

Holding Court

By
Michael
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and Carol
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Every Tuesday at noon the community gathers at the Court Street Dairy Lunch to share with us stories about good they're doing or the help they need. Executive Editor Michael Davis and Reporter Carol Currie would love to meet you there.



Record crowd forces Holding Court Part II

There was a standing-room only crowd at Holding Court on Tuesday, and we collected more news than we had space for so this is Holding Court Part II.

Meg Rowe, a longtime community recycler and reuser, wanted to make sure the community knows about an upcoming Repair Fair & Share event being held at Chemeketa Community College's Student Center next month.

"We know there are people with broken things, and we have volunteers who can fix them, so we're bringing them all together," Rowe said. "Folks used to know how to rewire a lamp, for instance, but now too many people just throw things out and get a new one."

The event, sponsored by Chemeketa and Marion County Public Works, will bring together volunteers who can fix small appliances, bicycles, sewing machines, sharpen tools and knives, and repair instruments. There is no

charge for the services, but donations will be gladly accepted and used for the next event, which Rowe believes will be held next spring. Additionally, if for instance, someone has a guitar with broken strings, the volunteer will restring the instrument for free, but the owner will have to provide his or her own strings.

"The whole idea is instead of tossing out and buying new, we teach people how to repair again," said **Jessica Ramey**, who is with the county.

Ramey said the event is limited to items that can be carried in.

No washing machines, other large appliances or cars will be accepted. Microwaves ovens are also prohibited due to safety reasons, she said. Volunteer fixers are also encouraged to sign up.

The event will run from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21 in the student center at Chemeketa Community College, 4000 Lancaster Drive NE.

Free film

Most of us have heard the Nike slogan "Just Do It!" but now comes a documentary on food-waste prevention called "Just Eat It!" and Mid-Valley folks can see it for free in early October courtesy of Marion County.

The county, along with the food bank Marion-Polk Food Share are showing "Just Eat It!" beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at the Loucks Auditorium at the Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE.

The 74-minute documentary, directed by Grant Baldwin, touches on North American food waster and food rescue, and the steps that can be taken to reduce the nearly 50 percent of food which is discarded needlessly. The film features food-waste scientists and activists here and abroad.

Following the film, Marion County's Waste Reduction Coordinator **Griselda Puga** will give audience members tips for saving food, and the Marion-Polk Food Share will host guest speaker **Josh Gwin**.

Come hungry for tips on saving food and cash.

Calendar art sought

Marion County Public Works - Environmental Services is soliciting art from student artists in Marion County for its 2016 Student Recycle Art Calendar.

Open to students from any Marion County school as well as home-schooled students and participants from other art programs or camps in the county, the contest welcomes up to three drawings per student, which must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.

The county will award a \$100 gift card and art kit to the student whose art is selected for the cover as well as \$500 to the teacher whose student wins the contest. It will also award \$50 gift cards and art kits to 13 other students whose art is selected to grace the inside cover and monthly pages of the calendar.

All art entries should be mailed to **Griselda Puga**, Marion County Waste Reduction Coordinator, 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, OR 97305. For more information, go to mcrecycles.net.

Local author continues series

We always enjoy a visit from self-published local authors like **Leonide "Lennie" Martin**, a for-



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DAVIS/STATESMAN JOURNAL
Brenda Douglas, of Keizer, demonstrates her quilt-making abilities aboard the Celebrity Solstice last week.



Meg Rowe, left, and Jessica Ramey came by to promote the Repair Fair Share event during the Statesman Journal's Holding Court at the Court Street Dairy Lunch in Salem on Tuesday.

mer California state University professor turned historical fiction writer.

The amiable novelist, who resides in Silverton, sets her stories amid ancient Maya culture and civilization. She recently published "The Mayan Red Queen," the third installment of a four-book series.

The latest adventure features a modern-day archaeologist researching a mysterious crimson skeleton, 10 years after the discovery of the Red Queen's tomb.

Each of the novels can be enjoyed as a complete story, she said.

They're available only as e-books at this point at <http://www.amazon.com/Leonide-L-Martin/e/B001HCZ1UY>.

For additional information, visit www.mistsoffalpenque.com or Lennie's Facebook page, facebook.com/leonide.martin.

Finally, there's this

While onboard the cruise ship Celebrity Solstice as it sliced through the Gulf of Alaska last week, co-columnist Davis encountered a throng of Salem-Keizer quilters.

In a sun-splashed room on Deck 14 reserved for seminars and such, the lo-



Leonide "Lennie" Martin, a retired professor-turned-historical-fiction-writer, discusses her latest novel.

cal fabric artists were busily sharing quilting ideas and techniques under the gentle direction of **Terri Staats**, owner of Sweet Treasures Quilts.

Among the participants was Terri's sister, Keizer resident **Brenda Douglas**.

The quilters were permitted to bring aboard their sewing machines and irons, and they happily spent constructive hours at sea while other passengers snoozed in the sun, did laps around the lunch buffet or peered at the ice-blue water hoping to catch sight of an orca.

For an hour or so, Davis turned a vacation after-

noon into a busman's holiday, photographing the quilters on an expanse of lawn that runs along Deck 15. Why grass on a ship? The cruise line featured a bocce tournament.

Among the observations about the 49th state, we noted that even in Alaska the price of Alaskan halibut is high.

(We know what some of you are thinking: "Thanks, Obama.") But in the Gold Rush port of Skagway you can get a reindeer burger for a lot less than you'd pay in Salem.

Do you want fries with that?

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