

Power from 1A

and toy drives by the Soroptomists and Florence Police Department. Later, she and her brother ran a lemonade stand for Relay For Life.

"We were just born doing it, because our parents taught us from a young age. It just made us want to do it more. We loved the feeling we got from it, which made us want to volunteer more as we grew up. Then we did our own events," Kaylee said.

Taylor, who turns 18 tomorrow, just concluded 10 years of Read for the Need, a book drive and fundraiser for Florence Food Share that he started when he was 7.

Shannon said, "It was always just a part of teaching them the right thing to do, to give back to the community. We shouldn't take things for granted. ... It just sort of started from there — to give back, give to others who may not have as much as you have and be grateful for what you do have."

Kaylee and Shannon came up with "Power of FLOreNCE" when they were looking for the right name for the event.

"One" is inside the word Florence," Kaylee said, "so it's like the Power of Florence is our whole community coming together for one day to make a difference. 'Each one, one day,

making a difference, together.'"

The first year, more than 1,000 people volunteered, donated and helped with the event.

Each year since then has matched or exceeded the number of participants.

"There's nothing in the world that compares to the feeling of helping others. On the Power of Florence day, I'm just on top of the world," Kaylee said. "I just think, 'Wow! This is so amazing that our community just came out.' Look at what they've done. Look at what they're doing. It's crazy. I love that."

She said that last year she was glad to see more events going on that she didn't know about.

"I originally started the day, but the community has really taken it on as their day, which I really want them to do. I want it to be Florence's day," she said.

"It belongs to the people," her mother added. "Kaylee loves it, but she wants the people of Florence to take it as their own, to be proud of it."

"It's the city's day, not my day," Kaylee agreed.

Florence city administration is showing its support for Power of Florence by teaming up with Florence Christian Church and the Realtors of Florence to beautify Miller Park.

"I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with Kaylee Graham and her mother," Florence Mayor Joe Henry said at the June 15 city council meeting. "What a wonderful person, and her mother is a wonderful person. It's a great family. They're all involved in bringing a huge amount back to our community."

Henry has recruited Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede to join the city's team for the day.

Kaylee's one hope for Power of Florence is that it will continue, even after she graduates in three years.

"I would really love to have it continue. ... I think part of it is because I'm young, and people like to be involved with young people. They like that we're making a difference," she said. "I'm really hoping that the city continues doing it."

Shannon said, "There's no reason that Kaylee has to keep doing it forever. It's something she can leave behind."

No matter what happens with Power of Florence, Kaylee knows she will continue volunteering and helping people.

"I've had so many different ideas of what I wanted to do (when I grow up)," she said. "I really love helping people."

At one point, Kaylee wanted to open a farm where people and children with disabilities could connect with nature.

A shorter term goal would be to travel and help people in other countries.

"No matter what, I would love to do something that helps others," she said.

She is interested in mentoring other students and encouraging the civic responsibility she feels.

After the Power of Florence work is done, there will be live entertainment during the party in the Grocery Outlet parking lot with entertainers, including blues musician David Weigan, CROW kids' dance and song group and local musician Marty Adams.

Those already signed up with events or volunteers include Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW), City of Florence, Delta Gamma of Florence, Florence Ambassadors, Florence Area Humane Society, Florence Christian Church, Habitat for Humanity, Kiwanis, Lane Blood Drive, Minutes of Gold, Rotary Club, Siuslaw Area Partnership to Prevent Substance Abuse (SAPPSA), United Methodist Church, U.S. Forest Service and Van Fans, as well as individuals.

For more information about Power of Florence, group events or how to add an event or volunteers, contact Kaylee by email at powerofflorence@hotmail.com or go online to www.powerofflorence.org.

Events from 1A

Park at Patterson State Park or park in Waldport to view the festivities from the Historic Alsea Bay Bridge Interpretive Center or along Keady Wayside.

Friday, July 3**BANNER BANK ANNUAL BBQ**

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Banner Bank, 777 Highway 101
Visit familiar faces under their new banner and enjoy free hot dogs, a book sale and the Kiwanis Duck at this annual tradition leading into the Fourth of July weekend.

