

**TOTS from page 1A**

This is the second year that SVFR participated in the toy giveaway, primarily with gifts provided by Lane County Toys for Tots. These toys were well supplemented by donations from the area, including a number of bicycles that were dropped off.

Towards the end of the giveaway period, SVFR Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Pete Warren said the event

was going well, considering the inclement weather.

"Mother Nature seemed like she was going to throw a wrench into the event, but the weather cooperated, and some sunshine actually poked out through the clouds at times," he said. "The community has been extremely generous this year. They've donated bicycles, cool toys, awesome looking stuff animals and even a Fire Tablet. We almost didn't have enough space to put every-

thing."

Volunteers began showing up at 8 a.m. to set up for the event, which began at 11 a.m. and ended 4 p.m.

"When the Marines showed up, they were driving two huge trucks with trailers attached," Warren said. "These were loaded with literally tons of toys, games, stuffed animals, bicycles and anything else — which will keep kids happily playing for days!"

One of the best parts of the

giveaway, at least from Warren's perspective, is the welcome support the local community has provided as Toys for Tots establishes itself in Florence.

The event required partnership with the Florence and Winchester Bay Coast Guard, U.S. Marines, the Florence Police Department, Swisshome/Deadwood Fire Department, Mapleton Fire Department and community members. Both SVFR firefighters and

fire auxiliary members helped throughout the day.

"This event has been well received in the community and the volunteer presence has been the reason it's becoming a successful

event," Warren said. "It's now becoming a community-owned event, and that's the only way it's going to successfully continue."

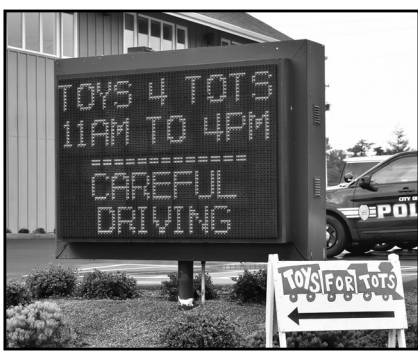
"Way to go communities along the coast!"



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



Several groups came together to help with Toys for Tots Tuesday, which gave away all manner of toys and bikes. Volunteers came from SVFR, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Reserves, Florence Police Department, Swisshome/Deadwood Fire Department, Mapleton Fire Department and from the local community.



**BOAT FIRE from page 1A**

to the blaze, which had fully engulfed the catamaran-style boat by the time fire crews arrived.

During the incident, a man aboard the vessel, whose name has not yet been released, reportedly leapt into the water to escape the flames. He was rescued and transported by WLAD to PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center, where he was treated for minor injuries and medical-related issues.

Initial reports to 911 described loud explosions, which fire crews believed were probably propane tanks aboard the boat that exploded due to the high heat.

Because access to the boat was limited to a long, narrow gravel road leading to the dock, crews were forced to run a main water line from the highway and down the narrow road, pumping water approximately 150 yards to the fire while replenishing the water supply via shuttling from an alternate water source in Florence.

"We got knockdown pretty quickly, but were unable to access the boat itself, or the cabin below, due to it being on the water side," said Abel, who contacted the U.S. Coast Guard out of concern for debris and possible contamination should the boat collapse on itself. "The Coast Guard is aware of the situation and is ready to respond should that happen."

Approximately two hours after the fire was first reported, around 5:30 p.m., the majority of crews were rolling hose and

breaking down most of the water lines as the hull was allowed to keep smoldering through the night under the supervision of the property owner.

Yesterday, Abel released a short update, reporting that the investigation into the cause of the fire has begun with no assessment yet determined as to the cause of the fire. SVFR Fire Prevention Captain Tony Miller is conducting the investigation, which is expected to continue through the week-end.

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**FRESH IN THE CASE THIS WEEK:**  
Petrale Sole, Dover Sole, Rock Fish  
Oysters in shell & shucked, Shrimp and more.

