

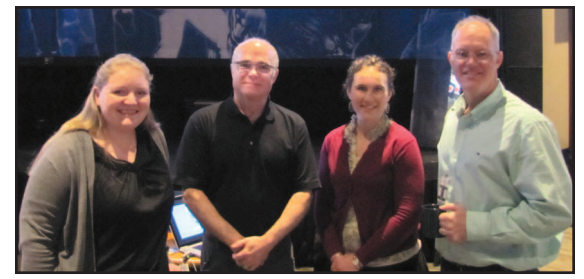
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# Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 14

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## SHARE YOUR HEART



Cecile Fleming, 11, (top left) and twins Cate and Cort Waggoner, 9, (lower right) perform Feb. 13 during Share Your Heart, which also featured games with raffles and prizes for community members at CROW's Valentine's Day-themed fundraiser.

PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

## Cultural conversation fuels grant opportunities

Residents hear from Oregon agencies on ways to fund arts, culture

By Chantelle Meyer  
Siuslaw News

Last Thursday more than 30 people attended "Conversations with Funders" at the Florence Events Center with representatives from Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Heritage and Lane County Cultural Coalition.

The organizations held conversations with area artists, nonprofits and residents to help point out specific arts and culture grant opportunities.

At the Florence event on Feb. 11, Aili Schreiner, trust manager at Oregon Cultural Trust, described the foundation as "funding and fueling arts and culture." The Cultural Trust is a statewide funding agency financed by individual donations for which donors receive Oregon tax credit. Donations to the agency return to the community in the form of grants.

Schreiner said, "About 14 years ago, the Oregon State Legislature created the Oregon Cultural Trust. There's nothing else like it in the country. Essentially, Oregonians get to direct their tax dollars straight to arts and culture."

Taxpayers raised \$4.5 million for the trust in 2015, a record amount.

See **GRANTS 11A**

# CROW melts HEARTS

2nd annual fundraiser brings in \$20K for youth theater program

By Chantelle Meyer  
Siuslaw News

Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) put on quite the show Saturday night at the second annual Share Your Heart fundraiser at the Florence Events Center. Seven students, ages 9 to 15, performed pop songs, musical renditions and even a tune from Sesame Street in front of a full house.

According to CROW Artistic Director Melanie Heard, the event brought in more than \$20,000 in ticket sales, lively games and three auctions that featured dozens of items donated by the community.

A highlight of the live auction was a purse

filled with an undisclosed amount of cash — donated earlier from those in attendance — that was put to bid and purchased three separate times. All the proceeds, including the money inside the purse, were given back to CROW.

Bill Free of Free and Associates Auction Realty of Florence was the auctioneer for the event. Local pianists Debra Young and Marty Adams provided accompaniment.

The fundraiser helps CROW get closer to reaching its goal of opening a center for the performing arts at 3120 Highway 101, a building secured last April by an anonymous donor until the nonprofit organization can buy it within a year to 18 months.

A total of \$350,000 is needed to buy and

renovate the building. So far, about \$81,000 has been raised.

Joshua Greene, owner of The Archives and a Florence city councilor, donated a limited-edition print of Marilyn Monroe for the live auction. He said that the new CROW building fills the place of a community center for area youth.

Greene then announced at the event that he would be giving \$5,000 to CROW.

"I am truly touched by the outpouring of love and support for our local children in the arts, as well as very grateful to the auction donors and all of the dedicated volunteers," Heard said.

For more information about CROW, go to [www.crowkids.com](http://www.crowkids.com).

## POLICE

# Florence man arrested for deadly crash

David Cheeseman charged with criminally negligent homicide, DUII

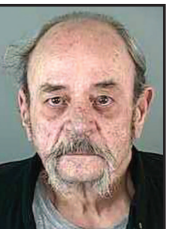
Staff Report  
Siuslaw News

Florence Police Department Lt. John Pitcher reported Monday that a 70-year-old Florence man was arrested last week in connection with a deadly motorcycle crash in October.

David Ralph Cheeseman was taken to Lane County Jail Feb. 9 on charges of criminally negligent homicide and driving under the influence of intoxicants for his involvement in the Oct. 8 accident that killed a Reedsport woman in Florence.

Cheeseman was driving his three-wheel motorcycle just before 9:30 p.m. when it crashed on Highway 101 near First Street in Florence. Jean Benson, 89, of Reedsport, who was riding on the back of the motorcycle, died from her injuries two days later.

See **ARREST 11A**



David Cheeseman

# JOB FAIR PLANNED FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

More than 30 presenters intend to discuss careers after high school at April event

By Jack Davis  
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw High School will hold its first Career and Job Fair in April during school hours for students interested in learning about occupations in the area.

More than 400 ninth- through 12th-grade students are planning to attend the convention-style event on Thursday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Currently, about 30 local companies and organizations will present tabletop displays and discuss job

opportunities with the students.

Additional presenters are being sought.

Co-chairwomen Carol Jolley and Nancy Walker stressed that this will be an informational, not a recruiting, event.

"We are not looking for those tables to offer jobs," Walker said. "We are expecting them to share their experience with the students. This may be the students' only opportunity to see a wide variety of in-town occupations and have a chance to ask questions."

See **JOB FAIR 11A**



COURTESY PHOTO

Banner Bank Florence Branch Manager Dee Osborne (far left) and Career and Job Fair co-chairwomen Carol Jolley and Nancy Walker display one of the banners for the convention-style event scheduled for Thursday, April 28, at Siuslaw High School. Additional presenters are being sought.

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