

## Salon

from 1A

Salons first started in the 15th and 16th centuries as artistic, philosophical, intellectual and literary gatherings. They picked up steam with Stein, who brought Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and other artists together. Then came authors Ernest Hemingway and Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

"Many artistic and literary movements came out of these salons," Rourke said. "That is the purpose why we brought everyone here and put this on. It's to unite writers, to bring us all together, to promote words and the written word and to let

their voices be heard."

With the support of FRAA, Kat Cunningham's Circle for Oneness and more, Rourke wants to create a generation of "found" writers in Florence.

The goal is to unite, support and celebrate all writers, provide a platform to share words aloud, uphold the literary arts and the written word and show that every word from every writer has value.

"Just like the writers of the '20s and '30s, we're finding our voices, freedom and truth. Through our literature and our art, we uphold the American dream and keep our dreams alive," Rourke said.

Author Karen D. Nichols was the featured writer at the

event. She introduced her printed books and read a short story from an upcoming manuscript.

"I've been writing more in the last 10 years than I have in the rest of my life," Nichols said.

Her background in teaching, storytelling and art led her to live her life creatively.

"I was always interested in the written word," she said. "I was writing, I was making new recipes, I wanted to redecorate my house — it's just marvelous the way you can start creativity."

She also illustrates her own and others' books. Her books and artwork are available at Backstreet Gallery and the

FRAA Art Center.

"Karen is very inspiring," Rourke said.

Twelve writers stepped forward to read during the open mic session, sharing readings from genres that included fiction, nonfiction, poetry, essay, short story and memoir.

"These salons were always very spontaneous," Rourke said. "You never knew who was going to walk in. We had that happen this evening — a poet all the way from Vermont."

Vermont poet Paula McCormick recited a poem about women, men, genes and jeans.

"Sometimes, for those who read 'Men Are From Mars,

Women Are From Venus,' you wonder if we're even speaking the same language," she said.

Another writer — from Santa Cruz, Calif., and on his way to Eugene — shared an excerpt from a political essay. Rourke said, "We hope that this is going to spawn a new literary movement here. We have many creative people here with us, and many writers. These events, with food and wine, encourage you to converse and connect. We also thank all the writers who have the courage to come up and share their work with us."

Harlen Springer, president of FRAA, said that he was happy the Art Center could house the salon.

"We are really excited about supporting the literary community and everything we can do to continue doing that. We're very proud to be part of this event," he said.

Rourke said the Art Center's gallery of local artwork made it the perfect setting for a Stein-style salon.

"Gertrude Stein would be proud of us if she could see us tonight," Rourke said.

More literary events are scheduled in Florence throughout the fall, including another Spoken Word Poetry Slam, the Florence Festival of Books, Siuslaw Public Library's DemArts and the next Midnight in Florence salon, featuring author Ned Hickson in October.

## Care

from 1A

Michele Diffenderfer, director of development for PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Foundation,

said, "We have raised \$285,000 so far. The first donor was the Peace Harbor Foundation, with a \$30,000 donation to start the ball rolling. The money was raised before we even had an approved business plan.

"The money will pay for those services that we don't get reimbursed for. Which is the majority of palliative care costs," she added.

Kerner said the new two-year pilot program would begin by

targeting the most vulnerable people in the community, the dementia residents at Spruce Point and Elderberry Square.

"They are not getting any routine care at all," Kerner said.

He added, "As the program gets more funding and is better established there will be additional nursing support, volunteer support and chaplain support. The goal is that wherever a vulnerable patient is we will be there for them. Because you can't get to us doesn't mean you don't deserve to get care."

Eventually, Kerner hopes to expand the program to include people living in assisted living facilities, retirement homes and even people living in their own residences.

"Whatever services you need to keep you in your home with the highest quality of life for the longest period of time, that is what we need to do," Kerner said. "It isn't rocket science. It is just providing the care that people need."

Kerner's goal is to help people maximize their independence and quality of life.

"Healthcare has drifted so far that we forget the fundamentals that is just caring for people," he said.

Diffenderfer said, "PeaceHealth is not for profit. We don't turn any patient away if they have no way to pay. They may receive a bill, but we will find a way to work it out if it is not affordable to them."