**280 Hwy. 101 (2 Blocks N. of Bridge) Florence  
541-997-8996 • Open Daily 10am-6pm**

**Surfside Restaurant**

**Christmas Day Buffet**

11:30 am - 4:30 pm  
\$27.00 Adults \$12 Children 10 & under  
**For Reservations, please call 541-997-8263**

*Starters*

Fresh Mixed Greens with Choice of Dressings  
Festival Salad w/ Wild Rice, Kale, Apples, Craisins, Slivered Almonds & A Tangy Vinaigrette  
Sweet Potato, Cheddar and Chive Biscuits  
Balsamic-Cranberry & Rosemary Cream Cheese Toasts  
Sweet Corn Croquettes w/ Spicy Honey Aioli  
Barbecue Pork Sliders  
Deviled Eggs

*Mains*

Beef Chateau Station w/ a selection of:  
Sautéed Mushrooms, Caramelized Onions, Chimichurri Sauce, & Cabernet Sauvignon Gravy  
Bourbon Orange Glazed Ham  
Garlic-Herb Shrimp, Smoked Sausage, & Red Potato Pan Roast  
Creamy Scalloped Potatoes  
Sautéed Vegetable Medley

*Assorted*

*Holiday Desserts*

**JAWSOME**  
kids resale

**Santa will be here at the shop on Saturday, Dec. 22nd from 1:00 - 5:00. No charge just bring your camera!**

1901 Hwy 101 Florence  
541-997-5183

★★★★★

**THE WALL THAT HEALS**  
HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS

The Wall That Heals exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and mobile Education Center that gives visitors a better understanding of the legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War.

Here's how we need help with now to prepare for The Wall That Heals:

**- VOLUNTEERS -  
- FOOD -  
- MONEY DONATIONS -**

Be part of something special in the Florence community. An account has been setup at Banner Bank for money donations. Please contact Kim or Janet for additional details. We hope to see you there!

**When**  
April 4th, 2019 through April 7th, 2019

**Questions**  
Kim Pruitt or Janet Engel  
Phone: 541-997-6111  
Email: Kim.Pruitt@avalonseniorliving.com

**Spruce Point Assisted Living & Memory Care Community**  
375 9th St. | Florence, OR 97439 | 541-997-6611  
spruce-point.com

TheSiuslawNews.com

**FRAA ART CENTER**  
120 Maple Street  
Phone: 541-997-4435  
Hours Open: Wed-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm

**Classes, Workshops & Events**

**NEW! Acrylic Pour Art with Pam Nedder**  
Every 1st Saturday. Next one, January 5, 2019, 2-4 pm. Make your own acrylic pour painting. Bring a shank button; other material provided. Pre-registration req'd at FRAA or w/ Pam, pam.nedder@gmail.com.

**NEW! Felting 1 with Ginny Kliever**  
Friday, January 11, 2019, 1:30-4:30 pm  
Learn the art of felting making a coin purse. Bring a shank button; other material provided. Pre-registration req'd at FRAA or with Ginny. 541-521-3513

**NEW! Alcohol Ink Wine Glass Workshop with Denise Tarvin**  
Saturday, February 16, 2019, 2-4 pm  
Learn to apply alcohol ink to wine glasses. All materials provided. Pre-registration req'd at FRAA.

**Next Art Change-Out Day**  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 9-11 am  
Please pick up your artwork and bring something new to help keep the art at FRAA fresh to our visitors.

**FRAA Quarterly Member's Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 22, 10:00 am. Come learn what we have been doing, upcoming events, and provide inputs for the future.

**Big Wave Poetry 1st Tuesday Open Mic**  
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Celebrate the New Year with Poetry! Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

**Writers on the River - Creative Writing Workshop w/ Catherine Rourke**  
**2019 Annual Writers Boot Camp**  
Reboot your writing for the new year! Sat., January 19, 2019 10 am - 12 noon Brand new program ~ 4th annual event! All writing levels and genres, Contact: CJRditor@gmail.com, 541-708-2120

**Winter Music Festival**  
Sponsored by FRAA, held at the FEC, Saturday, January 26, 11-5 pm and Sunday, January 27, 11-4 pm  
Join us for this annual event full of music, food and great art.

**Painting with John Leasure**  
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm  
No painting experience required. Contact: jinleasure@hotmail.com or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

**Literary Salon w/ Catherine Rourke - coming soon**  
Saturday, February 2, 2019

**For more information about classes, visit fraaoregon.org. To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our Art Center on Maple Street.**