FAHS Christmas Store open for holiday shopping

The Florence Area Humane Society Christmas Store is open daily and full of festive decorations and gift items to for early holiday shoppers. Among the latest items to arrive are collectible "Sugar Babies," as well as a variety of unique and collectable minature boots and ladies slippers for the collectors on your shopping list.

There is a large variety but it won't last long.

Other collectables include snowmen, Santas, nutcrackers and stuffed animals, as well as artificial Christmas trees and wreaths, indoor and outdoor lights, gift wrap, arts and craft Christmas items, and greenery that fills the store from wall to wall.

Shoppers will also find a large selection of winter as well as holiday sweaters, scarves and evening wear.

The Christmas Store is at a new location this year, 2520 Highway 101, at 25th St., between Taco Bell and Mini Pet Mart. Shop early and save.

New items come in daily, so come back often to see the latest arrivals.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Collectibles are available at the FAHS Christmas Store, including holiday angels and decorative cermic boots.

The store is open through Nov. 29, and is closed Thanksgiving Day.

Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.

All proceeds benefit the Florence Area Humane Society, feeding and caring for dogs and cats waiting for a home.

Medicare enrollment continues

Medicare's annual enrollment continues through Dec. 7. This is the only time Medicare beneficiaries are permitted to change their Medicare Advantage and Part D plans.

After Dec. 7, Medicare beneficiaries have to wait another year to make changes.

"We received a lot of phone calls last year after Dec. 7, from people who wanted to change plans. But since they missed the annual enrollment date there was nothing we could do," said Ellen Smith, site coordinator for the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program for Lane County.

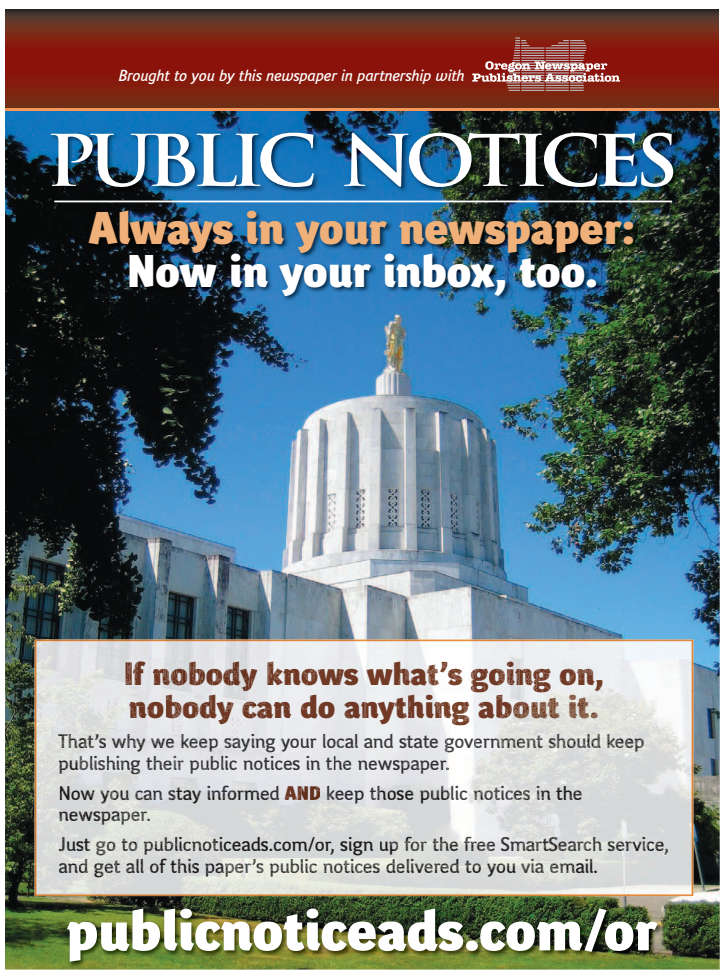
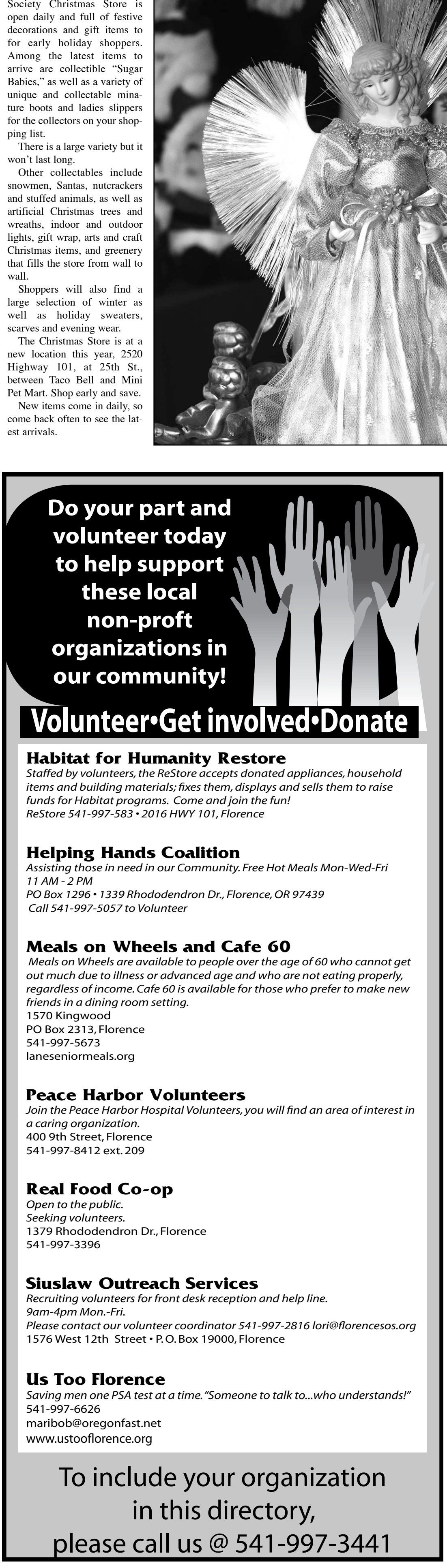
"It is so important people contact us before Dec. 7 and research their prescription coverage," Smith said.

People who have Medicare in Oregon may call the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program for free advocacy and counseling services. SHIBA is a federally funded, state-sponsored program that provides education and individual counseling to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.

Some of the issues SHIBA volunteers help with include:

- Researching prescriptions and ensuring they are covered by your plan .
- Access to assistance with medication and medical expenses.
- Information on Medicare supplement plans.
- Billing problems.

SHIBA counseling is free, unbiased and private. Certified SHIBA counselors understand all aspects of Medicare, and are available year-round to assist with any Medicare-related insurance questions.

SHIBA volunteers meet individually with beneficiaries so that they can personalize information and explain any plan changes or assistance programs that might benefit the beneficiary.

SHIBA is always recruiting new volunteers. Being a SHIBA volunteer is highly rewarding. If you need help with Medicare or are interested in volunteering, call 541-736-4421 and leave a message.