

Volunteer drivers needed

Friends of Florence is in need of volunteer drivers to transport individuals who are undergoing radiation treatment in Eugene and Springfield.

Drivers are needed Mondays through Fridays, leaving Peace Harbor Medical Center at 8 a.m., and returning at 12:30 p.m.

Volunteers are usually asked to drive one day a month. The only requirement is that drivers are less than 80 years old with a clean driving record.

Anyone interested can contact Bart Mealer at 541-997-8663 or Dan Clements at 541-902-0883.

“We’re very protective of this agency, especially the crew and employees,” said Director Bob Sneddon. “We want what is best for our patients and our crew, and I think we can do that with this IGA.”

Webb referred to the IGA as a “living document” that could change as needed. It also includes ways for either agency to leave the agreement.

Langborg said, “I ask for the support of the boards that when occasionally things get rough, we work through it and try to find a solution.”

“When the board commits to go this direction,” Webb said, “I know we will be 100 percent behind it and apply the efforts and resources we have to make this work.”

IGA

makes it plain. ... We really don’t have any risk as far as anybody has been able to come up with.”

Siuslaw Valley unanimously approved the IGA at its June 15 board meeting.

Board member John Carnahan advised Langborg to keep an eye on his time and responsibilities.

“Make sure your plate doesn’t get too full, for we really need a fire chief,” he said.

Western Lane’s board met June 23. The IGA was approved with a vote in favor 3 to 1, with Director Anne Stonelake against. Director Cindy Russell was absent.

Art

Selected artists will be compensated for their time. Current rates for similar LAC programs are just over \$30 per hour. “Because Lane Arts Council has done this for some period

of time, they have a pretty good system in terms of making sure artists are comfortable in the classroom,” Springer said. “Plus, many of our FRAA artists are former teachers.”

Grzeskowiak, who will be the 2016-17 Siuslaw School District superintendent when

the program is enacted, said, “As far as I’m concerned, the more art the better. Straight academics is not for everybody. There is value in this.”

Harklerode said, “Our goal at the elementary school is for art instruction to become systemic. Both art for the sake of

art and art in support of other instruction and learning.”

The principals said they would like to see the Arts in Schools program begin in the elementary school in January and February and in the middle school in February and March of 2017.

Lunch

“We have been serving food to 1,400 kids all year and we are just continuing to serve them in the summer,” added Bitner, who was hired to run the district’s in-school food service program at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

“This is a banner year for the Siuslaw School District in food service,” he said. “Not only did we become self-operating in our school year program, but now we are adding on a summer food service program.”

Currently the lunch van schedule is 12 to 12:15 p.m. at the Miller Park parking lot, 1651 18th St.; 12:20 to 12:35 p.m. at the Siuslaw Public Library west parking lot, 1460 Ninth St.; and 12:40 to 12:55 p.m. at the Florence Food Share/Lutheran Church parking lot, 2190 Spruce St.

Free lunches are also available at the Siuslaw Elementary School breezeway at 2221 Oak St., from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m. The program also serves free breakfasts at this location at 8

a.m. The meals all meet strict federal guidelines of food group and portion requirement and the program is under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Education.

The cost of the meals is reimbursed by the federal government.

Siuslaw School District qualifies for the free lunch program because of the high percentage of low-income families with children living within the district.

In addition to the mobile van lunch service, the program provides about 175 lunches daily to children attending the Twilight and the Boys and Girls Club summer programs.

The mobile van lunch program is off to a slow start with about 16 to 18 youths currently taking advantage of the program. Bitner believes that this is because not many people are fully aware of the program.

For the time being, the low mobile lunch numbers do not pose a concern, but Bitner sees a potential problem looming if the van numbers don’t pick up.

Unlike the Boys and Girls Club summer program that

runs to Aug. 19, the Twilight summer program ends July 19. After that there will be between 50 to 60 children in the Boys and Girls Club program.

“I need a minimum number of participation to get the reimbursement money that allows me to pay for my staff and pay for the food,” Bitner said. “For me that number is 100.”

There is more at stake than just not serving free lunches to community children if Bitner can’t sustain the 100 lunches per day minimum.

“The program has great advantages for us as a district and for me as their food manager because it allows me to keep my employees working,” Bitner said. “Most of these employees would need to get a summer job. This allows me to keep them working in the summer time and keep our program rolling.”

Shutting down the kitchen for a few months also would make starting back up in the fall more difficult.

