

HOLIDAYS from page 1A

about was the boxes of food Soroptimists will give out from Siuslaw Middle School, 2525 Oak St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. "People will drive up from the road between the two schools, like you were going to the football field, drive up and come in the back way," Bennett said. "Then, you tell us how big a family you need food for, and we will pack a box accordingly."

People get to stay in the warmth of their cars as volunteers dressed in warm winter gear fill shopping carts from local grocery stores as they gather each item of the box.

"We pack boxes for 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 — whatever," Bennett said, adding that there are fewer boxes made for the biggest sizes, but they are ready for it. "We will do between 375 and 400 boxes. Any leftover food at the end of that will go to Florence Food Share. We have no provisions to store it, and they are glad to have it."

The food boxes contain a chicken or turkey, along with applesauce, butter, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls,

eggs, fruit cocktail, graham crackers, jam, milk, oatmeal, peanut butter, saltine crackers, stuffing and fresh produce of apples, carrots, oranges and potatoes. Each box also gets candy canes and cookies donated directly from the Little Dutch Boy Cookie Company, based in Draper, Utah.

"We give a pretty good box," Bennett said. "We try to put food in that box so that these kids that don't have food can have a saltine cracker with a little peanut butter on it. ... I double up the amount of peanut butter that we give so we can be sure that the kids can have something they can eat."

Speaking of kids, Soroptimists also give out toys, this time from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Florence Church of the Nazarene, 1536 12th St. Many of the toys are donated by community members.

"We ask for unwrapped, new toys," Bennett said. "There are trees around town as various businesses put a Christmas tree up and hang tags on it with children's names."

Unlike the Twin Lakes Store's annual Teen Giving Tree, the Soroptimists focus

only on children from infants to 12 years old.

Bennett explained, "We can't afford to go out and buy the toys that the 13 and up kids want. We can't buy iPads, cell phones and video games — and people don't give that. People really like to give things for 4 and 5-year-olds, and 7-year-olds. Because that's fun."

Donations of toys must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 11. In addition, the toy distribution could use volunteer help sorting toys on Thursday and Friday between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It takes a lot of hands," Bennett said. "You don't have to sign up, and you don't have to stay the whole time."

For people who want to help with the Christmas Baskets, she advised they arrive by 9 a.m. and dress for outdoor weather conditions. They can contact her for more information at 541-991-3455 or dump-lady@hotmail.com.

The contact for the toys is Shasta Hoberg, who can be reached at 541-991-2353 or soroptmist.florence@gmail.com.

Bennett said, "We are so-

liciting funds. We buy about \$20,000 worth of food. ... We have to be good stewards of the money that we solicit from the community for this purpose. We use it for the food and the toys."

Donations can be mailed to Soroptimist International of PO Box 1209, Florence OR 97439.

After Bennett's presentation, Young introduced Florence Elks "lecturing knight" Patrick LaNasa.

"As you all know, the Elks do so many things for this community, especially during Christmas time," she said.

LaNasa encouraged the community to attend the Elks' Children's Christmas Party, held noon to 2 p.m. on the same day as the Soroptimist Toy Drive — "and we're right down the street from the church."

The party will again feature entertainment by Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW), as a well as a piñata and ice cream party.

"Following CROW, we're going to have a singalong, but not just Elks and old folks," LaNasa said. "We're going to encour-

age some children from the audience to join us as we sing 'Here Comes Santa Claus.'"

As can be expected, the merry old elf himself will arrive at the conclusion of the of the song, driven in on a Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue fire engine. There will be chances for attendees to visit with Santa.

"Every child will have at least one stuffed animal given to them," LaNasa said. "More often than not we have so many left over."

Families will also receive Christmas ornaments.

LaNasa also spoke about the Elks' annual sit-down Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 25, from noon to 3 p.m.

"This is for everybody in Florence — absolutely everybody," he said. "We have the well-to-do sitting next to the not-so-well-to-do, with no mention of religion or politics at that time."

During the dinner, 50 or so Elks volunteers will feed "easily 500" people a meal of turkey or ham and all the trimmings for a festive holiday feast.

