

Rotary promises 'Roaring Good Time' at annual auction

Saturday, March 14, will be "A Roaring Good Time for Giving," according to local Rotarians. To the lively sounds of a little ragtime piano, the Rotary Club of Florence unveiled its 2015 auction theme last week, declaring that its upcoming Roaring Twenties extravaganza will set another fundraising record to support scholarships for local young people. The auction is scheduled for 5 p.m. on March 14 at the Florence Events Center.

Expect to see a bit of Great Gatsby combined with some Downton Abbey as Rotarians dress the part. Some may even be seen dancing the Charleston or sipping a little speakeasy champagne. A capacity crowd of 260 is expected, according to auction co-chairwoman Bobbi Brubaker.

More than half the tables are already sold out. Anyone interested in sponsoring a table at this year's event should call Kim Erickson at 541-902-9807 for tickets and information.

In 2014, the Florence Rotary contributed more than \$45,000 in scholarships for

students at Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools and Lane Community College.

Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and support students in both community college and university degree programs.

"We have already raised more than \$1 million through our auction program," said co-chairman Kevin McMullen. "We're headed for our second million, and we continue to be excited about the academic and professional accomplishments of our past scholarship winners."

In addition to its ambitious scholarship program, Rotary sponsors the Siuslaw High School Interact Club, Rotary's service organization for high school students.

Other projects during the past year included backpacks, dictionaries and school supplies for Siuslaw and Mapleton elementary schools.

"This year's theme is our way of having fun and doing good at the same time," said Rotary President Sadie Ward. "Florence Rotarians are fabulous and this night will be no exception."

Dunes City seeks citizen input on goals

DUNES CITY — The Dunes City Council has scheduled its annual special session devoted to setting City Council goals for the year.

The special session will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10, beginning at 2 p.m.

Although no oral citizen comments will be heard during the meeting, Dunes City residents are invited to submit written suggestions for City Council goals, or comments on the goals, prior to the meeting and to attend the meeting in person.

The comments and suggestions will be presented to councilors for consideration during the special session.

Written suggestions and comments may be delivered to Dunes City Hall, 82877 Spruce St. in Westlake, mailed to P.O. Box 97, Westlake OR 97493, or emailed to recorder@dunescityor.com.

In order to be considered during the City Council's special session, comments must be received at Dunes City Hall by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

At last year's goal-setting special session, the Dunes City Council determined that primary goals for the city should be financial stability, good governance, water quality and resources, and emergency preparedness.

Other significant goals for

city councilors in 2014 included continuing their work to update the city's Comprehensive Plan by replacing outdated information, and to hold educational seminars that promote local awareness of Dunes City's septic program.

In addition, during last year's goal-setting session, councilors agreed to continue their commitment to making the annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon a signature event for the Florence and Dunes City area.

The second annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon held in May 2014 was deemed a huge success, with more than

twice the number of registered participants than the first event held in 2013.

Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede reminds local residents and business owners that it is not too early to get involved with the 2015 event.

"Businesses and individuals can help support this unique, fun event by becoming a sponsor or by volunteering to staff the triathlon and duathlon race courses," she says. "Even though the event is in May, we're already looking for sponsors and volunteers."

Information about the event and sponsorship opportunities is available by calling Dunes City Hall at 541-997-3338.

Herb from 1A

The goal of the club is, "Getting the information out to the community so they can make healthy decisions," Beveridge said.

"We are featuring local people who live and provide service in the community. Many speakers see an increase in business after presenting to the group."

For the next topic, Beveridge knows it will be a bit more controversial.

"I want to talk to the (police) chief first," she said.

"It will be a purely educational introduction to the medicinal use of cannabis. We expect quite a turnout for this."

Among the projected speakers for the event are a master herbalist from Eugene, a local pharmacist and doctor.

Florence Herb Enthusiasts meet next on Thursday, Feb. 19, at 11 a.m.

For more information on programming or volunteering, call Jacquie Beveridge at 541-997-8311, Linda Sadler at 541-902-9888 or visit florenceherbenthusiasts.com.

Club from 1A

Title II-B federal grants have a sustainability clause built in. For the first three years, the district receives full funding. In the fourth year, the district receives 75 percent funding. The fifth year the district receives 50 percent funding.

