

12:30pm • 6:00pm

TICKETS ARE FREE*

Admission tickets are required and available starting March 26th at:

• Siuslaw News 148 Maple St.

• City Lights Cinema 1920 HWY 101

Representatives will be available for a Q&A after each showing.

*Only 230 tickets available, first come, first served, Limit 2 per person.

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANTHONY BOURDAIN

WASTED!

The Story of Food Waste



