

COASTAL NOTES

Orchid society meets
Thursday

The Central Coast Orchid Society meets at 7 p.m. Thursday at First Presbyterian Church, 227 NE 12th St. in Newport. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

This meeting will feature a plant raffle, a plant auction and dividing and repotting orchids. There is also a show and tell and orchids for sale.

The Central Coast Orchid Society meets on the second Thursday of each month, and visitors are always welcome.

Unity celebrating
Mardi Gras dinner

It's Mardi Gras season, and next Tuesday, Feb. 16, is "Fat Tuesday" feast day. Folks in Glenden Beach will get a head start on the celebration with the 4th annual Seafood Gumbo Dinner from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday at Unity by the Sea.

New Orleans-style seafood gumbo is a rich, thick stew with all kinds of seafood, chicken and spicy smoked sausage, and a special seasoning called file.

Unity by the Sea's Rev. Ruth Miller uses her grandmother's recipe to make gallons of gumbo. It's served with salad and bread and a sweet treat - Deanna Trail will provide pecan pralines that she learned to make on a trip to New Orleans last year.

Along with the dinner will be a silent auction.

Doors open at 5 p.m., and all are welcome. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children. Unity by the Sea is located at 7040 Glenden Beach Loop in Glenden Beach.

School relocation
group meets today

The Waldport High School Relocation Steering Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. today (Wednesday) at the high school.

Waldport High School is the last remaining school in Lincoln County School District located in a tsunami zone. The proposal is to relocate the high school to an area adjacent to Crestview Heights School.

All interested individuals are welcome to attend and to join the steering committee. For more information, call committee member Susan Woodruff at 541-563-2479.

Toledo High to make
Heroes Hallway

Toledo Jr./Sr. High School will acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Week Feb. 16-19 by creating a "Heroes Hallway" to heighten students' awareness and to celebrate those who have battled breast cancer.

The school encourages Lincoln County citizens to honor family or friends.

During the school's Breast Cancer Awareness Week, the main hallway will be decorated with names and pictures of loved ones who have been affected by breast cancer.

Anyone who would like to participate, may send a loved one's picture, along with the person's first and last name, to Toledo Jr/Sr High, 1800 NE Sturdevant Rd., Toledo, OR 97391, Attn: Heroes Hallway.

At least a \$5 donation is requested for each name that is received. All proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Those taking part should identify whether their donation is for a survivor or in memory of a loved one.

TOPS open house
is Thursday

The weight loss support group, TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), will hold an open house from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursday at Episcopal Parish of St. James, 2490 NE Highway 101 in Lincoln City.

The people involved with TOPS understand the challenge of losing weight and want to help people visualize their weight loss goal and achieve it.



Students and staff from Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taipei, Taiwan recently visited the Community Services Consortium Head Start center in Newport. Students toured the center and learned about the Head Start program as part of their two-week exchange visit at Oregon State University. (Photos by Monique Cohen)

Learning exchange

Newport Head Start demonstrates to Taiwanese students how the program cares for the whole child

By Monique Cohen
Of the News-Times

A group of 14 exchange students and faculty from Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taiwan recently visited the Community Services Consortium Head Start center in Newport as part of their two-week studies while at Oregon State University.

OSU Associate Professor Sharon Rosenkoetter, who teaches in the Human Development and Family Sciences department, accompanied the group. Rosenkoetter also directs the Study Abroad in Taiwan Program, which gives OSU students an opportunity to take classes while living in Taiwan and learning more about their culture over a 10-week program.

Suzanne Miller, CSC Head Start director, and Jan Morden, education, disabilities, mental health coordinator, gave students a tour of the building and grounds before everyone gathered together to learn about Head Start. Taiwan doesn't have a program similar to Head Start, so the visiting group was eager to learn more and had plenty of questions.

Miller explained that the Head Start program is more than 40 years old and is for 3 to 4-year-old children from low-income households. She



CSC Head Start Director Suzanne Miller gave the visiting students a tour of the Newport Head Start center before a question-and-answer session about the Head Start program. Several of the students study early childhood development in Taiwan and expressed great interest in the Head Start program.

stressed that Head Start isn't a preschool or a daycare.

"The heart of Head Start is holistic. We're really taking care of the whole child. This isn't just a school. School is one part, but we also take care of the social and emotional

needs of the child," she said.

Head Start currently operates eight classes in three Lincoln County locations, Newport, Toledo and Lincoln City. Children attend class three days

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Little Log Church hosts vow renewal

Say 'I love you' at
annual Yachats
Valentine's Day ceremony

The Little Log Church in Yachats will host its annual Celebration of Renewal and Commitment at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14.

