

## Stellar support and service

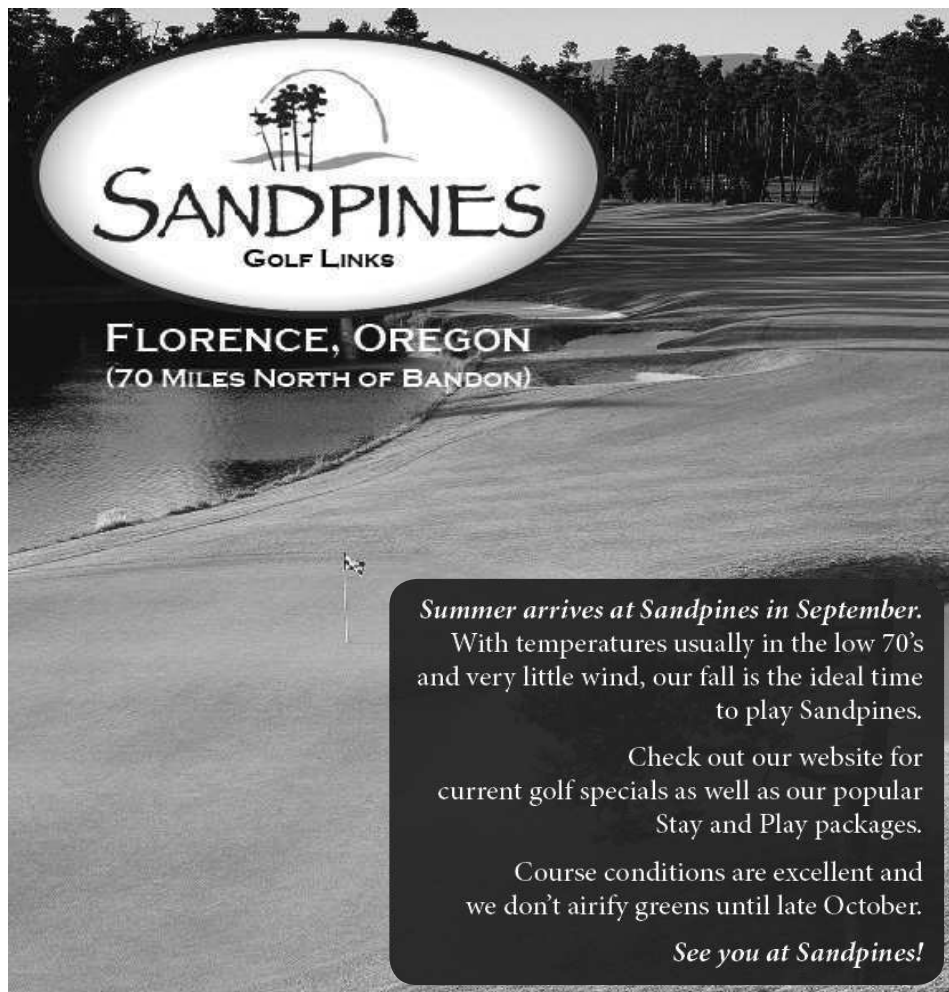
I have worked with the FEC since 2011, when I was the director of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. We held multiple events there during those years and always enjoyed phenomenal customer service and support from staff, particularly Director Kevin Rhodes.

Now, in my role as director of Oregon Coast Military Museum, I am once again

engaged with planning an event at the FEC — U.S. Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner on Friday, Oct. 7 — and once again receiving stellar support and customer service.

Florence is blessed to have both the FEC facility and its outstanding staff.

Cal Applebee  
Oregon Coast Military Museum



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## Community gathering

The Florence Events Center provides a fun and healthy community gathering place and is a premier entertainment facility.

I have had the pleasure of planning several events at the FEC — such as the Florence Green Fair every June, Good Life Boomer and Senior Expo every October and the upcoming Disaster Expo on Nov. 5 — and truly believe that the center maximizes the well-being of the entire community.

It is a public resource and a benefit for all aspects of the community.

Florence is lucky to have a facility that contributes to the economic health of the area. It attracts visitors and community members by hosting a variety of both local and regional events and activities all year long.

Jenna Bartlett  
Board President, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce  
General Manager of Siuslaw News

## Musing on the history of the FEC

When my husband, Gary, and I retired and returned to Florence early in 1994, we were able to help with fundraising for the Florence Events Center (FEC).

It was an exciting summer because, besides soliciting building donations from residents of Florence, we got in on the first Florence Performing Arts Festival, designed to support the local arts and contribute any profit to the FEC.

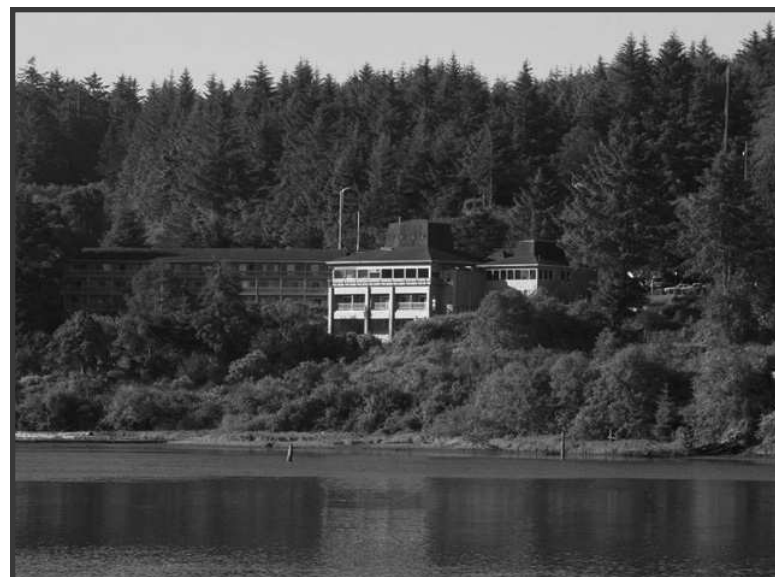
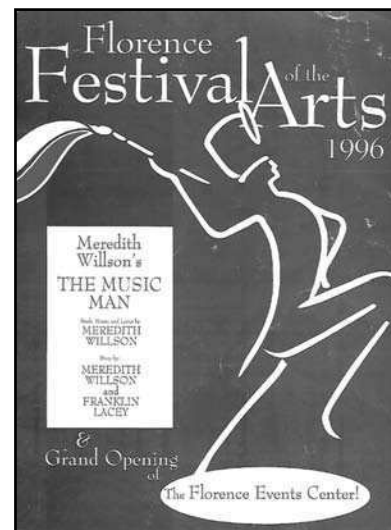
Many locals will remember that first art show and musical melodrama, “Loggers Lament” in the huge white tent in Miller Park. That was the genesis of the community theater group the Last Resort Players, which is the

resident company of the FEC to this day.

Most of all, I remember the horrifying first bids we got back on actual construction and the sobering shadow it cast on the project. But with cuts to some of the space and amenities, we were able to go forward with the groundbreaking.

Bob Barker, leader of the festival that year, saw to it that the arts were represented in the guise of “muses” — dressed in Greek togas — pouring libations from the Siuslaw River on the first shovel-fulls of earth turned during the ground breaking ceremony.

Annie Schmidt  
Charter member of Last Resort Players



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