



# EMPTY BOWLS

INSIDE — A3

**Soroptimist International of Florence Christmas Food Basket & Toy Distribution Project** needs your HELP! Please help us to assist area families with a food basket and toys this Christmas! Last year we helped nearly 400 families put a complete Christmas dinner on the table and put toys under the tree! Did you know that Oregon has the highest childhood hunger in the nation? That is why YOUR contribution is so important! Contributions from you and your neighbors are spent on food and toys. Any food items left over are donated to Florence Food Share for distribution.

Please make your check payable to:  
**Soroptimist Int. of Florence, OR**  
 and mail to P.O. Box 1209, Florence, OR 97439.  
 Soroptimist International of Florence is a 501(c)(3) organization.

# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



COURTESY PHOTOS

## Florence man missing since Friday

*Family, Lane County Sheriffs give details on single-vehicle accident*

By MARK BRENNAN & NED HICKSON  
 SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence resident Patrick Stapp, 58, has been missing since Friday evening, Nov. 30, after he was apparently involved in a one-car accident on Sutton Lake Road. His family officially reported him missing on Monday.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) believes that Stapp was the driver of a 1991 Toyota Camry that left the road, rolled over and was abandoned by

the driver at approximately 9:15 p.m. last Friday night at milepost .75 on Sutton Lake Road, just past Mercer Lake Lane.

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) Operations Chief Jim Dickerson reports SVFR responded to a vehicular roll-over with a possible passenger ejection on Sutton Lake Road at that time.

According to a statement released by the sheriff's office, upon arrival at the scene of the rollover, a LCSO deputy spotted an individual matching

Stapp's description walking away from the crashed vehicle. The unidentified individual disappeared down an embankment and made his way along the water's edge after being hailed by the deputy, who eventually lost sight of the man.

The responding deputy searched for the man believed to have been Stapp for approximately one hour, using a bull-horn at times, with no positive results.

See SEARCH page 9A

## Cold Weather Shelter opens for the season

By JARED ANDERSON  
 SIUSLAW NEWS



The Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter is up and running this week as cold weather begins to descend on the coast. The shelter opened for the first time this year on Monday and is expected to remain open until Wednesday night. It's also possible the doors will open Thursday as well.

The emergency shelter, which provides a hot meal and a place to warm up or stay overnight, opens when the temperature reaches 32 degrees or less. It also opens when the temperature is in the mid-30s coupled with rain.

"We had a good night [Monday]," said Pastor Greg Wood, president of the program, which is held at his church, the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw. "Nine people stayed in overnight with another eight or nine people who came in to warm up, eat and then go back out to stay in their cars, camper and, I think, another structure that is nearby."

This year's cold season started almost two weeks earlier than last year, which saw its first open night on Dec. 14.

"We're getting an earlier start this year, but who knows. We'll probably have another bout of Indian Summer for the next two weeks, and we'll even wonder why we're worried about it," Wood said. "Fingers crossed."

The number of nights the shelter is open fluctuates from year to year, with 2017 opening for eight nights, compared to 2016, with 22 nights open.

However, the number of people showing up to utilize the shelter is on the rise. In 2017, there were nights when only a handful of people came in.

"Some nights we had three or four people show up, so we ended up putting people in a hotel overnight because it was cheaper than paying for our overnight staff to be there to supervise," Wood said.

See SHELTER page 9A

## Ringers

*The ins & outs of being a Red Kettle bell ringer for the Salvation Army*

By JARED ANDERSON  
 SIUSLAW NEWS

The young boy smiled nervously as he walked up to the red kettle, a dollar bill rolled up in his hand. He couldn't have been more than 9 years old, his small frame lost in a big down coat. He attempted to shove the bill in the kettle, but it was stuck. It took some strong work from his thumbs to put the bill in.

"That is so cute!" Beth Reed said as the boy walked away. It was her first day as a volunteer ringer for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle program, standing outside the south entrance of the Florence Fred Meyer.

"I guess that's where you start to learn to give, as a child," she said. "Giving to the person who's ringing the bell. You remember those days?"

She rang her bell for an added effect.

"Growing up, seeing the person with the red hat," she said. "You give them money, right? That's where you learn about volunteering."

For some people, it's not until they are older that they really understand the need for giving with "all the tragedies all around the country," Reed added.

There are the national issues, such as fires, hurricanes, flooding. Then there's the social issues that affect those close to home: Homelessness, poverty. Good people trying hard during tough times.

"Christmas is all about giving and sharing and doing what you can for those who are less fortunate," Reed said. "I think everybody tries. A quarter. Even a penny. Every penny helps."



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

**The Florence community is stepping up to volunteer to ring bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign in the area. Every cent donated by residents and visitors helps the total raised, with 90 percent of funds staying local.**

As she speaks, Jingle Bells plays from the cell phone that she keeps in her Salvation Army apron.

"Keeps me busy so I can stay in the Christmas mood," she said. "Everybody's like, 'Where's the music coming from?' It's coming from my pocket!"

She laughed, quickly saying "thank you" when another passerby put some change in the kettle. Reed had been ringing the bell for an hour already that morning.

"I think I've made a couple hundred bucks today," she said confidently, but then added, "Alright, maybe \$100? I've had at least 100 people walk in. I could be totally wrong. Just think if everybody

walked in and gave a dollar."

Well, maybe \$100 is an overstatement. Combined, the two kettles located at Fred Meyer totaled \$659.71 for the day. However, the location has been known to rake in over \$1,200 for one day, including checks for \$50 or more. Last year, the campaign brought in \$27,555, not including the anonymous donor who gave a matching gift of \$27,000.

"I think Florence is such a fantastic, giving town. They do a lot of charitable contributions, and Salvation Army is one of the best," Reed said. "I'm just happy when



people give. I'm jumping up and down with quarters. Everybody has been wonderful this morning — I think almost every person coming in has given something. It makes me so happy."

Fred Meyer is one of a number of locations throughout the area that hosts a red kettle. Bi-Mart, Safeway and Grocery Outlet also have them.

See KETTLE page 7A

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**THIS WEEK'S WEATHER**  
 Full Forecast, A3

<b>TODAY</b> 51 32	<b>THURSDAY</b> 53 35	<b>FRIDAY</b> 54 44	<b>SATURDAY</b> 56 45
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SIUSLAW NEWS  
 2 SECTIONS | 20 PAGES  
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**DEC 8th**  
**11am-7pm**

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