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Local nonprofit radio station celebrates two years

KXCR 90.7 FM is celebrating its second anniversary Saturday, April 23, with an open house and pot luck from noon to 7 p.m. at 1509 Ninth St. in Florence.

"We're definitely happy with the upward trajectory of Florence's listener-supported public radio," said station manager Richard Koehler. "We have gained an increasing number of new listeners and are expanding our knowledge of what it takes to successfully run a diverse, all-volunteer nonprofit station. But we have the required passion. And passion leads to the privilege of serving our community."

Strides have been made to further connect the station with its audience by the completion of its new website at kxcr.net, and the relaunching of the KXCR 90.7 FM Facebook page.

In addition, tech savvy management has accomplished an almost seamless quality for on-air production, dropping in public service announcements and calendar items as requested by the public.

The station's mission is to



COURTESY PHOTO

KXCR's Gigi Lissan and Stu Henderson share in conversation at the radio station.

keep improving its presentation and to continue helping new volunteer on-air talent.

KXCR offers training in speaking behind a microphone, interviewing, formatting a program, operating the equipment and learning how to cut and splice. Other volunteers attend the front desk, work the phones, write copy, help with voice-overs, set up events,

mow the lawn, clean the rooms and try to help build the station's listening audience by word of mouth.

Those who are part of the station are aware of their responsibility to use the facility to provide educational opportunities for interested students. KXCR's Youth Radio Club has been an extracurricular activity for several Siuslaw students,

even before the station went live, and has resulted in well received, fun shows.

"A variety of more than ninety programs are being presented weekly," said Koehler. "That's not counting the eclectic continuous flow of music from midnight to 6 a.m."

During the day, listeners can find the news program "Democracy Now," followed

by the insightful Ian Masters' "Background Briefing."

Local talents like octogenarians "Goodtime Charlie and Smilin' Dave" entertain listeners with their program "The Best of Swing," followed by archivist "Larry," who refreshes listeners' appreciation of early radio's sparkle using his library of early radio to "harken back to yesteryear" with his "Golden Age of Radio" show.

Living locally means talking locally and "Community Conversations" draws loyal followers because of its focus on neighbors sharing their stories and activities.

Others who produce programs include Maggie, David, Jack, Kathy, Ann, Marc and many more, who encourage listeners to look at the creativity within the community.

"Saturday's party will have snacks, entertainment and a little on-air fund raising," said event organizer Maggie Bagon. "But mainly, it an opportunity to meet members of the community and share the nonprofit public radio adventure with all who have an interest."

Community Chorus of Florence to debut new director

Early this past winter, Jennifer Weier became the director of the Community Chorus of Florence.

Having moved to Florence in December of 2015, Weier quickly became enmeshed in the local music scene. In addition to directing the Chorus, Weier, an accomplished pianist, also provides accompaniment for local church choirs and the Flotones.

She also teaches piano and has a number of students.



COURTESY PHOTO

New Community Chorus director Jennifer Weier

Since beginning her piano studies at age 4, Weier progressed to the point of graduating with a piano performance degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has performed internationally and is planning to complete a master's degree in piano performance in Germany at some time in the future.

Despite her busy volunteer and conducting schedule, Weier tries to practice piano for five hours a day. She manages to fit in hobbies such as hiking, running and cooking.

Her first concert with the Community Chorus will be May 1, at 2 p.m., at the Florence Event Center.

Tickets will be \$10 for adults and free for children under age 18.

For more information, call the FEC at 541-997-1994.

PEO gather for coastal luncheon

"PEOs Reflect Starshine" was the theme for the annual luncheon hosted by the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) South Coast Reciprocity Group, which was chaired by Marie Benton from Chapter EL of Coos Bay.

Each chapter in the Reciprocity Group contributed to carrying out the theme and creating a successful event. In attendance were more than 100 members of the PEO sisterhood from nine local chapters, from Coquille to Florence, as well as sisters from Brookings.

Judy Snyder, from Chapter EL, handled duties as emcee, introducing chapter presidents who then had the opportunity to introduce new members, members celebrating milestone years in PEO, as well as highlight their chapter's fundraising successes and the scholarships, educational loans and grants awarded to women they sponsored.

PEO is a women's philanthropic educational organization that promotes the education of women by raising money each year and donating it for scholarships, educational grants and loans.

There are 183 local chapters within the Oregon State Chapter. Within the last year,

253 Oregon women were awarded scholarships; Oregon State and Marguerite Scholarships were awarded to 14 women students in the South Coast Region.

Chapters also contribute to international scholarships and Oregon recipients of these scholarships will be recognized during the state convention in June.

The convention will be held June 16 to 18, at Southern

Oregon University in Ashland, Ore., and will include the business of the Oregon State Chapter.

Elections and workshops will be open to registered members of PEO.

The Education Dinner and Program will be open to registered guests (non-members) and will feature women who have been awarded scholarships by the state and international chapters.

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