Now a Valentine's Day tradition in its 15th year, couples will again have an op-

portunity to renew their marriage vows in a group ceremony conducted by Mary Crook, an interfaith minister. Live music will be provided by Margo Setrow of Waldport, who plays hammer dulcimer.

In addition to having the opportunity to renew their vows, couples will be given a certificate as a memento of the occasion by The Little Log Church.

Last year 27 couples gathered in the sanctuary to renew their vows. Some couples have chosen to make this an annual part of their Valentine's Day celebration.

The museum suggests a donation to the museum of \$10 per couple to participate in the group ceremony. Those interested in participating in the marriage vow renewal ceremony should make a reservation by contacting Crook at 541-547-4547 or a museum volunteer at 541-547-3976.

The Little Log Church has been a landmark in the community of Yachats since 1930. It is located at West Third and Pontiac Streets in Yachats, and is open from noon to 3 p.m. daily except Thursdays.

Literacy program helps
students - and teachers

Two immigrants
learn together in
South County

A woman from Tonga teaches a man from Thailand how to speak English.

It seems an unlikely, if not comical, scene. But for nearly six months, two immigrants have turned their lunch hours into learning sessions - all in an effort to help a Newport man realize his dream of American citizenship.

Senitila McKinley, founder and director of Seashore Family Literacy, knows first-hand the challenge of moving to a new country and now dedicates her lunch break to teaching Uraphan "Ben" Chenni, from Thailand, to read, write and speak English.

When she was 22 years old,

McKinley moved across the globe - from the South Pacific island of Tonga to Waldport. She spoke very little English and knew no one other than Dave McKinley, her new husband.

In less than 10 years, McKinley mastered English, became an American citizen, earned her GED, became an ordained deacon in the Episcopal church (serving at St. Luke's in Waldport and St. Stephen's in Newport), worked full-time as a family advocate for the school district, wrote a book about falling in love and moving to Oregon, and started Seashore Family Literacy, a nonprofit organization. She created Seashore in 1992, chiefly from a desire to strengthen her own reading and writing skills so she could help her children with their schoolwork.



Senitila McKinley, left, and Uraphan "Ben" Chenni, meet weekly to prepare Chenni to take the American citizenship test. Seashore Family Literacy offers tutors for youth and adults. Volunteer tutors are needed and Seashore will host training sessions this month. (Courtesy photo)

Donation
gives 700
books to
Driftwood

State library association
promoting "I love to Read"
bilingual program

The Oregon Library Association announced that 20 rural public libraries will receive about 700 Spanish and bilingual books each, as part of the "I love to Read/Amo Leer" grant project. These books, which will fill about eight to 10 shelves, are aimed at a third grade reading level and younger.

Thanks to an anonymous donor who believes in encouraging every child to read, Driftwood Public Library received this grant.

In the last few years, small rural areas in Oregon have seen a rapid increase in the number of Latinos, especially families with small children. Public libraries, with their limited budgets, have not been able to keep up with the changing demographics. The lack of a sufficient and a culturally sensitive book collection directly affects the literacy skills of these children. When Latino families with children, whose native language is Spanish, visit the public library, they're faced with a limited collection of books in their native language, therefore losing interest in reading and are not encouraged to check out books.

Research shows that children who are read to and learn to read in their native language will have an easier time learning to read in their second language, such as English. By developing early literacy skills in Spanish, parents will make it easier for their children to learn to speak, read, and write English in the future.

Public libraries can help make a difference by offering a wide range of appropriate Spanish and bilingual books for children, and the "I love to Read/Amo Leer" project was developed to do exactly that.

These books and more are available at the Driftwood Public Library 801 SW Hwy 101 in Lincoln City. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday; and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Call the library at 541-996-2277 for more information.

I Love to Read Fiesta

Thanks to a grant of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor, Driftwood Public Library is celebrating an Amo Leer (I Love to Read) Fiesta on Saturday in the Children's Room.

The public is invited to join the celebration throughout the day, which include a piñata and snacks, Valentine makings with Vera and balloon crafts with Kathy Santos. Free books in Spanish will be given away during the day. The schedule is as follows:

- 10:30 a.m.: Story time for toddlers in Spanish and English
- 11 a.m.: Stories for pre-schoolers and Read aloud to a visiting dog (dogs visiting are Oregon Coast Therapy Animals)
- 11:30 a.m.: Thank you to our donor and information about Amo Leer
- Noon: Music of Ecuador with Chayag - Alex Lluinquinga
- 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Performer Angel Ocasio