



The S O C - K E T

Bringing
Out
The Best
In
Children

The weekly publication of the Optimist Club of Salem
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Ye Olde Editor — Wes Alderson

The Club meets every Thursday noon at Willson House
(check out our website at www.optimistclubofsalemor.org)

2007-08 Club Officers

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Youth Appreciation has been an activity that the Optimist Club of Salem has been privileged to sponsor for a goodly number of years, and none of our previous honorees has outshone those we were privileged to host today.



The first person to receive congratulations for his efforts on behalf of a personal friend is Thomas Giruc of Blanchet Catholic School. Faculty representative, Mary Hollinger, had some very kind things to say regarding a friend of his whose brother was a victim of autism. It is uncertain just what role he played other than being involved in a fund-raising effort. There is little doubt that his involvement surpassed this meager description, but

the specifics are lacking. Thomas said his future includes some time at Chemeketa CC, and that becoming a paramedic is a part of the overall plan.

Next on our list of honorees is Cheyenne Ruiz from South Salem High School. Now there is simply not enough space to list all the attributes that faculty representative Kathy August mentioned, but this young lady is only a sophomore and has already achieved what seniors might boast of. For example, she formed an Outreach Club to benefit the homeless. She also was awarded \$4000.00 for an essay she wrote. No wonder she was selected for this particular honor.

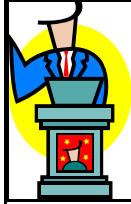


The third student to be honored today is Sam Olson of Western Mennonite School. He was accompanied by his dad, Mark. Ass't Principal, Zigmond Derochowski, stated that he was very proud of Sam because he was recognized by the National Honor Society. He was very much involved



with the YMCA for quite a period of time. His dad is a Rotarian and there were several instances when Sam helped out with Family Building Blocks.

Pictured below are our honorees along with the faculty members. On the left is Sam Olson, Mr. Derochowski, Kathy August, Cheyenne Ruiz, and last but not least, Thomas and Mary



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Merry March Optimist Members,
Do you believe that Spring vacation is next week? I know that Spring is almost upon us, and not only flowers are blossoming, but trees and other plants are showing signs of growth. The kids of our tomorrows are also showing signs of growth. Plants can use fertilizer, topsoil, and a bit of pruning as well. The same might be said of our personal involvement that gives a little touch of tender loving care to our deserving children.

As I have been keeping you up to date on the new project geared specifically for middle school students and scheduled for April 18, I am sorry to say that this has come to an abrupt halt. Because of challenges that stood in the way, there was no way that we could proceed as originally planned. I did speak with the kids regarding the matter last Tuesday, at Leslie, and they received the news very well.

The understand and accept that the facts of life are not always controlled by hope. Because they still want to do something, a decision was made that they will contribute the service of 15-23 students to be volunteers at the Kids' Relays on May 9th. That is a big chunk of the 125 volunteers that are needed! They did have one request, and that was to let them make a banner. I got approval from the board, so I know they will be elated since they get to make it.

Since I mentioned earlier about the TLC we give our plants, maybe you would like to show a little of yours at the relays. We've broken it into two shifts, and it is a 1-day event at the stadium in Bush Park. If I didn't mention it earlier, the 15-23 middle school students are only a part of it. There will also be 3500 elementary students running as fast as they can so that they can say, "I gave my all!" I rather like that because I know that's what the Optimist Club of Salem has been doing for a very long time, and what we will continue doing to "Bring out the best" in the kids of today.



March 26 TBA
April 2 Dr. James Randolph
Pimpollo Mission Trip



Please keep in mind that Saturday, May 9 is the big date for Salem Kids' Relay races and, as usual, we are going to need quite a bit of help.

Have you thought of someone, but have not yet made that contact? Don't put it off for much longer. That person or persons, as the case may be, needs to have a background check and that may take some time also. There is a good chance that the sun will shine on that date and, after this winter of cold weather, all participants might find that rather enjoyable.

There is some doubt as to whether humor is appropriate at this time, but just the same, here it is:

A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the truck was a Dalmation dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep the crowds back," said one child. "No," said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use dogs" she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."