



Progress 2020: Our Community

Finding purpose for a Presidential Scholarship

I have a disability and I'm not ashamed of it," Siuslaw High School junior Cameron Kentta wrote. "I may have my bad days and wish that I was never born with this, but at the end of the day, I know I may not be able to cure it, but I can battle it. Whatever boundaries I have, all I need is just that small nudge in life and I will be able to push through it in no time."

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

It's the nudge that Cameron's mother, Kim Erickson, is looking to give a high school senior next year with the Rotary Club of Florence Presidential Award, which this year is dedicated for students who experience disability.

"I feel like when you pick your own scholarship, it should be something that you're very passionate about and have a lot of interest in," said Erickson, who is the Rotary president for 2020-21.

Every year, the president is allowed to pick the theme for the scholarship.

"I chose something that's very important to me and not noticed enough with students," Erickson said. "For many people that are not aware, my daughter was diagnosed with autism when she was three years old."

After Cameron was enrolled in school, that determination was reassessed and she was re-diagnosed with severe anxiety.

"Every year we meet and do an individual educational plan (IEP) for her to get her help in school that she needs, because things are definitely a challenge for her," Erickson said. "I feel that there's a lot of other students that go through the same thing."

From social stigma to difficulties with homework, getting the GPA required for many scholarships can be difficult to meet

for student, many of whom simply give up on the scholarship process.

"It's not because they're not trying just as hard as every other student," Erickson said.

"Sometimes, they try even harder, and constantly feel like they're failing on many occasions. I feel like they should have the same opportunities that every other student has, and go to college with confidence that that hard work they put in is just as important as every other student."

Erickson, who has been working with Siuslaw School District's Special Programs Director Lisa Utz on the scholarship, said that people should take the time to look at each student equally.

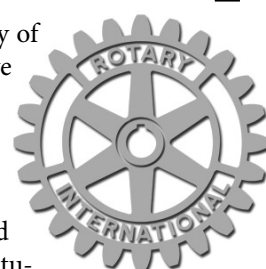
"They might be different, but they can still achieve everything that any other student can. They just might do it a different way and process things differently," she said.

It's a sentiment Cameron echoed.

"I want all the people who have a disability to know, you're not alone," she wrote. "I have a disability and even though it may be different from what you have, I know what it is like and how it feels. You don't have to go through that path by yourself."

Anyone, including non-Rotarians, can donate to the scholarship fund. To contribute, contact Kim Erickson at kim.erickson@opbc.com or send donations to Rotary Club of Florence, P.O. Box 294, Florence, OR 97439.

For more information about Rotary Club of Florence and its work in the community, attend the weekly Zoom meetings at noon on Tuesday and visit www.theflorencerotary.org.



Invest in Siuslaw. Invest in Progress.

Want to be part of this community's progress? Contact your Siuslaw News marketing representative today at 541-997-3521 and TheSiuslawNews.com.

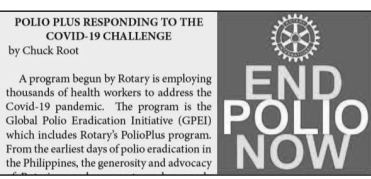
Rotary
Club of Florence, Oregon

COVID-19
DID NOT STOP
ROTARY



AS PEOPLE OF ACTION WE STILL . . .

Fought Polio



Fought Wildfires with District 5110 Fire Relief Fund



Peace Harbor Hospital
PeaceHealth
Supported Peace Harbor COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

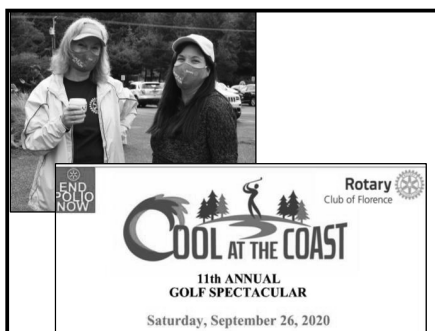


Supported Siuslaw & Mapleton School Districts

Installed New Club President



Meg Spencer
2019-20
Kim Erickson
2020-21



Held a Successful Fund-Raising Golf Tournament



Assisted LDS Church Unload 40,600 lbs. Food at Mapleton & Florence Food Shares

'Getting people in touch with their creative side'

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Grade school was the last time this customer had made art, but then the pandemic hit.