"And I have to say, after eating leftover turkey for a couple weeks, I'll take the ham for

sure," LaNasa said.

Volunteers will prepare 18 turkeys at an average 21 pounds and six hams at an average of 15 pounds, and that all will be eaten.

"By the end of the day, we're tired but happy," he added.

At the end of the presentations, FACC members talked about additional December programs and a way to combine some of the efforts that serve the community this season.

FACC meets at Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth Street, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, except January due to the New Year's Day holiday.

For more information about FACC, visit florencecareacc.org.

Editor's Note: In this season of giving, it may seem impossible to write about every community organization working to provide a happy holiday for the Siuslaw region. In the next issues of the Siuslaw News, look for a list of groups offering services, food and gifts this December and throughout the year.

What's happening in the Siuslaw region

<p>Weekly</p> <p>Florence Piddle-Ball Association Monday, Wednesday and Friday — weather permitting 8:30 to 11 a.m.; All ages and skill levels Rolling Dunes Park, 35th St, Florence</p> <p>Mondays</p> <p>Band of Brothers Meeting 10 a.m., local veterans meet for donuts, coffee and talking Florence Elks Lodge #1858, 1686 12th St.</p> <p>Sit-n-Knit or Crochet Drop-in Noon to 6 p.m.; \$10 The Mustard Seed, 509 Kingwood St. www.themustardseed1720.com</p> <p>Suicide Survivors Support Group Facilitated by SVFR/WLAD Community Support Team 5:30 to 7 p.m.; open to those who have lost a loved one to suicide Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, 2625 Hwy 101</p> <p>Tuesdays</p> <p>Peace Harbor Farm Stand Collaboration between PeaceHealth, Trillium Community Health Plan and FOOD for Lane County Fresh, seasonal vegetables and fruits free to people with OHP or who qualify for food assistance PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center, 400 Ninth St.</p> <p>Florence Rotary Club Noon; lunch purchase available Florence Events Center theflorenceclub.org</p> <p>WellMama Peer Support Group Every second and fourth Tuesdays 6 to 7:30 p.m.; open to birthing parents and their support people Peace Health Medical Center Women's Clinic, 340 Ninth St. 541-999-4880, birthingmamas.jen@gmail.com, www.wellmamaoregon.com</p> <p>Wednesdays</p> <p>Fun Connections Playgroup For parents and children 5 and under 10:30 a.m. to noon Open to families of young children Pregnancy & Parenting Center, 1525 12th St., Suite G</p> <p>Points of Grace Community Acupuncture Experience relief from pain and stress 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; donations appreciated 1845 Hwy 126</p> <p>Florence Kiwanis Club Noon; lunch purchase available Ocean Dunes Golf Links www.florencekiwanis.org Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>5:30 p.m.; open to public Florence Nazarene Church, 1536 12th St.</p> <p>Thursdays</p> <p>Women's Empowerment A safe space for encouragement, life skills; Call 541-997-2816 4 to 6 p.m.; open to women Siuslaw Outreach Services, 1576 12th St.</p> <p>Community Chorus of Florence 7 p.m.; open to public Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Hwy 101. 541-999-7575</p> <p>Fridays</p> <p>Florence Testing for HIV & HepC Every second and fourth Friday. Hosted by Alliance for Men's Wellness and HIV Alliance 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Free to public PeaceHealth Oregon Cardiology, 310 Ninth St.</p> <p>Live Music at Three Rivers 7 to 11 p.m.; 21+ Blue Bills Sports Bar at Three Rivers Casino</p> <p>Saturdays</p> <p>Live Music at Three Rivers 7 to 11 p.m.; 21+ Blue Bills Sports Bar at Three Rivers Casino Resort</p> <p>Through Dec. 20</p> <p>Sea Lion on a Shelf – Find Sami the Sea Lion all over Town Sponsored by Sea Lion Caves Running Nov. 30 to Dec. 20 Maps at the Visitor's Center, 290 Hwy 101</p> <p>Dec. 7</p> <p>Florence in Bloom Holiday Open House 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; open to public Florence in Bloom, 1234 Rhododendron Dr.