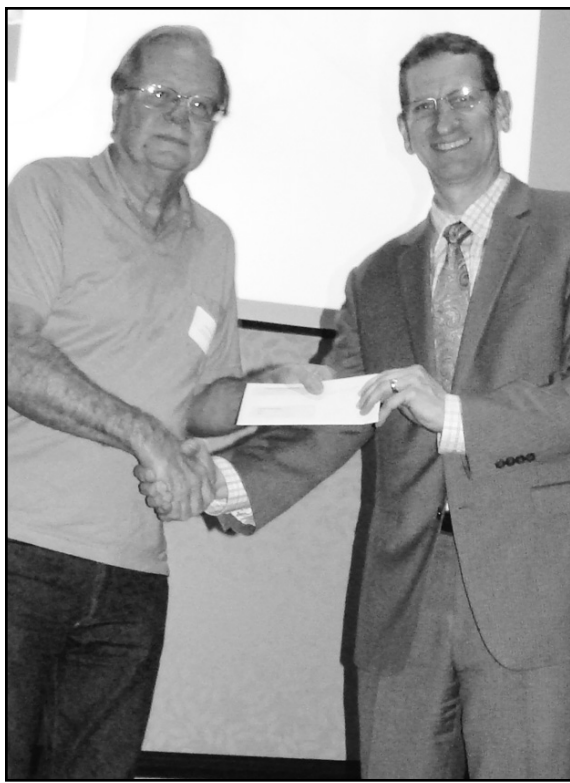


Grants from 1A

Florence Senior Center will install a new walk-in refrigerator with the funds from the foundation, totalling \$5,200. This will allow the center to meet code requirements for the separation of refrigerated meats and vegetables. Ron Borge accepted the grant from Bozievich.

Three Rivers Foundation was established in October 2011 to serve as the charitable giving arm of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and the Three Rivers Casino and Hotel.

“We are pleased to offer a new funding opportunity for nonprofit organizations that meet our criteria for support for their important work,” said Mark Ingersoll, chairman of the Three Rivers Foundation board.



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Local grant recipients included (from left): David Wiegan, treasurer of the Florence Area Community Coalition, receives \$1,500 from Three Rivers Foundation board member Jay Bozievich; Siuslaw School District Superintendent Ethel Angal thanks foundation board member Teresa Spangler for \$1,352 awarded to the district; and Ron Borge accepts \$5,200 on behalf of the Florence Senior Center from Bozievich.

CROW from 1A

Board member and costume designer Polly Fleming has two children involved with the show.

“It’s something that parents and their kids work on together,” she said.

Fleming first met Heard when Fleming’s son found out about “Honk!,” produced in 2010 through the Last Resort Players and directed by Heard.

Fleming said, “My son hung on to that idea, saying, ‘I’m going to try out for this play.’ It was the first time I’d ever seen him latch onto an idea like that. This was his thing. It was big for him for a few years, and now for his sister, too. He’s working backstage this year. There are a lot of different aspects to CROW.”

Through CROW, Fleming was able to volunteer her sewing skills.

“I’ve learned a ton about sewing. I knew how to run a machine, but I taught myself 10 times more than I knew 10 years ago,” she said.

Haylee, 9, wore one of Fleming’s creations in 2013. “In ‘The Music Man’ I had this flowery dress and I really liked it. It was all sorts of colors,” she said.

Fleming sees the impact of CROW not only through being a board member, but also through her children.

“Now my son feels like he’s got a family. My daughter was having a tough week with her friends in her grade last week, and she came home kind of down, and at one point she said, ‘At least I’ve got my CROW family.’ It is a safe place,” Fleming said.

Paula, 13, who is one of the stars of their upcoming show, said, “I’d say my favorite part about being in CROW is the point that we all are together — all of the cast — and we’re kind of like a family. And I love how we all have to work together to bring a show together.”

Paula’s mother said, “Paula is that miracle kid that CROW created. The first time my daughter auditioned, she went out there and ran right out. They comforted her and gave her another chance and said, this is who we are, we want to welcome you and love you. The love was so huge and the love was so big. ... This year came around and she is the leading role. Everybody pitched in for that. In other places, if your kid fails the first time, they say to take her somewhere else. And they didn’t say that. That’s something we’re very grateful for.”

Paula said, “I’m most excited about all the singing and dancing I’m doing in the play, because I just love them. I love that I can be myself during the play.”

Roxi, 7, loves coming to practice.

“I’m in the ensemble,” she said. Her favorite part of CROW is that they make rehearsals fun.

“The best part I like is the singing and acting,” said Cecile. “I also like dancing. I like it ‘cause I just love to act and I love to have an audience and a crowd and I like performing. I’ve had a funny character before, but with this one, I’ll get to be silly.”

Letting the students be silly is in addition to encouraging hard work among the performers and those helping backstage.

During practice, students get affirmation for their strengths and support for their weaknesses.

Jason Wood, CROW vocal director, said, “When it gets to the parts where there are problems, I’ll make sure they aren’t problems.”

He and the other CROW leaders work through issues with the students, whether it is keeping perfect time with a difficult score, learning to dance and sing at the same time, managing conflicting schedules and finding places to rehearse, build and perform.

Heard said, “We can’t work magic.”

Parents agreed that one building would help CROW in the long run.

“There’s that place where we could all go to, versus running around trying to find our spot. We shouldn’t have to do that with that nucleus already in place. The cell is created. We just have to put that cell somewhere,” said Paula’s mother.

CROW already selected a potential building. A budget of \$280,000 has been set as the minimum amount needed for the project to succeed.

Heard and other members hope to raise \$75,000 in donations from the community and will then apply for matching grants from local and national foundations.

Besides Share Your Heart, CROW students are also selling candy.

“It’s really cool to see people that don’t have any kids (in the program) come and see shows and donate,” said Fleming.

“People other than parents were going out and buying tickets without knowing anybody in the cast. Because it’s a good show. I think that Melanie’s really stepped it up.”

Paula’s mother added, “There’s something that they’re teaching that works with how the children develop. What they’re doing is right,” she said.

Share Your Heart begins at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13.

Reservations are required for this event. Single tickets are \$39 for adults and \$25 for youth 12 and under. A full table of eight also can be purchased for \$285.

Tickets include wine for those over 21 and hot hors d’oeuvres

There will be an auction on baskets, prizes and desserts as well as a “Raise Your Paddle” donation opportunity.

For tickets, call the Florence Events Center at 541-997-1994, or visit www.eventcenter.org.

For more information about CROW, visit crowkids.com or contact Melanie Heard at 541-999-8641.

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WORD ON THE STREET

What do you want to be when you grow up?

“I want to be a veterinarian. Why is I like animals. (My favorite is) a kitten — any kitten!”

—MADYSON, 9

“I want to work at Subway because it’s my favorite fast food restaurant.”

—BILLIE, 8

“I want to be an actress in musicals because I really like dancing and singing. You get to let it out a lot, when you don’t get a chance to do that normally.”

—BRIDGET, 11

“I actually want to be in the Army because I want to save my country.”

—CANNON, 10

These students are part of the Twilight Learning Center at Siuslaw Elementary School.

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