

BRING PETS TO VISIT SANTA PAWS

The holidays wouldn't be the same without pictures with Santa Paws, right? Oregon Coast Humane Society is offering Pictures with Santa Paws again this season. Kurt Kennedy, who plays Santa Paws for OCHS, is a longtime supporter of the organization and this particular fundraiser. It's turned into a great money-maker for the animals and a lot of fun for the community.

This year's events with Santa Paws will be held at the Oregon Coast Humane Society, located at 2840 Rhododendron Dr., from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, and Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Community members are asked to make a donation during the event to support the animals in



Santa Paws will be at Oregon Coast Humane Society on Saturday, Dec. 4, and Wednesday, Dec. 8.

the humane society's care. People can take their own pictures and have pictures emailed to them that will be taken by the shelter elves.

OCHS Executive Director Elizabeth Thompson says that Kennedy's participation in this annual event is a real blessing after another long year of social distancing.

"This event brings such joy to the animals and parents, and the human children and their families. We appreciate Santa having time for this event to support our shelter pets and community animals," she said.

Oregon Coast Humane Society is a nonprofit, limited intake shelter promoting a lifetime commitment to pets.

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WLCF 2022 grant applications now available

Western Lane Community Foundation (WLCF) has opened its 2022 grant cycle. The grant application has been updated and can be found at wlcfonline.org.

Each year, WLCF awards grants to local nonprofit organizations for projects/programs in its target area of western Lane County. Grants are awarded in the areas of education, medicine and science, the arts, and social and civic services.

In 2021, over \$89,000 was awarded to many of

these worthy causes.

The annual amount to be awarded is determined by the performance of the invested portfolio of discretionary funds during the current year.

The deadline for 2022 grant requests is Jan. 15, 2022. The application may be downloaded from WLCF's website. It is highly recommended that applicants review the updated Grant Guidelines.

People can submit applications to Western Lane Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1589, Florence,

OR, 97439 or by email to wlcff@wlcffonline.org in PDF format.

Completed applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than close of business on Jan. 15.

Applications will be reviewed by the WLCF Board of Directors and each applicant will be contacted by a board member for an interview regarding the request for funds.

Grantees will be selected in February and awarded in late March. Selected grant recipients will be required to submit a grant report

due by Sept. 30, 2022.

Grant requests and awards will be selected based on merit, need and benefit to the community at large. Grant requests and award amounts vary greatly, but are usually between \$100 and \$5,000, depending on the nature of the grant project and funds available for distribution.

If applicants have questions or concerns about the new grant application, they are encouraged to contact WLCF at wlcff@wlcffonline.org or 541-997-1274.

VFW Auxiliary kicks off National Anthem Singing Contest

Florence Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary 3232 is excited to announce the kick-off of the VFW Auxiliary's national anthem singing contest, "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!"

Local youth in grades K-12 can showcase their talent, display their patriotism and express their creativity while competing for their share of \$2,000 in national awards.

Contestants must submit a video of their solo vocal performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Video must be saved to a DVD or flash drive, or uploaded to an online video platform (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo) and submitted to the local auxiliary for judging. The video must be recorded between July 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022.

Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value.

Contestants begin by competing at the local VFW Auxiliary level. The first-place winner from each auxiliary advances to the district competition, with district winners advancing to the state competition.

The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. The state first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. There is

one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. Winners will be notified the week of July 25, 2022, via email.

The contest is designed

to promote patriotism and encourage youth to learn the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" while displaying their creativity and vocal talent.

Contestant entries must be submitted to VFW

Auxiliary 3232 Florence by March 31, 2022.

Interested youth, parents/guardians and teachers should contact Sue Miller at 541-991-3841 or at suezmiller51@gmail.com.

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