</p> <p>Yachats Christmas Bazaar 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; open to public Yachats Ladies Club</p> <p>Empty Bowls 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open to public Florence Events Center</p> <p>FRAA Holiday Art Fest 2019 Hosted by Florence Regional Arts Alliance 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open to public Florence Events Center</p> <p>CDABA 58th annual Holiday Bazaar 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open to public Reedsport Community Center</p> <p>Florence Area Democratic Club 11 a.m.; open to public</p>	<p>Florence Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood St.</p> <p>Deadwood Holiday Market Noon to 4 p.m.; open to public Deadwood Community Center, 91792 Deadwood Creek Rd.</p> <p>Book Signing for "The Power of Your Spine" by Tracy L. Markley Noon to 4 p.m.; open to public The Bodega, 180 Laurel St.</p> <p>14th Annual Nativity Festival 1 to 5 p.m.; open to public Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 2705 Munsel Lake Road</p> <p>Florence Holiday Festival & Tree Lighting 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.; open to public Old Town Florence, florencechamber.com</p> <p>Victorian Christmas Open House Hosted by Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast 4 to 7 p.m.; open to public \$5 fee for parking; shuttle available Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast, 92072 Hwy 101</p> <p>Paint and Sip Class with Karyl Lynn Keppel 5:15 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets required; 541-271-2485 Mindpower Gallery, 417 Fir Ave. in Reedsport</p> <p>Holly Jolly Follies: "Finding Joy at Christmastime" 7 p.m.; tickets required Florence Events Center, crowkids.com</p> <p>Classical Guitarist Cameron O'Connor In Concert in Yachats Little Log Church benefit 7 to 8 p.m.; tickets required Little Log Church and Museum, 328 W. Third St.</p> <p>Dec. 8</p> <p>Mapleton Lions Club Breakfast Pancakes, Eggs, Ham and/or Sausage, OJ and Coffee. \$7 for adults, \$4 Kids 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mapleton Lions Club, 88148 Riverview Ave.</p> <p>Yachats Ladies Club 92nd Annual Christmas Bazaar 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; open to public Yachats Ladies Club, 286 W Third and Pontiac streets, Yachats</p> <p>FRAA Holiday Art Fest 2019 Hosted by Florence Regional Arts Alliance 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; open to public Florence Events Center</p> <p>Empty Bowls Fundraiser for Florence Food Share</p>	<p>Noon to 3 p.m.; open to public Florence Events Center</p> <p>14th Annual Nativity Festival 1 to 5 p.m.; open to public Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 2705 Munsel Lake Road</p> <p>Holly Jolly Follies: "Finding Joy at Christmastime" 2 p.m.; tickets required Florence Events Center, crowkids.com</p> <p>Victorian Christmas Open House Hosted by Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast 4 to 7 p.m.; open to public \$5 fee for parking; shuttle available Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast, 92072 Hwy 101</p> <p>Dec. 9</p> <p>Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and Dinner 6:30 a.m. dinner, reservations required — siuslawcd@gmail.com, 541-991-0211 7:30 p.m. annual meeting; open to public Driftwood Shores, 88416 First Ave.</p> <p>Dec. 10</p> <p>Florence Crab Crack Tickets On Sale Event held Feb. 1 at FEC Ticket price is \$45 for all you can eat. Limited to go boxes available for \$25 Florence Food Share, 2190 Spruce St. florencefoodshare.org, 541-997-9110.</p> <p>Oregon Tourism Commission Meeting 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; open to public Driftwood Shores Resort Pacific Ballroom, 88416 First Ave.</p> <p>MCAOA Mapleton Sewer Board meeting 10 a.m.; open to public at the Maple Lane RV Park Club House</p> <p>Toys for Tots Hosted by Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue Must have the following info to receive toys: 1. Proof of residency in Lane County 2. Proof that the child lives with you 3. Proof of child's age 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; open to public Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue, 2625 Hwy 101, svfr.org</p> <p>Florence Community PTA Meeting 4:30 p.m.; open to public Commons area of Siuslaw Middle School</p> <p>Mapleton Cribbage Club 5 p.m.; open to public Mapleton Branch of Siuslaw Public Library, 88148 Riverview Ave.