The diminishing grant amount is designed to encourage recipients to acquire local funding to cover the difference. The district has three years left on the grant.

Board member Chuck Trent said, "We have been running in the neighborhood of 128 kids for two hours of the after-school care, and 148 kids for the last hour."

The club, which has not been on solid financial ground for several years, compounded its financial strain in September 2013 with the acquisition of ABC and in May 2014, when the club reached an agreement with QCCF and the school district to take over the operation of the financially challenged child-care facility.

Board member Michael

Pearson said, "Our Executive Director Jonathan Hicks said that he felt this could work. From what he said, he gathered from the QCCF finance committee and board of directors that they didn't manage it properly and we would manage it properly."

Trent said, "What I heard when I came onto the board was that through economy of scale, by having all the organizations, Boys and Girls Club, ABC and QCCF being able to share resources, we could manage it at a different cost point than as an individual entity."

The anticipated economy of scale savings never materialized. In addition, rate increases needed to make QCCF and ABC profitable were postponed because of contractual agreements that had to be honored until September 2014.

"In September we were able to raise the rates for both ABC and QCCF," Trent said. "The reality is that we lost a significant amount of money before that time."

Accounting glitches also prevented current club board members from determining

which entities were losing money and which, if any, were not.

The revenue stream and expenses for each of the entities were commingled to the point that it was difficult for board members and their accounting firm, Holloway and Associates, LLC, to gain a clear perspective of the financial health of ABC, QCCF, the after-school program and other Boys and Girls Club activities.

"I received a letter from our accountants," club board president Mike Smith said, "basically saying 'As your accountant, I am telling you that you need to shut down.' ABC Preschool and QCCF were specifically called out. 'If you don't do this within a certain period of time, then it will jeopardize the board of directors liability coverage.' I took the letter to our attorney and she agreed."

Since receiving the letter, the board has been earnestly attempting to sort out the financial maze of each of the club's operations and implement cuts and rate increases to stabilize the negative cash flow spiral.

"Based on the financials that

we see right now," Smith said, "ABC and QCCF for the last quarter are actually making money. But, we are not paying off our debt."

The pro forma and profit and loss projections that the board will present to OPB reveal that the entities can all be showing a positive cash flow in 2015.

"Each of the three entities, ABC, QCCF and Boys and Girls Club, have to be able to pay their own way, their own payroll, all the administrative costs, and, they have to be able to retire the current debt," Trent said.

Forsythe said, "If OPB says yes to the consolidation loan, I think we have the right people on the board and a new structure in place. We will be able to not only survive, but we will be able to thrive."

During the Jan. 28 meeting, Jonathan Hicks, 33, executive director of the club since Feb. 1, 2013, told the board he would soon be stepping down.

Hicks, his wife Denise and their two children recently moved to Sisters. He has been commuting back and forth to work.

Flu from 1A

Sherwood said, "It's especially important for high-risk individuals to get vaccinated."

People who are at high risk of developing serious complications like pneumonia if they

get sick with the flu include: people who have certain medical conditions, including asthma, diabetes and chronic lung disease; pregnant women; children between 6 months and 4 years old; people 65 years and older, and those who live with or care for others who are at

high risk of developing serious complications.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that unvaccinated people get flu shots even when drifted viruses — a virus that has had its genetic make-up change over time — are circulating, as they are this season.

According to the CDC, the vaccination can still prevent some infections from drifted

viruses and may reduce severe disease that can lead to hospitalization and death. The influenza vaccine is designed to protect against three or four influenza viruses, some of which may be circulating later in the season.

Flu vaccination shots are available at many local pharmacies as well as PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Primary Care Clinic, 380 Ninth St.

Rally from 1A

time of retirement independent of health care costs.

"We believe that health care is a human right and our societal responsibility," said Henderson. "The care we receive should not be dependent on what we can afford. It is time we joined the rest of the free world and provided our

citizens with publicly funded health care just like we do for education, libraries, firefighters and police services."

For rally transportation information, contact SK Lindsey at 541 999-5875, or come to the Kenneth B. Gallery, 1458 First St. in Old Town Florence, or call Stu Henderson at 541-997-2997 or Dr. John Egar at 541-999-6599.

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