"He got his hours reduced at work and needed something to do to work through his emotions about being unemployed and feeling not valued," BeauxArts owner Jo Beaudreau recalled about a customer who walked into her store earlier in the year. "He saw something that somebody had done, and he was inspired by it. So I talked to him about the products, the process and the best practices to do that."

Beaudreau coached him through the process of the art, helping him pick the right materials from her shop, BeauxArts Fine Art Materials & Gallery, 2285 Highway 101 Suite H in Florence.

"He went on an experimental journey and he shared that with me," Beaudreau said. "It was really cool to see him start, from 'I don't know what I'm doing,' to 'This happened, how do I do that' and finally 'I want to try that again.'"

It's an experience that Beaudreau has seen occur countless times in her store during the pandemic.

"There's been a lot of people who've gotten in touch with their creative side," she said. "They've taken this time to hone their skills, or revisit skills they had neglected for some time. They started doing what they enjoyed."

Since 2013, BeauxArts

has used the sales pitch "quality materials at a discount price" to describe its business. But the true strength of the business lies in connecting with and inspiring people.

"I'm continually inspired by them, which inspires me to inspire other people. It's just a loop around of awesomeness in town," Beaudreau said.

Sometimes the artists are looking to become professionals.

"There was one woman who came into the shop and really wanted to get into working with oils," Beaudreau said. "She came in, we talked about it, and I set her up with a really good deal with oil paints. She got really excited about it, bought a giant canvas, and came back a day later with a finished photo of her work, and it was incredible. She just ran with it."

So much so that now that artist is selling her work throughout the world.

Others customers simply focus on the more personal aspects of art.

"You don't have to share it. People forget that. They think, 'I have to sell this painting,' but you don't. I talk to a lot of artists that don't want to sell their work," Beaudreau said.

Sometimes they hide it from everyone.

"There's one who won my heart," Beaudreau said. "He was reclusive, coming in every once in a while and then disappearing. Finally, I asked him, 'What are you doing with this stuff?' He said he was doing oil painting. I asked to

see his work, he said no. "That's okay, whenever you feel like you want to share, please feel free." He left and came back with a couple of his paintings and he blew my mind."

They talked about his process, and why he loved art.

"It made him really feel special, and at that point he wanted to share some of his work," she said. "He never expected someone to like his art."

For Beaudreau, the benefits of art can be substantial, particularly during times of stress.

"By just drawing or scribbling, you're focusing your attention on something else, getting your mind out of the physical, emotional, mental troubles you're having. You can direct positive energy toward something productive and not getting in a rut."

But the first step is to try it.

"It's important to recognize all the different types of arts — from culinary, performance, music. There's different types of facets," Beaudreau said. "Whatever your passion is, you need to follow it."

For more information, stop by BeauxArts Fine Art Materials & Gallery, visit www.beauxartsfineart.com for updated hours or go to www.facebook.com/BeauxArtsFineArtMaterials.

Beaudreau also offers artist support through the online community BeauxArts Atelier of Siuslaw. Contact her for more information.

Create & Celebrate!

BeauxArts is proud to provide quality art materials to our community.

Come in and be inspired!



BeauxArts
Fine Art Materials

Create - Get & Give!

– Gift Certificates –

541.991.8213

– Call for hours or swing by –
Appointments Available

2285 Highway 101, Suite H (Coastal Fitness Plaza)
Facebook & Instagram — @BeauxArtsFineArtMaterials

Empowering Your Creativity