

PIONEER MUSEUM TO HOST DON STEWART FOR ‘STORY TIME’

Each year, the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum closes for the month of January to spruce up for the coming year. The floors are painted, the displays are updated, volunteers are trained and then the museum is ready for visitors. This year, a lift is being added to the update making it possible for everyone to visit the second floor of Florence’s historical museum. It is on the second floor that the museum holds its programs, including the popular Story Time program.

The public is invited for the Friday, March 29, program, which begins at 7 p.m.

Don Stewart will be fea-

tured as he reflects on Florence’s growth bubble of the 1960s.

Fifty-eight years ago, in 1961, newlyweds Don and Pat Stewart came to Florence. Don had accepted the job as manager of Emery’s IGA Foodliner.

When grocery shopping at Emery’s, a shopper could receive and redeem Thrifty Green Stamps. With a filled book, someone could either receive \$2 in cash or redeem that amount in merchandise. In those days, a pork loin was .49 cents a pound and Hills Brothers coffee was .73 cents a pound.

The commercial landscape



Don Stewart (middle) in the March 12, 1964, announcement of the grand opening of the new IGA Shopping Center at the corner of Highways 101 and 36.

in Florence had begun to change in the mid-20th century with the slowing down of lumber production, farming and fishing. As a grocer in this town, Stewart was more than familiar with the impact that this shift had on the economy of citizens in the Siuslaw River region.

On Friday, April 26, the story will continue with an exploration of the changing face of Bay Street by the individuals that participated in the regeneration of what has become a tourist destination on the Central Oregon Coast. The program will be titled The Renaissance of Old Town.

Oregon Coast Military Museum seeks volunteer

Oregon Coast Military Museum is seeking a volunteer to assist Chief of Staff Geoff Cannon to produce the Veteran of the Quarter program. The museum’s program is based on the Library of Congress Oral History Interview program, and entails interviewing a veteran to produce a video, which is then displayed in the museum each quarter. Interested parties should contact the museum by calling 541-902-5160, visiting 2145 Kingwood St. or going to oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com.

AARP Opens Community Challenge Grants

AARP has opened applications for the 2019 AARP Community Challenge grant program to fund “quick-action” projects that spark change across the country. Now in its third year, the program is part of AARP’s nationwide work on Livable Communities. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to several thousand dollars for larger projects.

“We’ve seen these mini grants spark change and new solutions in communities across Oregon from Port Orford to Hood River,” said AARP Oregon State Director Ruby Haughton-Pitts. “We’re excited to see the creative proposals from community groups this year,” she said.

The Community Challenge is open to 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits and government entities. Other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

AARP will prioritize projects with permanent or temporary solutions that aim to

achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Demonstrate the tangible value of “Smart Cities.” New in 2019, this category will encourage applicants to develop and implement innovative programs that engage residents in accessing, understanding and using data to increase quality of life for all, as well as engage in decision-making about housing, transportation, economic development, placemaking, infrastructure or other community aspects.
- Deliver a range of transportation and mobility options that increase connectivity, walkability, bikeability, wayfinding, access to transportation options and roadway improvements.
- Create vibrant public places that improve open spaces, parks and access to other amenities.
- Support the availability of a range of housing that increases accessible and affordable housing options.
- Other community improvements. In addition to the four areas of focus, AARP wants to hear about local

needs and new, innovative ideas for addressing them.

Since 2017, AARP has awarded 217 grants through the AARP Community Challenge to nonprofit organizations and government entities representing 50 states and U.S. territories. Oregon winners in 2018 included:

Prineville — The grant will provide for the installation of four age-friendly benches along a bicycle and pedestrian pathway as part of Crook County on the Move.

The 2019 application deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET, on April 17. All projects must be completed by Nov. 4, 2019.

To submit an application or learn more, visit AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment.



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