

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contacts:** Jessica Corcoran, The Ulum Group, (541) 434-7027  
Niel Laudati, City of Springfield, (541) 726-3780

**Springfield Celebrates Second Annual Education Day**

*Festivities Include Culmination of Yearlong Literacy Project for First Graders and Volunteer Recognition Event*

**Springfield, Ore.** – Students and supporters of Springfield Public Schools will celebrate Springfield Education Day on Thursday, May 31. Now in its second year, Springfield Education Day was proclaimed by Springfield’s Mayor Sid Leiken and the Springfield School Board as an annual event to celebrate thriving community involvement in our schools and honor community members who have contributed time and effort to ensuring student success in Springfield schools.

In celebration of Springfield Education Day, two events will be held:

- **Gift of Literacy Celebration**, Thursday, May 31, 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Lane Community College, Center for Meeting and Learning, Building 19

The Gift of Literacy is a yearlong program designed to encourage literacy and promote a lifelong love of reading in children through the best representative of literacy – a brand new book. Nearly 1,000 Springfield first-graders will be bused to Lane Community College for a celebration with more than 100 community and celebrity volunteers, including Carolyn Crimi, author of Gift of Literacy book *Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies*, KEZI’s Rick Dancer and Korenza Burris, KMTR’s Matt Templeton and Joseph Calbreath, Bob Welch of The Register-Guard, Congressman Peter DeFazio, and Mayor Leiken, who will read to groups of 10 students in 30-minute sessions. Familiar literary characters, including Curious George, will also attend to entertain the students.

Additionally, each student will receive a new hardbound book and a reusable backpack full of school supplies. The Gift of Literacy is a program of the Springfield Rotary clubs and the TEAM Springfield partners (Willamalane Parks and Recreation District, Springfield Public Schools, city of Springfield and Springfield Utility Board).

- **“Springfield’s Incredible Story” Reception**, Thursday, May 31, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Royal Caribbean Customer Contact Center, 1000 Royal Caribbean Way, Springfield

“Springfield’s Incredible Story” will honor nearly 300 of Springfield Public Schools’ community supporters. Guests will enjoy food and wine and will be welcomed by emcee Rick Dancer of KEZI 9 News. Speakers will include Nancy Golden, Springfield school superintendent; and Garry Weber, Springfield School Board chair; as well as teachers and students who will speak about the impact of valuable community support.

Springfield Public Schools strives for the academic excellence of all students. By providing a quality education guided by the community and outstanding teaching, the district aims to build a culture of trust and ensure positive learning opportunities. To learn more about the Gift of Literacy project, visit [www.giftofliteracy.org](http://www.giftofliteracy.org).

The Gift of Literacy is also sponsored by the following organizations: Oregon Community Credit Union, Comcast Cable, Lane Community College, Weyerhaeuser Foundation, Chartwells, First Tech Credit Union, Symantec, The Register-Guard and the Springfield Beacon.

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