

Florence Soroptimists seeking award applicants

The Soroptimist International Club of Florence (SIF) is seeking applicants for its annual "Live Your Dream Award." This award is for a single woman who is head of household and wants to further her education. The funds are given directly to the individual to offset living

expenses while attending school. Last year SIF gave \$1,000 to a local woman whose application was then forwarded to the Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) Northwest Region to be included in a pool for an additional award. The Florence woman was

selected to receive an award of \$1,500. The application period is open through Nov. 15. The application can be found on the SIA website at www.soroptimist.org/liveyourdreamawards.html, then click on the "Live Your Dream" link. This

page gives more information about the award. On the left side of the page, click on "Application Process" for full instructions and a video. For more information, call Nancy Bosket (SIF member) at 541-902-7250 or email her at siflorence@soroptimist.net.

CAT from 1A

Rosemary added that the play does contain some "ruff language." The script, while humorous, offered a serious chance for CAT to team up with the local humane society. "When Rosemary and I first bought the building, we discussed making the theater community-oriented," David said. "We like this teamwork with any play that has a relevant organization to hook up with in the community," said Burnette. "It's going to be fun to do this in conjunction with the humane society." And OCHS is also on board. "This is exactly what OCHS is looking for. In all areas of town, we're trying to branch out, be more of a presence and remind people of the important work we do," said OCHS Director Tanya Garrett. Since becoming director last November, Garrett has worked to tie the humane society more closely into the Florence community and partner with other adoption organizations. "It's very exciting. The name change was part of it, and pairing with events in town. What's lovely is once we expanded our focus, all the good stuff started coming," Garrett said. "CAT came in off the street saying, 'We

want to do a play with this dog in it. Do you want to be involved?' We're opening our arms to different opportunities." The humane society will bring pamphlets and information packets to each showing of "Sylvia." It also hopes to have volunteers available to answer questions covering adoption, donating, fostering and having a plan in place for pets. "The big thing we're trying to push right now is foster homes. We need more of those," Garrett said. "Between spaying and neutering and fostering, we can help reduce the numbers in the shelter." The CAT production team is hopeful that the teamwork will encourage more people to be involved in the humane society's mission to provide homes to area pets. "We're excited you reached out to us. We're trying to find whatever opportunities to help us say, 'We're here!' We want to be part of such a fun play," Garrett said. "At the end of the play, it's a successful rescue," Burnette said. "Sylvia" will play at CAT, 509 Kingwood St., the weekends of Sept. 23 to 25 and Sept. 30 to Oct. 2. Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.catproductions.org.

Cart from 1A


child, envisions the potential of the cart reaching beyond special needs youth. "Florence is a town with a lot of seniors, some with dementia or physical disabilities that make it difficult for their families or caregivers to

include them in the experience of shopping," Warshawsky said. She added, "Now a family or caregiver of a special needs child, a handicapped adult or an elderly parent who would like to shop with the family but can't walk the aisles, will no longer have to be left at home."

Schools from 1A

The district is sending a letter to students and their families this week detailing the situation. According to O'Mara, this is the first time the district has tested for lead levels in its drinking water. Six drinking fountains and four food preparation sinks had elevated lead levels ranging from .0235 ppb to .174 ppb. The highest reading was the drinking fountain in the middle school weight room. Two of the 10 locations are in vacant elementary classrooms. The remaining 25 district water source locations tested below minimum levels. In addition to shutting off the water in the 10 locations, several water coolers have been installed to replace the affected drinking fountains. Only one of the three sinks in the elementary school cafeteria showed elevated levels, the other two are useable.

O'Mara said the district will replace faucets in the kitchen and the football field concession stand and then retest the water. Until that time, the water to those sinks will be shut off. "We will be permanently addressing the drinking water issues in the summer of 2017 and into 2018 during our school improvement projects made possible by the passing of our local bond measure," she said. O'Mara added, "Until then, we are committed to preventing immediate access to the water sources in question, conducting follow-up tests to confirm the source of the problems, eliminating the source of lead and notifying Mapleton School District families, students and staff of the follow-up test results and any updates." In August, the state passed legislation requiring school districts to make all lead testing results public within five days of receiving results.



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Council from 1A

CoastCom was acquired by Astound Broadband, which included a transfer of its assets currently within Florence's rights of way. The city then needed to renew the recently expired franchise agreement with CoastCom. City staff recommended extending the previous agreement for a five-year term after

meeting with city attorneys and CoastCom. Councilor Joshua Greene said, "We might need to table this, but I recommend we look at this agreement for what it may offer us and them." He mentioned concerns with the terms that have not been updated since 2008. "It's a different world now," Greene said. "We have a crisis in Florence. We have dead fiber and no one who wants to light it up and make it affordable. We know one of our highest priorities for economic development is to have fiber available to the community at an affordable rate, whether a small business or a person. What will help the city grow and be attractive for people who want to relocate here?" Matt Updenkelder, vice president of operations for

CoastCom, said that CoastCom and its buyers would be open to working more closely with Florence-area economic development in the future. "We are certainly willing to light the fiber for anybody," he said, adding that CoastCom provides service to 40 customers in Florence, as well as the city and emergency operations organizations. "We would be happy to build fiber into anybody's place." Councilor Susy Lacer said, "Our focus as a council has very much been on economic development. Fiber access is essential for business growth." Greene said, "I'd like to see the agreement changed, and identify certain criteria that needs to be met. We know that this is one of our most urgent, biggest needs here." After the council discussed

the issue further, Mayor Joe Henry proposed agreeing to the extension, but for a "dramatically shortened" period of one year. This would allow city staff to renegotiate terms, and hopefully allow easier access to telecommunications. "That will be a good partnership," Greene said. The councilors approved Ordinance No. 12, Series 2016, with the term of the franchise agreement to be extended for only one year. Updenkelder said, "I'm excited for the future of CoastCom because it allows us to get a little more creative on the Oregon coast. We can put something together that benefits more people." Messmer said the city is working to streamline the franchise agreement process for access to the rights of way.

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