

# Library News about the Siuslaw Public Library

## Book Review “An Arabian Journey” by Levison Wood

British explorer Levison Wood's walking expeditions have taken him from Africa's Nile River to the Himalayan Mountains. Now, following in the footsteps of great explorers such as Lawrence of Arabia and Wilfred Thesiger, Wood brings readers along on his most complex adventure yet: a circumnavigation of the Arabian Peninsula.

Starting in September 2017 in a city in northern Syria, a stone's throw away from Turkey and amidst the deadliest war of the 21st century,

Wood set forth on a 5,000-mile trek through the most contested region on the planet. He moved through the Middle East for six months, from ISIS-occupied Iraq to Kuwait and along the jagged coastlines of the Emirates and Oman; across a civil-war torn Yemen and on to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel before ending on the shores of the Mediterranean in Lebanon.

Like his predecessors, Wood explores some of the harshest and most beautiful environments on earth, seeking to challenge readers' perceptions of an often-misunderstood part of the world by introducing them to its people.

Wood speaks to freedom fighters in Kurdistan, who have built their

own democratic state amidst totalitarian rule; he celebrates Christmas with Arab Christians in Jerusalem; and he spends a harrowing five days on the Arabian Sea, traveling from Oman to the Horn of Africa on a fisherman's small boat.

Through the relationships he forges during these encounters — and the personal histories and local mythologies that his companions share — Wood examines how the region has changed over thousands of years and reveals a multifaceted Middle East people don't often see in the media.

At once a thrilling personal journey and a skillful piece of cultural reportage, “An Arabian Journey” is a breathtaking chronicle of an epic tour through the land at the root of

all civilization.

## Living Voices Program

The library is pleased to co-sponsor, along with the Siuslaw Genealogical Society, a return of Living Voices on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 1 p.m.

This year the presentation will be “Island of Hope” with re-enactor Rachel McClinton playing the role of “Leah,” a 10-year-old Russian Jewish girl growing up in a *shtetl* in the Pale of Settlement at the turn of the 20th century.

Leah dreams of going to school like all her brothers. When her oldest brother deserts the Czar's army, Leah's parents reveal a plan for the whole family to escape to America. Leah and her family face a long and

risky journey, through Russia to their ship in Germany, and across the Atlantic Ocean to the New York Harbor.

But when Leah alone is detained at Ellis Island, she must confront her biggest obstacle yet: what if she is sent back?

Living Voices combines dynamic solo performances, with archival film and sound, turning history into a moving and personal journey.

## Tax Forms

The library in Florence is beginning to get IRS tax forms. It has the basic forms but no instruction books yet. Look for what's available near the photocopier in the library. For more information, stop by the Reference Desk.

# THE HUGHES BROTHERS EARN THEIR BOY SCOUT EAGLE BADGES

The Hughes family — parents Jeff and Liz and sons Kyle and Chad — moved to Florence from Utah about two years ago and immediately became involved in their church, school and Boy Scouting programs.

In their church, both Kyle and Chad have been very active in the youth group activities and service projects. Both intend on serving a two-year mission for their church upon completing their high school education.

As a freshman in high school, Kyle has maintained a 4.0 grade point average academically as well as participating on the wrestling, track, cross country and basketball teams. In the Boy Scouting program, he has served as the Troop Historian, as well as participating in several camp outs and summer camp outs and service projects. He earned a total of 29 merit badges.

For his Eagle Scout Project he planned, he led assistants in rehabilitating and finishing a basketball court at Dunes City Hall.

As a sophomore in high

school, Chad has also maintained a 4.0 grade point average academically. He has participated on the track, cross country and basketball teams as well as the band programs. In the Boy Scouts he is currently a Patrol Leader, and has earned a total of 29 merit badges.

For his Eagle Scout Project Chad and his assistants restored the Munsel Lake Road Park grounds by improving the youth play grounds, planting several plants, repairing the park bench, replacing the basketball hoop and repairing the ball court.

The following essays are how both Kyle and Chad answered the question: “What does Scouting mean to me?”

## Kyle Hughes

I have been in scouting for most of my life starting when I was eight years old all the way till now.

Scouting is an activity group for young boys to become re-



Kyle Hughes

sponsible adults. Scouting means learning essential skills to better the lives of others. It is a way for me to learn responsibility, preparedness, sacrifice for a greater good, kindness and compassion, along with learning what my principles are. Scouting builds character.

To me, scouting has mostly been about having fun with people who have similar interests. My troop would take all our gear to the lakeside and have fun around the fire or kayaking out on the lake.



Chad Hughes

I will admit that sometimes I did not like Scouts because of things that I found difficult to complete or follow. But then something would help me remember why I decided to do Scouts in the first place. After everything, scouting is a great way to learn and grow as a human being.

Scouting has benefited my life in many ways. It has taught me how to be a good brother, son and friend to all. Scouting has taught me plenty of essential skills like lifesaving, emergency preparedness and First aid.

But scouting has also taught me how to tie knots, how to be a good member of society and even how to cook. Not only have I learned skills, but I have also learned how to set goals, how to hold myself in a higher standard to be a better person, and what my true morals are.