“I don’t have to clean out all my coolers and then restock them. Instead, I just keep that inventory rolling. It has a lot of

advantages for us and for the community,” Bitner added.

The idea of the lunch van driving through neighborhoods, similar to the old ice cream truck concept was considered, but then rejected.

“Oregon Department of Education mandates that we have specified serving sites and times,” Bitner said. “That is why we are where we are when we are.”

“The hope is that those numbers at the library, Miller Park the Food Share and possibly other locations will grow to 50 or more per day. If that doesn’t happen, we will do everything we can to keep the program operational through the summer. But getting to 100 meals a day after July 19 solves all our problems,” he added.

Bitner is looking for volunteers to help get the message out about the free summer lunch program.

“Any child 18 years or under gets a free meal. There are no restrictions. It doesn’t matter where they are from,” Bitner said.

For more information, call Dave Bitner at 541-933-0911.

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RAIN

“This group turned a student project into an actual company,” Cummings said of

Schloss, one of the developers of Cowbuckers.

“We make the world’s first cowboy hat and trucker hat combination,” Schloss said.

He and his University of Oregon classmates Chris Watkins and Whitney Alexander saw a niche in sports fan apparel and now sell their unique, licensed hats in 50 schools across the United States, including at the Duck Store. The Cowbucker team is ramping up to raise more capital to grow, and going through the RAIN Eugene Accelerator was a big start.

Brown used to own five Eugene-area restaurants, but the downturn in the economy led her away from the food industry and into fashion.

“Katie is a serial entrepreneur, in that she goes out to kill the market again and again,” Cummings said. “It’s the classic entrepreneur — we never stop developing our next thing.”

Brown started her new venture using many of the ideas she developed in her restaurants: the idea of locally sourced, quality products.

“At Katie Brown L.A., we do slow fashion, the opposite of fast fashion. It’s consuming

less but knowing what you’re supporting. It all wraps into what KBLA is about,” Brown said.

Her women’s classic-cut clothing focuses on basics. Every stitch is American made in Los Angeles, Calif.

“I wear her fashions all the time. No, really,” Cummings said.

Brown was just accepted into RAIN’s next Accelerator.

The last speaker was Edman, founder of Waitrainer, a software that simplifies training and increases staff and customer retention in the restaurant industry.

“It’s a really cool piece of software that helps retain employees and increase customer retention,” Cummings said.

Edman said, “It’s really hard to find good training in any industry. We’re trying to solve the piece of the puzzle to get small, independent restaurants on the same training schedule and format.”

Like the other founders, he found a niche and worked to fill it.

His background with Lunar Logic, a software development firm in Eugene, history with other start-ups and fine-tuning his market through the RAIN Accelerator helped him find early and continued success.

The founders answered questions from the audience about preparing for a future Accelerator, finding mentors, regional strengths and moving forward.

Cummings reminded the audience about City of Florence’s economic development coordinator — City Recorder Kelli Weese — and the chamber’s continued sup-

port of RAIN.

“RAIN can’t do what we do to support the entrepreneurial ecosystem without the local governments and economic development folks,” she said. “We also could not do it without the existing entrepreneurs who step up and help us.”

Weese said, “If you have any questions about your role and how the city can help get you where you need to go, I’m the one to talk to.”

She can be reached at www.ci.florence.or.us.

RAIN will return on Thursday, June 30, to talk about the next stages for start-ups: how to attract your first customers.

“If you build it, will they come? I’ll talk about startup sales and marketing techniques that have worked for me and many others,” Cummings said.

The presentation will include lessons on market validation, building a brand, targeting a market, listening to customers and stepping out of one’s comfort zone in order to sell faster, better and smarter.

Light food and beverages will be provided.

“This is what’s awesome about being part of an entrepreneurial ecosystem and building a culture,” Cummings said. “We are testing doing events at different locations, times of day and times of year. It’s great that you are all here so we can learn from you and you can learn from us.”

The event will be at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

People can sign up ahead at meetup.com/Startup-Florence-Oregon-Coast/events/231725007/.

WORD ON THE STREET

What is your favorite summer activity?



“Going swimming”

—AALIA, 7



“I like to go swimming at the beach”

—CAMERON, 6



“Going camping. We go to this huge camping spot up the Umpqua. It’s a really fun place. We follow this trail down to the river.”

—OLIVIA, 7

The above youth are members of the local Boys and Girls Club.

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