



# Siuslaw News

SATURDAY

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## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB WORKS TO AVERT CRISIS

**Board seeks \$300K loan to cover past-due debt, consolidate mortgages**

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

During its Jan. 28 meeting, the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County board of directors said it has been working virtually nonstop in

search of a viable solution to its current financial crisis.

In addition to rate increases and cut-backs, the board is preparing a loan consolidation proposal to submit to Oregon Pacific Bank next week. The approximately \$300,000 loan would reduce the club's monthly cash flow requirements by an estimated \$4,000, according to board member Bob Forsythe. The loan would consolidate current building mortgages on the

Quality Child Care of Florence (QCCF) and Teen Center buildings of more than \$200,000 and approximately \$90,000 in past-due debt.

The club has historically had three primary external revenue sources: grants, donations and fundraisers. Income from both donations and fundraisers are down. Board members cited the economic weakness of the past several years and donor fatigue as reasons for the revenue decline.

Aside from sports and other self-funding activities sponsored by the club, the three major revenue drains have been ABC Preschool (ABC), QCCF — both stand-alone entities operated by the club — and the club's after-school program, operated in conjunction with the Siuslaw School District.

Kari Blake, business manager for the school district, said the club has received checks from the district rang-

ing from \$8,500 to \$9,500 per month to help subsidize the club's after-school program expenses. The school district pays the money directly to the club from a five-year ongoing U.S. Department of Education 21st Century grant.

The grant is classified as Title II-B. This is the second time the school district has applied for and received it.

See **CLUB 7A**

## Florence flu cases on the rise

**High-risk residents should get vaccinated, hospital says**

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Florence is experiencing an increase in the number of flu cases, according to Linda Sherwood, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center infection preventionist.

More than one strain of flu virus is active in Oregon and Lane County this year. According to the Oregon Health Authority Flu Bites weekly publication, most of the positive influenza tests are for influenza type A (H3), although a few influenza type B have also been seen.

To lower risk of serious influenza disease, people are advised to get a flu shot if they have not had one yet this season. Preventative measures include hand washing and staying home when sick. Persons who have the flu and are at high risk for complications may need to receive antiviral medication.

See **FLU 7A**

## Local group plans to attend health-care rally in Salem

The Florence chapter of Health Care for All Oregon is calling for concerned citizens to join hundreds from across the state to make a powerful statement about our current system.

"The goal is for 2,500 of us to show up and be counted, letting our representatives know we want change in a system that leaves so many people out and diverts so much health care money into wasteful overhead," said organizer Stuart Henderson. "This history-making rally on the Capitol steps Feb. 11 will offer a chance to empower ourselves and have fun doing it, by inserting people's voices into the opaque legislative process."

Health Care for All Oregon is a grassroots coalition of more than 100 organizations that are determined to create a better way of financing health care for every person who lives or works in Oregon. Its mission is to provide publicly funded, privately delivered, high quality, affordable, universal health care to everyone.

People will be free to choose their medical provider to give them the care that they need, free to choose their career, job, and

See **RALLY 7A**



COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of Florence Herb Enthusiasts create herbal planters at Thyme Garden in Alsea during one of the group's outings.

## HERBAL REMEDIES

### Florence Herb Enthusiasts seek additional leadership

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Florence Herb Enthusiasts (FHE) are on the hunt for volunteers to maintain leadership within the club and ensure the continuation of programming.

Founder Jacquie Beveridge said, "In a little over 10 years, we've had about 130 programs featuring speakers who are local as well as from Albany, Alsea, Eugene and Elkton."

Programs have covered healthy cooking practices, natural cleaning and body-care products, diuretic herbs, flower essences, mushrooms, fermented foods, dream pillows and how to grow different plants in the coastal climate.

"We have the resources for more programs and people willing to speak," Beveridge said.

What they don't have, however, is additional leadership to help current leaders Suzanne Kennedy and JJ Love since Beveridge will miss upcoming meetings.

"It certainly sounds like the club will contin-



The group learns to make lavender wands at a meeting.

ue, as long as people step up and make that happen," Beveridge said.

Volunteers have already stepped up within the club, but more people are needed to help with administrative duties and setting up for events.

"I hope you can help us continue to provide quality education for our members and the community at large," Beveridge said in an email to the Enthusiasts.

Beveridge began FHE in September 2004 with Marlena Armstrong and Lynn Giordano.

"At that time, we met in the conference room at the library with six other people," Beveridge said.

Now, they have an average of 75 members and contact 300 people about their educational meetings.

Fifty-five people attended their January meeting, which featured Karen Hazelwood.

"We're one of the larger clubs in town now," Beveridge said.

Word of mouth has been a big way of keeping up membership.

"A lot of people come up to us and say, 'Oh, yeah, I saw about that in the paper.' It's just great," she said.

People from as far away as Eugene and Newport attend the FHE meetings.

Beveridge said, "They have nothing similar to what we do in their area. We have a very wide variety of educational topics for the community."

See **HERB 7A**

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### Your Weather

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny 58 45	Some rain 55 50	Some rain 56 49	Partly sunny 55 48

### SPORTS — B



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