

# Cub scouts may make project an annual event

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"We went with swags, because they're a little easier, because I wanted a lot of the work to be done by the boys to get them involved and give them a sense of ownership in the project," she said.

Pack leader Jason Schermerhorn provided boughs of hemlock for the swags, which were tied with wire and adorned with red felt ribbons.

Although some Scouts initially had difficulty constructing the swags and tying the bows, they seemed to enjoy the project, and Kautz said she'd like to make it an annual event.

The scout leaders let the Scouts practice creativity and freedom when making the swags. "We wanted it to be something the boys did, and not something the adults did just so they could say the boys did it," Kautz said, adding, "We wanted it to be kid art."

She likes to pick service projects with a local emphasis so the Scouts can see the results of what they've done. When the projects involve honoring veterans or active service members, they provide an opportunity for the Scouts to learn about good citizenship, one of Scouting's cornerstones.

Kautz organizes as many service projects as possible so Cub Scouts with busy schedules have numerous opportunities to participate

when they can. The pack has 19 members, and about 12 participated in the holiday project in some way.

While at the cemetery, a Scout saw some coins placed on one of the headstones, which gave Kautz the chance to share the meaning of the gesture, something she learned years ago from her father.

There is some debate over when the tradition started, how pervasive it is and everything it symbolizes. According to several sources, visitors leave the coins at the headstones of veterans, and different coins indicate a different level of familiarity with the fallen soldier.

A penny can be placed by anyone who visited the gravesite; a nickel means the visitor and deceased person trained together; a dime means the visitor served with the veteran; and a quarter indicates the visitor was with the soldier when they died in combat, according to Blue Star Mothers of America.

Hunter Kautz, a third-grade Cub Scout and Kautz's son, said making the holiday swags was one of his favorite service projects so far. He especially enjoyed taking the ornaments to the cemetery and placing them at the gravesites.

When asked why he thinks it's important to honor veterans, he replied, "So their families don't think they didn't do a good job."

# Renowned area author, war veteran to speak at Tillamook Head Gathering

Event to raise funds for student enrichment

By Katherine Lacaze  
Seaside Signal

Literature, music and visual arts will be celebrated at the inaugural Tillamook Head Gathering designed to benefit Seaside High School students participating in those activities.

The event will start at 6 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center with a silent auction featuring about 25 works by local artists.

Karl Marlantes, a decorated Vietnam War veteran and Seaside High School graduate, will be a guest speaker. Marlantes, a former Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, will discuss his book, "Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War," a New York Times bestseller published in 2010, and his memoir, "What It Is Like to Go to War," published in 2011.

Bill Moyers featured Marlantes in connection with his nonfiction work in 2012.

Mark Mizell, a Seaside High School English teacher and one of the event organizers, praised Marlantes' work, saying his memoir is "incredibly frank, incredibly unbiased."

Writer Peter Lindsey, a Cannon Beach author who



FILE PHOTO

**Karl Marlantes, a graduate of Seaside High School, Rhodes Scholar and U.S. Marine who fought in the Vietnam War, spoke at a Columbia Forum in 2010 about his novel, "Matterhorn."**

also graduated from Seaside High School, will accompany Marlantes as a guest speaker.

Lindsey was teaching at the high school and working as a lifeguard in Cannon Beach in the 1960s when he, too, was drafted to fight in Vietnam.

The men will share and discuss their writing and then hold a question-and-answer session with the audience.

In addition to literature, the event will highlight music with performances by several people, including local talent Dave Quinton and Jackson Andrews; John Mersereau, of Arch Cape; trio Sydney Morrison, Alyssa Smith and Seaside High School Choir Director Vanessa Unger; and Kelsey Mousley, accompanied by

her band. Mousley also is a Seaside graduate, and her band is based in Portland.

Mizell's son, Mike Mizell, will emcee the event. Local restaurants will provide hors d'oeuvres.

The cost to attend is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at Beach Books, Seaside Coffee House and the high school.

"All the proceeds from this will benefit literary, visual and musical arts enrichment at Seaside High School," Mark Mizell said.

Enrichment funds will go primarily toward helping individual students attend field trips and have access to various opportunities, such as performing in Disneyland with the choir or attending festivals

and competitions, he said. "Back when I first started teaching at Seaside High School, there was an actual field trip fund, and now there is no fund for that kind of stuff," Mark Mizell said. "We've just had to cut back. ... It's become tougher and tougher to come up with money for enrichment."

The Tillamook Head Gathering Organization Committee has been meeting since April to plan the event. The committee is informal at this point, Mizell said, although members hope to eventually build up an enrichment fund so it becomes self-perpetuating.

The committee intends to make the gathering an annual event and the fund's primary revenue source.

Tillamook Head was chosen for the title because "when people think of a particular place that sort of epitomizes the area, Tillamook Head just seems to be it," Mark Mizell said.

"There is something near and dear about that rock formation for a lot of people," he added. "It's kind of cool because people in Seaside see it, people in Cannon Beach see it. ... It's a good symbol for what us north coasters are."

For more information, call the school at 503-738-5586 or visit the Tillamook Head Gathering Facebook page.

# Local farming, agritourism are discussion topics

A future for farming in Clatsop and Tillamook counties will be the focus of a discussion among farmers, entrepreneurs and educators Jan. 17.

"Food for the Local Soul: ideas to grow our coastal farm economy," is sponsored by Nehalem Valley Farm Trust and Food Roots of Tillamook County. The nonprofit organization is working to support a healthy, productive food system for the North Coast.

The program will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the White Clover Grange, 36585 Highway 53, Nehalem.

It also will include a "soul food" lunch prepared by LaNicia Williams of Coastal Soul. A suggested

donation for lunch is \$15 or whatever participants can afford.

Discussion topics will include where to look for capital to start an agricultural or food-related business, how to find or sell farmland and the economic potential of agritourism.

Facilitators will include:

- Jared Garner, beef farmer and access-to-capital consultant: Garner will lead the discussion on community investment.
- Trav Williams, chairman, Nehalem Valley Farm Trust: He will discuss how to gain access to land.
- Ginger Edwards, farmer and entrepreneur: She will explore the potential of agritourism.

Lunch will feature fried

chicken, collard greens, beans and cornbread, with as many local ingredients as possible. For lunch, contact Trav Williams at info@nvft.org, or 330-822-2656, or contact Em-

ily Vollmer, northcoast-grown@foodrootsnw.org

White Clover Grange is located two miles east of U.S. Highway 101, about a mile past the Mohler Co-op Store.

# SEASIDE Signal

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