Two of my favorite things that scouting has taught me is how to better manage my money and how to have fun surviving in the wilderness. Although personal management was super tough to complete, I did it and I now understand the importance of being thrifty. I can now sympathize with my parents and see a greater love that they have for me.

Having fun outdoors is pretty self-explanatory. Being outside in Mother Nature doing

fun things with good people is just the best. The greatest thing that scouting has taught me is how to be a strong, well rounded individual.

Brief description of my Eagle Scout Project:

The city of Dunes City came to my scout leaders saying they had a project for any individual who needed to have their project done. I was struggling to come up with something that would work, so I accepted the project.

The project required a renovation of a parking lot that had been turned into a public basketball court. An old, rusty, basketball hoop clung to a moldy telephone pole. The parking lot itself was covered in dirt and sand, along with overgrown shrubbery and trash. I decided to not only switch out the telephone pole hoop and put in a new pole, but to build a retaining wall to hold back the earth and give a little extra playing space along with the construction of a park bench.

Our first phase was to clear everything up to give us room to work. Then we commenced the building of the wall, which curved around the exterior of the court. Then we dug the foundation of the new pole along with the foundation of the bench. The bench is dedicated to a Dunes City Council member who served for many years but had recently passed away.

Once all the digging was done, we constructed the bench and placed it into the concrete that had been poured earlier. The basketball hoop had not arrived at the site yet so we had to wait a couple days to finish the project. Once it had arrived, my family went and built it, and bolted it to the foundation.

It felt really good to have

finished something I can be proud of.

## Chad Hughes

Scouting means so much to me. It means brotherhood.

When I first moved to Oregon the quickest way I made friends, was through Scouts. The Troop is amazingly close and because of that we enjoy each other's company and look out for each other in school, sports and around the community.

Scouting to me also means service. So many aspects of ranking up involve service, service hours or service projects. I think it is wonderful! Being able to help the community we live in and make a difference, no matter how small, is extremely rewarding. There is so much good to do around the world and just taking part of your day to serve others can help brighten other people's day as well as your own.

Lastly, it means growing. I know that when I first joined Boy Scouts as an 11-year-old I didn't know much. Since that day, I feel like I've learned a million things through merit badges, classes and everyday experiences. Not only did my knowledge grow but I believe my character did as well. Trying to live the Scout Law and oath made me a better person. I have changed, learned, and grown so much during my time in Scouting and I know my troop members have as well.

Scouting has really helped my life. I think the biggest thing that benefited me were the merit badges. There are so many things in life to learn about and there isn't always going to be someone there to help you learn about it. As I worked on many different merit badges I learned a variety of things, such as, learning how to prepare and cook meals, catch my own food and start a safe fire.

Scouting has also benefited me because it helped build my character. While working on my Eagle Scout Project I developed my responsibility, planning and leadership skills. I value that experience greatly. Knowing how to be responsible, especially for your actions, is one of the most important life skills. To add to that being able to plan and lead daily life, activities, and events is also very important. Scouting gave me the opportunity to grow my knowledge, character, and many friendships. For that I am very grateful.

My Eagle Scout Project was basically a park restoration. There is a children's park near my house that wasn't in very good condition. I decided to fix that.

To do so, I organized this project which included, digging out old sand and bark around a playset and filling it back in with pea gravel to meet safety requirements from the city, taking apart an eroded picnic bench and rebuilding the bench with new, weather-proofed wood, planting 5 new rhododendron bushes in empty spaces around the park and cleaning up the dirt space underneath them, sanding the rust off of a basketball backboard and fence then repainting both. Lastly, we cleaned up the growth around the perimeter of the park.



## IS AMERICA ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE?

The United States is the wealthiest, most powerful nation that has ever existed. Its rise was no accident. It was formed out of hundreds of specific events that started 3,000 years before the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. But today, is the strength of this nation eroding? Did the Bible see it coming? Will America be history's final empire? There is no successor mentioned in the Scriptures apart from the Kingdom of God.

## OPENING SESSION:

Thursday, January 23, 6:00 pm (Free Light Meal at 5:30 pm)

## Republic Rising

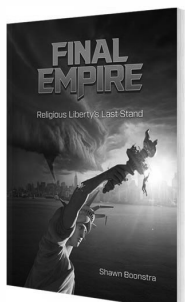
History tells us that when Christopher Columbus set sail, he already knew the World was not flat. So, what was he really doing on his quest? We'll look at the evidence that points to Columbus' true goals, his deep convictions, and a journey that he believed was driven by the Hand of God.

**SESSION 2:** Friday, January 24, 6:00 pm (Light Meal at 5:00 pm)  
**Christianity Corrupted**

**SESSION 3:** Saturday, January 25, 11:00 am (Lunch following)  
**The Earth Opens Up**

**SESSION 4:** Saturday, January 25, 6:00 pm (Light Meal at 5:00 pm)  
**America's Last Stand**

FREE BOOK: Final Empire by Shawn Boonstra (while supplies last)



**Learn more at FinalEmpire.com**  
**All Meetings will be at:**

Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church  
4445 Highway 101  
Florence, OR 97439

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