



# Library Tidings

News about the Siuslaw Public Library by Kevin Mittge

self conscripted into the Confederate Army. Luckily, his talent with a fiddle lands him in a regimental band.

Weeks later, on the eve of the Confederate surrender, Simon and his band mates are called to play at a dinner bringing together officers and their families from both sides of the conflict.

Amid the crowd, the quick-thinking, audacious fiddler notices the lovely Doris Mary Dillon, the young governess to a Union colonel's daughter.

Simon is smitten by Doris, but learns that the 18-year-old Irish girl is indentured; by contract she

must finish her three years of service, remaining with the colonel's family where he is stationed. After the surrender, Simon and Doris go their separate ways.

Yet as he travels around Texas, seeking fame and fortune as a musician, Simon cannot forget the fair Irish maiden, and vows that someday he will find her again.

Incandescent in its beauty, told in Paulette Jile's trademark spare yet lilting style, "Simon the Fiddler" is a captivating, bittersweet tale of the chances a devoted man will take and the lengths he will go to fulfill his heart's yearning.

## Library to Open for Browsing

With the recent announcement that Lane County has moved down to the moderate risk level for COVID-19, the library is pleased to begin offering browsing at our facilities in Florence and Mapleton.

Browsing will begin on Thursday, April 1 — no joke!

To begin, Siuslaw Public Library will match its curbside pickup and drop-off hours, so Monday through Thursday, the hours will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In Mapleton, we will offer a slightly expanded service from current curbside

hours, providing browsing from noon until 5 p.m. on Thursdays only. Days open, including weekends, and the number of hours, will increase as conditions allow.

Patrons will continue to be required to wear masks inside the library. Appointments are not necessary.

We have new touch less check-out stations we encourage patrons to use. There will be no seating at this time and meeting rooms are not available. You can bring your kids in to select books but toys are not available and we cannot accommodate play groups or meet-ups.

Restrooms will also be closed to the public.

We will continue to offer curbside service for those who wish to pick up their library materials that way, though we will be moving the carts inside the library proper.

If you applied for a library card during our closure, you can pick up your physical card during browsing hours once you have provided photo ID and proof of your current street address.

For new library cards, we will provide applications to be completed out of the building, and then you will return for the card, again providing photo ID and proof of address.

We all look forward to seeing you soon!

## OCHS from page 1A

Thompson said she was also aware of OCHS and its past as she contemplated a career there.

"The board of directors that was in charge during the Department of Justice's investigation of four years ago is gone," she said. "I have familiarized myself with the findings and re-

quirements from way back then and they have been resolved to the department's full satisfaction. That is in the distant past and we're leaving it there; and we have been moving on ever since.

"The board also tells me that other recent matters with previous employees to everyone's satisfaction

and are bound by non-disclosure agreements. So, we're done with that too," Thompson stated. "I wouldn't have applied if I hadn't done my research, and I wouldn't have been hired by this hardworking volunteer board if they hadn't done theirs. I think we are a great match. The future is bright and promising. Let's go there together."

"We are a great match," agreed OCHS Board President Shauna Robbers. "The board is very excited that we could hire Elizabeth. She has a stable and highly successful work history, and glowing endorsements by former employers and others. She is a passionate animal lover and even took one

of our dogs home to foster during her first week on the job."

Thomson has been involved in animal rescue for 18 years. During that time, she has fostered more than 200 dogs and volunteered with local rescues and shelters. She also served on the board for Lovable Rescue and organized public events and fundraisers, facilitated adoptions for animals in her care, socialized and trained hundreds of puppies and adult dogs, and fostered abused animals that had been removed from their homes for LCAS while criminal and civil charges were being filed.

Robbers added, "Prior to hiring Elizabeth, our shel-

ter manager Pam Bailey, the staff and our excellent volunteers have done an outstanding job, as always, caring for all our residents, our facility and our thrift store."

Thompson also detailed plans for a way forward for OCHS.

"After extensive conversations with our board, our compassionate and committed staff and our priceless volunteers, this is what our intended future looks like and we ask the community to join us in it," Thompson said. "A continued small-scale remodel to improve facility flow and function, a capital campaign for an important building addition to house a veterinary clinic, more low-cost spay/neuter clinics, more low-cost microchip clinics, even better and more immediate care for animals brought to the shelter, and more care for other pets in the region

as our two local vets' offices are generally unable to take new clients. They have stated their support of our intentions."

In his letter of recommendation Rick Hammel, program manager for LCAS, wrote, "Elizabeth's work with community outreach has reflected credit on the department and county. Her work with volunteers, foster providers, staff, and numerous local merchants and community partners, has created a community team LCAS has not had until Elizabeth came on board."

Thompson, who started work on March 1, said "I look forward to meeting our supporters and community leaders to build even stronger bridges and discover what more the community may need from OCHS."

For more information, visit [www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org](http://www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org).

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