

CROW student teaches dance

A new summer dance class for area youth taught by Siarra Rain, former student of Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW), will be held Tuesdays from July 19 to Aug. 30 at the new CROW Center for the Performing Arts, 3120 Highway 101.

The Creative Movement course is open to students 2-1/2 to 5 years old, and Beginning and Intermediate Ballet is for students ages 6 and up. Enrollment forms are available at crowkids.com.

Club from 1A

"The Teen Center had been closed for about 10 months," Trent said. "When we reopened in September we started with nine members. Seven of the nine had D or F grades their first few weeks of school. It became apparent very quickly that the kids were struggling with math."

The club started each day's activities with a program called Power Hour, specifically designed to help with homework and tutoring.

"We were really fortunate that Rick Steiner offered to

help with math tutoring," Trent said. "We started with this group of seven. Other kids would come in that needed help with any kind of homework."

Then, Teen Center Director Tracy Aaron came up with the idea of Club Bucks.

Initially the club offered Club Bucks for good grades and attendance in school, but then homework was soon added, along with helping to do cleanup chores around the Teen Center. Members use Club Bucks to purchase items from the Teen Center store. "The timing was perfect," Trent said. "We started the Club Bucks on homework assignments. It took off from there."

The club's Money Matters program also helped members with math and life skills.

According to Trent, through the Money Matters program, Teen Center members now have their own checking accounts and 401-K type savings plans. Members take 10

percent of their weekly Club Bucks earnings and put that in their savings account and the club matches that 10 percent.

"These programs are how we try to give these kids the skills they need to be successful in school, in team sports and in life," Trent said. "These programs are building blocks."

"I believe the reason our grade results are so high is that the kids are learning but they don't think of it that way. They just know they are having fun," he added.

Assuming his hair has regrown by then, Trent plans to raise the bar on expectations for next year's competition.

The elementary and Teen Center programs are open to anyone ages 6 through 18. Both programs have financial scholarships available for families in need.

Both Teen Center and elementary summer programs run through Aug. 19. For more information, visit the Teen Center at 1601 15th St., or call 541-902-0304.

Power from 1A

Ava's mom Ella said, "My favorite part has been watching Kaylee inspire even the youngest members of Florence. She explains the meaningfulness of pitching in and lending a hand. It's just so beautiful, and I know that's what happened for Ava being a part of this."

Power of Florence will begin with the Power Walk, starting at 9 a.m. at the Florence Christian Church, 990 Second St., and heading down the streets of Old Town. Florence Police Department will lead the procession with one of its patrol vehicles.

From there, groups put on such annual events as the pancake breakfast, a carwash, beautifying parks, raising money, clothing and food for local organizations, an ice cream social and more.

Florence-Siuslaw Lions Club is offering free health screenings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Lights Cinemas, joining the many events of the Party in the Parking Lot in the Grocery Outlet parking lot, 2066 Highway 101.

"There's always a lot to do," Kaylee said. "My mom always does such a good job of helping me with it and it's also great to have Ella and Ava help. It's more than just a one person job, definitely. I feel like we will be ready."

This year will have more than 38 events and hundreds of volunteers from service organizations, community groups, area schools and the community at large. A ladder truck from Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue will mark where the

events are, and other emergency response agencies plan to be involved.

Shannon said, "Power of Florence has developed its own reputation after all these years. When Kaylee first started, it was hard for people to even grasp what she meant. It's taken on a life of its own now."

Ella said, "It is really neat to see how it's becoming part of the community."

In five years, Power of Florence events raised more than \$36,000 for nonprofits, completed 70 service projects and collected more than 12,000 pounds of food for Florence Food Share and Oregon Coast Humane Society.

Kaylee and Ava spoke to the Florence City Council Monday night about their event.

"This day means so much to me. I'm proud of what I have accomplished with this community," Kaylee said. "It is important to me that you, as a city, support Power of Florence and Ava when I'm gone."

Mayor Joe Henry thanked the pair for their presentation.

"You are just wonderful, thank you very much. Ava, good luck and we'll be here to support you," Henry said.

"I'm glad that I believed in myself, my parents encouraged me, the city council allowed me and the community supported me," Kaylee said. "It's amazing what we can do when we all work together and believe in the possible: the Power of Florence."

For a list of ways to get involved on Saturday, July 16, go to powerofflorence.org.

Wings and Wheels

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GIVING BACK

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

KEN JANOWSKI FloTones

Ken is a key factor in the success of the FloTones. As new music is acquired he enters each voice part (soprano, alto, tenor, bass, etc.) plus accompaniment into a computer program and then generates audio files and sends them out to each singer with their particular part emphasized. The singers can download these files as CD's etc. to assist them in learning the music. This is particularly helpful to those who are not expert music readers. Ken brings his laptop to all rehearsals and this gives the group background music to sing with when the rehearsal pianist is not there. When there are trouble spots to work on Ken puts those measures in a loop and repeats it until all the bugs are out. Ken also shares valuable tips from choral directors with whom he has previously sung. Ken is also the FloTones treasurer and pays the bills for insurance, rehearsal space rent & other expenses. He collects dues and puts the budget together, reporting this information to FloTones members monthly. Because the FloTones is a 501 c-3 non-profit organization, there are many forms to be filed with the federal government and the Oregon Department of Justice. This is another task that Ken takes care of for the group. Ken is currently putting



together the program and working on publicity for the FloTones September shows.

In addition to Ken's involvement with the FloTones, he directs St. Mary's choir, is Vice President of the Friends of the Florence Events Center and helped Florence Habitat for Humanity to become an official affiliate of Habitat International serving two years as board president. Ken has also provided practice CDs for the Community Chorus of Florence.

FloTones
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