

Community Chorus announces scholarship winners

On May 3, three Siuslaw High School students were awarded scholarships from the Community Chorus of Florence Oregon (CCFO) at a concert held at the Florence Event Center.

Senior students Elizabeth Wartnik and David Johnston each received \$1,000 to be used to further their music education.

Johnston will be attending the University of Oregon, where he will major in music and dance. He plans a career in vocal music and choral conducting.

Wartnik plans to attend George Fox University, where she will major in vocal performance and music composition. She hopes to continue her education in a graduate program at the University of Oregon and prepare for a career teaching vocal performance and composition.

Wartnik and Johnston both sang solos at the chorus' "Hooray for Hollywood" concert.

Wartnik sang "When You Wish Upon a Star."

Johnston performed "I Believe in You," from "How



COURTESY PHOTO

Siuslaw High School students Senior Elizabeth Wartnik, Junior Nikita Williams and Senior David Johnston won 2015 Community Chorus of Florence scholarships.

to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying."

Nikita Williams, a junior at Siuslaw High School, received \$500 toward her tuition at a music camp she will attend this summer.

Students interested in the vocal arts are encouraged to

sing with the CCFO.

Each spring, the Community Chorus offers scholarships to area students who will be pursuing higher education in the vocal arts.

The awards are limited to those graduating seniors planning on achieving a degree in

the subject, or students from lower grades who will be attending vocal music camps.

More information about the Chorus and/or the scholarship program is available online at www.communitychorusflorenceor.org.

Planned Parenthood in Florence to close May 19

For almost 50 years, Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon (PPSO) has provided high quality sexual and reproductive health care and education to adults and young people.

Due to limited financial resources, PPSO has made the difficult decision to close its Florence Health Center.

The last day of service in Florence will be Tuesday, May 19.

The Florence Health Center opened in 2004. It has provided preventive health care to thousands of adults and young people.

Services at the Florence Health Center include birth control, annual exams, cervical and breast cancer screenings and sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment.

"We care about Florence and the families here, and are proud to have served the community for over a decade. It was a tough decision to close the center," says Cynthia Pappas, CEO.

"Our work has been welcomed and supported by

many dedicated donors and community members and has made what we believe is a lasting, positive impact on the community."

Limited financial resources and reduced patient volume due to the aging demographic in Florence caused the PPSO Board of Directors to review the viability of the Florence Health Center.

The combination of health care provider shortages, changing patient needs, and new health care protocols have made maintaining the center cost prohibitive for the healthcare non-profit.

Patients can continue to get health care through Planned Parenthood at one of their other locations.

The West Eugene Health Center, 541-902-7861, is the closest facility, an hour's drive from Florence at 793 N. Danebo Ave.

Other local providers include Douglas County Health Center in Reedsport, 541-271-4835, and the McKenzie Primary Care Associates in Florence, 541-997-1251.

Three Rivers opens casino in Coos Bay

Three Rivers Casino in Coos Bay, 1297 Ocean Blvd. NW, is now open for business.

After a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by approximately 400 guests, including The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, local businesses and civic leaders, the facility welcomed its first guests and was off to a brisk start.

The casino features 250 brand new games and a full service onsite restaurant, Café 1297.

Bob Garcia will oversee all operations of the facility and provide all coordination between it and the existing Three Rivers Casino and Resort in Florence.

Garcia will also handle all

community relations and outreach in the Coos Bay area.

Coos Bay Mayor Crystal Shoji gave a personal and professional welcome to the opening of the casino, "On personal level, I have had the opportunity to work with these tribes for 15 years and I have been so happy working with them," said Shoji. "And on behalf of the City of Coos Bay, our citizens are happy to have this casino here. Our city is actually named after the Coos Tribe, and our bay, which is our distinguishing feature, is also named after the Coos Tribe. So we're so pleased to welcome you here."

In addition, Mark Ingersoll, Tribal Chairman of Confederated tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians,

said they are committed to the Coos Bay community for the long term.

"I can't tell you all how proud we are of this project," said Ingersoll. "It was a lot of work to get this done, but we are so happy to bring this to you. We are looking forward to being a good partner in this community. And we plan to be here forever and ever and ever."

Three Rivers Casino will be open 24-hours a day, seven days a week in Coos Bay.

While providing the city of Coos Bay with an entertainment source, it is also opening up the opportunity for economic growth with more than 90 full-time positions.

For more information, visit www.threeriverscasino.com.

OHAC honors home-health professionals

Oregon Association for Home Care (OAHC), an organization that's primary mission is to support home-health and hospice programs both in regulatory and quality of care, holds annual awards given to recognize outstanding patient caregivers in the home care field.

Disciplines that can be nominated include nurses, therapists, medical social workers, home-health aides and support staff. Agency managers nominate their caregivers to receive these awards through an essay which describes why this person should be recognized.

OAHC staff review the nominations and then they select a candidate for each discipline. Award winners are recognized at the annual OAHC conference.

This year, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Home Health and Hospice had two caregivers honored at the OAHC conference on April 24 at Eagle Crest Resort.

Eunice Tevlin, hospice volunteer, was awarded Volunteer of the Year, and Dr. Stephen Kerner was honored as the Physician of the Year.

Kathy Murphy, agency manager, nominated these caregivers and presented the awards at the conference.

"It was such a blessing to receive recognition at the state level for these outstanding caregivers and to honor them for their hard work and dedication to our patients," said Murphy, manager for home care services. "I feel so fortunate to work with these caregivers who represent our mission and values and continue to be leaders in quality care."

Tevlin has served on the

Peace Harbor hospice board for more than 20 years, beginning in 1995, when hospice services first began in Florence.

Dr. Kerner serves as both the Hospice Medical Director and Home Health Medical Director for PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center.

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