OREGON PACIFIC BANK ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oregon Pacific Bank, 1355 Highway 101

Join Oregon Pacific Bank for its annual ice cream social, featuring free ice cream from BJ's Ice Cream Parlor and live music during the event.

FLORENCE FIRST FRIDAY
5 to 8 p.m., Historic Old Town and Antique District

Visit area shops and vendors after hours as they remain open for evening traffic.

Saturday, July 4

YACHTS LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
7:30 to 11:30 a.m., Yachats Lions Hall, at W. Fourth and Pontiac streets, Yachats

The Yachats Lions provide all-you-can-eat pancakes with scrambled eggs, choice of sausage or ham, milk, tea or coffee. Donations are accepted.

FREE RHODY EXPRESS SHUTTLE
9:45 a.m. to noon, 12:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Park at Siuslaw Middle School, 2525 Oak St., to get a free ride to the Oregon Coast Military Museum and the Wings and Wheels Fly-In and Car Show.

Call the Rhody Express at 541-902-2067 for more information.

WINGS AND WHEELS FLY-IN AND CAR SHOW
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Florence Municipal Airport, 2001 Airport Way

Visit this annual show to delight in the sights and sounds of general aviation aircraft, vintage cars and hot rods, military vehicles, emergency apparatus and more. Food provided by Lions Club and Ada Grange.

Admission is free, but a suggested donation of \$2 will go to the Siuslaw High School wrestling team.

OREGON COAST MILITARY MUSEUM
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Oregon Coast Military Museum, 2145 Kingwood St.

Come to the grand opening of a museum more than seven years in the making. Eat hamburgers and hot dogs and explore this treasure trove of dioramas of World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, plus artifacts ranging from the Civil War to recent conflicts.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled at 12:45 p.m.

The museum will also be open Sunday, July 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

16TH ANNUAL YACHTS LADIES PIE SOCIAL
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Yachats Commons, 441 Highway 101, Yachats

Yachats Ladies Club provides over 160 homemade pies to make the trademark "river of pie," consisting of varieties of apple, berry, peach, cherry, other fruit pies and 50 cream pies. Each serving is \$3.50, with ice cream for 50 cents. Coffee, brownies and to-go containers are available.

FLORENCE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. in Historic Old Town

Festivities include:
• 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Declaration of Independence and US flag living history display and photo opportunity with Raymond and Cynthia Brown dressed in period attire on the Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk

• 1 p.m., pie-eating and watermelon contests on the lawn at Silver Sand Dollar, 1499 Bay St. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m.

• 2 p.m., Florence Kiwanis Club Duck Race on the Siuslaw River. Race tickets are \$5 each.

• Live music from 6 p.m. until dark, including CROW, David Wiegand, Ron Green and Ronnie Jay

• Firework display over the Siuslaw River at 9:45 p.m., starting when it gets dark

YACHTS LA DE DA PARADE

Noon to sundown, Yachats
The 20th annual La De Da parade brings wacky, whimsical fun to Yachats. Explore the town to enjoy special treats and great food, games, art and live music.

Later, find a place on the beach by the mouth of the Yachats River to watch the afternoon Duck Race.

At dusk, from the same beach or from almost anywhere downtown, watch fireworks over the Yachats bay.

Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 6

to Friday, July 10

9:30-noon

Florence Evangelical Church

1318 Rhododendron Drive - call (541) 997-5159

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Bev Holman has been a P.E.O. member for 23 years. Bev has willingly held every office in our chapter more than once and President three times. She has been a delegate to state convention many times over the years. She has worked tirelessly with all our fundraisers so that funds are available for women applying for scholarships.



P.E.O. is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans and stewardship of Cottey College in Missouri; and motivate women to achieve their highest aspirations.

*P.E.O. Sisterhood of Florence
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4TH OF JULY BARBEQUE

**\$5.00 per person
Lunch 11am to 1:30pm**

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