Peace Harbor Medical Center

CEO Rick Yecny said, "Implementing the palliative care program is the right thing to do for our community. The program will improve the quality of life for patients and their families in our local long-term care facilities that are often the most vulnerable members of our community. We are so grateful for the community support that has been received for this two-year pilot program."

On a parallel track, Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) Manager Brian Burright said the organization was exploring its own community paramedic program to provide in-home care.

He cautioned that the program was still in the exploratory stages and would require funding before it could be implemented. Burright pointed to several other Oregon communities that have successfully implemented community paramedic programs.

"Instead of just transporting people to the emergency department, which is not always the best or most beneficial thing for them, this program embraces the concept of more integrated health care," Burright said.

He said WLAD would work from a predetermined client list that would include medical histories. The paramedics would make scheduled visits to select individuals.

"The concept we are working on will be to have a mobile unit with a community paramedic

go out to an identified client and be able to provide them with help to make sure they are compliant with their medications, that they are managing their diabetes well and to make sure they don't needlessly rebound back into the hospital system," Burright said.

According to Burright, community paramedics would be supervised by a medical director who would closely monitor what the paramedics could do and what protocols they would follow.

"The paramedic could also consult with the medical director if they are at a patient's home and needs additional consultation, or call the patient's primary care provider," he said.

Burright sees the community paramedic program working closely with Kerner's palliative care program, but not sharing clients.

The primary outreach difference is that the palliative care program will initiate service to dementia patients and eventually grow into a home outreach program, while the WLAD community paramedic program will focus on people living at home from the beginning.

The other element both programs share is the need for funding. Burright will look to federal and state funding for support along with community nonprofit resources.

Burright hopes to see the community paramedic pilot program launch in 2017.




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# WORD ON THE STREET

*Relay For Life of Florence, a 24-hour fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, begins today and continues until 10 a.m. on Sunday at Miller Park.*


## Why do you participate in Relay For Life?



"I Relay for my family, friends and pets that have been lost, those that survived and to try to do a small part to put an end to cancer. Relay For Life is an inspirational, fun and sobering event to honor our survivors and look to a cancer-free future."  
—CHRIS SALTMARSH  
TEAM BANKING ON LIFE



"I Relay in memory of my friend Leah Hopkins and my aunt Loretta Platz, who lost their lives to cancer. I am dedicated to raising money for cancer research in hopes that it brings us one day closer to finding a cure for cancer!"  
—JEANNA PETERSEN  
TEAM NEWSIES



"I lost my best friend and companion to cancer. Hans is ever in my heart and I miss him so much. So I help to raise money for those who are in need of treatment and for further research because everyone deserves to survive and celebrate their birthday."  
—BOBBI HARRIS  
TEAM LADIES OF THE ELKS

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## Chamber

from 1A

"The purpose of the chamber is to help our members develop their business," Hannigan said. "TR Hunter has quite a few agents. Tim saw the opportunity and went for it. He's supporting his community."

Sapp said, "We're the hometown realtor. We're a locally owned and operated company, and I want to be part of our

community. We decided to support the chamber, the city and their efforts, and get supported in return."

According to Hannigan, it is the chamber's job to support the Florence-area community through its businesses.

"The chamber is part of providing the resources for businesses to grow. And the businesses support the chamber. It's a circle," she said.

Businesses will also learn to be more resourceful through their membership with the chamber.

"TR Hunter will now get

live-time, real leads on relocation requests. That's a privilege that is only for underwriters. It could mean 500 new contacts for TR Hunter in a year," she said. "And, it's exclusive — there's only one realtor as an underwriter."

Hannigan described other membership advantages at the Chamber Luncheon on Thursday at Best Western Pier Point Inn.

She said there is always room for more distinguished sponsors and underwriters

For more information, go to [florencechamber.com](http://florencechamber.com).

## ...need a friend?

## Meet Buffy

I'm Buffy and I came to the shelter after having kittens out in the sand dunes. I can be a little stand-offish but if you pet me I will warm up to you. I love looking after the other cats in my room, especially the shy cats. They all treat me like the mama cat. I would be happier in a home with at least one other cat that I could have as a friend.



If you would like to meet Karma any of her friends, please visit us at:

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