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“Students now will have exposure to various instruments at developmental milestones,” Harklerode continued. “This supports learning at each level, but also helps to keep kids motivated to become lifelong musicians.”

Amanda Smith is in her first year as an instructor at Siuslaw Elementary School. She has assumed the daunting task of teaching the district’s youth the basics of music theory and practice.

“As the music teacher, I like to think that I have the best job in the district. I get the privilege to sing, dance and make music with children every day. I get to see them laugh, smile, and work together for a common goal,” Smith said. “The music room is a place where children can create, innovate and explore new ideas. It is a place where they do not have to think about their individual math achievements, reading levels or athletic ability. While all of those individual achievements are necessary for a well-rounded education, learning to read, write, play, sing and create music gives students a chance to be alive.”

One of the first challenges Smith had to overcome was the lack of musical instruments for students to use to learn to play music in her classroom. There were some instruments, but

the quality and condition of the few still usable instruments were poor. There were also not enough instruments of sufficient quality to teach all of the students in her class at the same time.

Smith has repaired a number of the older instruments, making them at least serviceable, but they are far from first rate. The Elks donation will dramatically improve that situation.

“I am tasked with the challenge of preparing students for middle and high school choir and band, and having instruments in the elementary music room is essential to the students’ musical preparation,” Smith said. “The Elks generous donation laid a foundation for the music makers that come to music class everyday. Their donation made my task of teaching music possible. I am tremendously grateful for their investment into the musical development of this community.”

Florence Elks Exalted Ruler Bruce Smith says the Elks are focused on assisting with worthwhile efforts, like the support given to the district music program, as a way the group can help to provide additional help to worthwhile endeavors.

“We raise money all year long and put it in our charity fund to support the community as best we can, and this is one of the projects we felt deserved support,” he said.



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Elks Lodge #1858’s donation to the Siuslaw Elementary School music program will provide students with the opportunity to play music and practice together on working, modern instruments. These fourth-graders will now be ready for more advanced programs in the middle and high schools.



The reinvigorated music program at the elementary school is good news for the students currently attending class and those who will attend in the future, but it is not the only way that Elks Lodge #1858 is helping to keep music flowing in Florence. The organization also recently

contributed more than \$5,000 to the effort to send Siuslaw High School sophomore Lizbeth Garcia-Galvin to Europe next summer with the Oregon Ambassador of Music Program, sponsored by Oregon State Uni-

versity. She will go on an extended tour of the continent, which will focus on musical performance and regional history. The Elks’ donation provided the majority of money needed for Garcia-Galvan’s trip, along

with generous community support. For more information about the Florence Elks Lodge #1858, visit the lodge at 1686 12th St. or go to www.florenceelks.com.

‘Home for the Holidays’ Tour starts Friday

Every sense will be tickled on the one-of-a-kind, Florence “Home for the Holidays” Community Christmas Tour of Homes, coming this Dec. 14, 15 and 16.

Guests will be warmly greeted with a glass of champagne or cider at the depot — the CROW Center for the Performing Arts, 3120 Highway 101 — then break the seal on a passport to learn their destinations for the tour. Boarding vans and buses, guests will be whisked away to four unique local homes, magically decorated for the season.

“Where else can you enjoy such a magical evening or afternoon for this price?” asked Holiday Tour of Homes co-chair Jennifer Waggoner. “These four homeowners have been working tirelessly for weeks to prepare their homes for your visit.”

There will be savory and delicious treats and entertainment at each home, all part of the ticket cost.

Tickets are going fast for this special holiday experience, so go today to www.crowkids.com/holiday-home-tour to buy tickets for \$50 per person. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, parts of the event are sponsored so all proceeds can to benefit CROW (Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops), the local children’s community theater.

“For years, the CROW staff, led by Melanie Heard, have spent the majority of their time, energy and talent raising money so that our local kids could be trained to perform in absolutely amazing productions in our town,” said tour co-chair Kay King. “That is why we felt it was crucial to create ways to help raise money for this fabulous theater, so Melanie and crew could spend their time teaching and producing quality theater for us — and more importantly for our kids.”

King and Waggoner decided to create the Christmas Tour of Homes in Florence as another way to raise money for CROW.

“Countless donations have made the event possible,” Waggoner said. “The design and printing of programs and tickets, planning how to sell the tickets to make it convenient for the purchaser, lining up transportation, preparing the tour route, preparation of entertainment and refreshments for each home are all part of it. Not to mention the hours and volunteers who have helped decorate these fabulous homes

for your enjoyment.”

Sneak peeks are now beginning as some of the homes are already lighting up those Christmas trees and decking their halls.

The tours for the event run 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15, and from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16.

Visit the Facebook page for more information and to share the event: “Home for the Holidays: A Community Christmas Tour of Homes.” People can also call 541-502-1255 for more information.

All proceeds from the Christmas Tour of Homes go to helping CROW with its upcoming production of the Spring musical, “The Wiz.” Children are not charged to participate in CROW’s high quality, professional shows, which makes CROW invaluable in our community.

“Our community and our students are continually enriched by the CROW experience. You won’t find better theater, costuming and set design anywhere!” King said.

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Congratulations
Zoya Dietz-Henson
for being chosen for
Northwest Farm
Credit Services
adopt-a-member
program.

Zoya was nominated by her FFA advisor, Mrs. Vollmer. Zoya has been involved in all aspects of the Madras Agricultural Program and FFA for the past two years. Zoya is not afraid to get dirty whether it’s mixing pig feed, hauling rock or helping serve and clean up at the many events Madras FFA volunteers at. Zoya also participates in almost every CDE, her favorite being tractor driving where she also helps teach other members about safety and behind the wheel skills. Zoya communicates well and is always willing to help.

Zoya received her jacket, dues paid for the year, State Convention registration fee paid and \$100 hotel credit, an invite to NWFC luncheon at State Convention, and registration credit to one other state sponsored leadership conference.

Westin Fowler from the Redmond NWFC presented Zoya her jacket and shared with the class about NWFC and how he got to where he is in his career. Thank you Westin and NWFC for your support of Oregon FFA Association.

Proud Grandparents Frank & Cathy Dietz;
Great Grandparents Del & Florence Phelps;
Lily Phelps & Dean.

Florence Food Share
Ask us about volunteer opportunities.
2190 Spruce Street • P.O.Box 2514
Florence, Oregon 97439
(541) 997-9110
info@florencefoodshare.org

Habitat for Humanity
Florence Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a place to put your talents to work.
From customer service to furniture repair, we offer volunteer opportunities geared toward individual interests and skills. By giving your time, you help Florence Habitat ReStore do more to support building projects that benefit families in our community.
2016 Hwy 101 or email volunteer@florencehabitat.org
Store hours 9am – 5pm Monday- Saturday 541-997-5834
www.facebook.com/restoreflorence

Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60
Meals on Wheels are available to people over the age of 60 who cannot get out much due to illness or advanced age and who are not eating properly, regardless of income. Cafe 60 is available for those who prefer to make new friends in a dining room setting.
1570 Kingwood, PO Box 2313, Florence
541-997-5673
laneseniormeals.org

Oregon Coast Humane Society
relies heavily on volunteers.
There are many opportunities to volunteer and a variety of skills and talents are always in need. Volunteer interest forms may be found online, at the shelter and at our Thrift Shop on Bay Street.
www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/volunteer/

Peace Harbor Volunteers
Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers, you will find an area of interest in a caring organization.
400 9th Street, Florence
541-997-8412 ext. 2218

Us Too Florence
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541-997-6626
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