</p> <p>Us TOO Florence Prostate Cancer Support Group With Dr. Bryan Mehlhaff 5 to 7 p.m.; Open to public</p>	<p>Ichiban Restaurant 541-999-4239</p> <p>WellMama Peer Support Group 6 to 7:30 p.m.; open to families, partners and support people PeaceHealth Medical Center Women's Clinic, 340 Ninth St. www.wellmamaoregon.com</p> <p>Dec. 11</p> <p>Florence Garden Club 1 p.m.; Open to public Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Hwy 101</p> <p>DIY Terrarium Workshop Hosted by Laurel Bay Gardens Nursery 2 p.m., RSVP required to 541-997-5973 Laurel Bay Gardens Nursery, 88493 Hwy 101</p> <p>KXCR Annual Public Meeting 6 p.m.; open to public Siuslaw Public Library; call 541-991-6832</p> <p>PFLAG Meeting & White Elephant Party 6:30 p.m.; open to public Room 158 of Lane Community College Florence Center, 3149 Oak St.</p> <p>Popovich Pet Comedy Theater 6:30 p.m.; tickets required Florence Events Center</p> <p>Dec. 12</p> <p>Siuslaw Talespinners Toastmasters 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Open to public Port of Siuslaw Office</p> <p>Celebratory Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Solemn Mass with traditional music, food & festivities 7 p.m.; open to public St. Mary, Our Lady of The Dunes Catholic Church, 85060 Hwy 101</p> <p>Dec. 13</p> <p>Coastal Women Veterans December Lunch 11:30 a.m.; open to women vets and their guests. RSVP to 541-999-4309 Lovejoy's Restaurant & Tea Room, 195 Nopal St.</p> <p>Mindpower Gallery Holiday Wine and Art 5 to 7 p.m. Open to public; 541-271-2485 Mindpower Gallery, 417 Fir Ave. in Reedsport</p> <p>The Strange Brew Band 6 to 9 p.m.; open to public ICM Seafood Restaurant, 1498 Bay St.</p> <p>Dec. 14</p> <p>2019 Soroptimist Toy Giveaway</p>	<p>9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; open to families of kids under 12 Florence Church of the Nazarene, 1536 12th St.</p> <p>Foursquare Church Christmas Bazaar Homemade Christmas crafts & goodies 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; open to public Florence Foursquare Church, 1624 Hwy 101</p> <p>Childbirth and Newborn Care Class Free class on all aspects of delivery, lactation and caring for your newborn Hosted by PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open to expectant parents and labor partners</p> <p>Santa is coming to Roby's 10 a.m. to noon; open to public Roby's Furniture & Appliance, 1870 Hwy 101</p> <p>2019 Community Christmas Baskets Sponsored by Soroptimist of Florence 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; open to public Siuslaw Middle School, 2525 Oak St.</p> <p>Gingerbread House Party Hosted by Siuslaw Public Library District 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; open to public Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St.</p> <p>Jawsome Pictures with Santa 1 to 5 p.m.; open to public Jawsome Kids Resale, 1901 Hwy 101</p> <p>2nd Saturday Gallery Tour 3 to 5 p.m.; Open to public Various locations around Florence 2ndSaturdayGalleryTour.com</p> <p>Meet Santa at the Florence Justice Center Hosted by City of Florence 3 to 5 p.m.; open to public Florence Justice Center, 900 Greenwood St.</p> <p>Victorian Christmas Open House Hosted by Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast 4 to 7 p.m.; open to public \$5 fee for parking; shuttle available Heceta Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast, 92072 Hwy 101</p> <p>Church on the Rock Christmas Dinner 5 p.m.; 541-997-9117 Florence Events Center</p> <p>Christmas on the Coast with Charles Suniga and The Angels 6 p.m.; tickets required Florence Events Center</p> <p>Community Chorus Christmas Concert 7 p.m.; open to public Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Hwy 101</p>
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A Weekly Listing of Community Events in the Florence Area

Submit all events information to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com

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