

BUILDING from page 1A

The Lighthouse offers spiritually-oriented books from many different religious traditions, along with wall hangings, statuary and other gift and décor items. The business also offers yoga and meditation classes and has free Sunday evening live music, for cus-

tomers interested in sharing their thoughts and experiences related to spirituality. The driving force behind this unusual combination of the spiritual and the physical world is Day Owen, who detailed his interesting story of how he came to open the business and how he hopes to add to the community's sense of unity, understanding and inclusivity.

"Religion is so often divisive that I wanted to create a bookstore that celebrates the universality of religion by offering the best sacred texts of various religions," he said. "We have books on various varieties of old, sacred religions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, Native American, Green Earth Mother Goddess and more."

The manner by which Owen obtained the money to operate in the iconic two-story building is as unusual as his mission to educate, accept and share what he sees as the bounty of the Earth.

"An ex-professional football player who had a lot of



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Lighthouse Spiritual Bookstore, 1411 Bay St., features books about differing religions and spiritualities. "We carry the 'Autobiography of a Yogi,' but we also carry an autobiography of Billy Graham," said store owner Day Owen.

issues with pain from that career became a student of Essene Yoga books and healed his injuries. To show his appreciation, he told me to choose a building where I could offer classes on this form of yoga and make my books available to the public. I chose this building because it is incredibly beautiful, and I have always loved Old Town," he said.

In addition to investing significant resources in Old

Town, Owen is also working to improve the physical and spiritual health of area residents and visitors on different subjects and from a variety of perspectives. He also wants to focus on the need to respect and maintain the planet we all live on.

"Our bookstore emphasizes books that promote ecology and environmental activism from a spiritual perspective and books

on peace and justice. ... We carry those books that emphasize tolerance of other views, social justice, nonviolence and universal love and compassion. We don't carry books by angry fundamentalists of any religion," Owen said. "We carry the 'Autobiography of a Yogi,' but we also carry an autobiography of Billy Graham."

The education and class portion of what the Light-

house plans to bring to Old Town is on yoga, a centuries-old eastern meditation process which combines physical motion with special attention given to breathing and mindfulness.

The practice of yoga takes many forms and has numerous schools of study which practice a particular set of positions. Owen teaches a subset of one of the more popular forms of yoga, "Hatha."

"There are no hard postures, even seniors can do it," he said. "It is simple stretches especially for spinal cord health followed by meditation. We will also host other classes on various spiritual and holistic wellness topics."

The addition of an entirely new type of business to the Old Town mix of bars, restaurants, galleries and retail shops may provide yet another avenue for the continued growth of the "City in Motion."

The Lighthouse Spiritual Bookstore, 1411 Bay St., is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, call 541-927-3017.

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Cyclists bike into town with Texas 4000

This next Monday, July 12, the St. Andrews Episcopal Church is again hosting 25 "Texas 4000" bicyclists who will be arriving in Florence.

Texas 4000 for Cancer or Texas 4000 is a 501 federally registered non-profit organization, and the longest annual charity bicycle ride in the world.

They are students from University of Texas and are a young inspirational group of individuals who have set personal fundraising and fitness goals to support the Texas 4000 mission.

That mission is to cultivate

student leaders and engage communities in the fight against cancer and support cancer research.

The group is biking from Aus-



tin, Texas. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the teams biked to Anchorage, Alaska. This year, because of the Canadian border closures, they've had to do a different route to get their 4,500 miles in. All participants have had their COVID shots.

Each time the Texas 4000

comes to town, St. Andrews hosts a community dinner for the cyclists and area residents.

This year will be "Thanksgiving in July" and will be hosted at the Florence Elks Lodge #1858.

"It's a fun evening welcoming them to our community and hearing their story," said local coordinator Terri Pennington. "They put on a short program and also share their story."

To learn more, contact Pennington at 541-999-2400.

For more information on the cyclists, visit www.texas4000.org.

Local author releases next novel

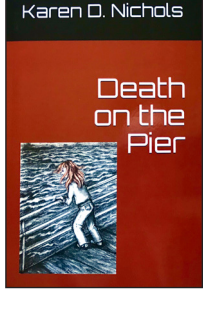
This month, local artist and author Karen D. Nichols announced the release of her new murder mystery, "Death on the Pier."

The story traces a young woman's journey from truth, mystery, suspense and understanding to forgiveness.

When Tina goes to the pier to end her life, does she actually witness a murder? After a series of pranks and troublesome behaviors in the past, will anyone believe her now? Or is this merely a desperate plot to get her mother's attention and rid herself of a callous stepfather? As she digs herself into a false narrative, is she in real danger, or are the perilous incidents merely paranoia?

Nichols came to Florence 15 years ago and started writing a couple of years before arriving here. After teaching elementary school in California, she continued teaching writing through Writing on the Coast seminars and art classes here in town. Her column, "The Moral of the Story," runs in the *Siuslaw News*' monthly Community Voices.

Find "Death on the Pier" at Backstreet Gallery on 1421 Bay Street, open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Tuesday. People will also find Nichols's other eight books and her art at the gallery.



Share ideas about Lane County Climate Action Plan

Lane County is developing a comprehensive county-wide Climate Action Plan (CAP) that will outline goals and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare the community for climate change.

The county is currently focusing on collecting feedback from stakeholders on a high-level, draft climate action plan framework, which outlines strategies for emissions reductions that may be included in the final CAP. This draft

framework is based on technical analysis, best practices from other communities, and residents' priorities identified in the initial survey.

Using the feedback from the public engagement period, best practices, and the results of technical analysis, Lane County will present a Climate Action Plan that is responsive to the needs and goals of the Lane County community.

Meeting Schedule:

- Meeting 1 - Transportation: was held on June 30.
- Meeting 2 - Energy Used in Buildings and Renewables: July 13, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Meeting 3 - Stuff we Buy and Use including food, agriculture, and forestry products: July 21, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Meeting 4 - Florence and Coast communities: July 27, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- Meeting 5 - East County Foothills community: July 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

visit <https://lanecocap.participate.online/> to learn more and take the survey.

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• Urologist Dr. Bryan Mehiloff attends.
• Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmyy attends.
Contact Bob for more information:
(H) 541-997-6626 • (C) 541-999-4239
maribob@oregonfast.net