

## OCHS Christmas Store begins annual preparation

Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) volunteers are busy making plans for the opening of the 2016 Christmas Store, set for Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Christmas shopping will be even more fun this year at its new spacious location, 85365 Highway 101, south of the bridge and directly across from Sandland Adventures.

Christmas Store hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m.

The store will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

Donations such as Christmas decorations and trees, wreaths, indoor and outdoor lighting, gift wrap and ribbon, sporting equipment, toys, books, arts and craft materials, household décor, dishes, serving pieces, warm sweaters, shirts and coats, gloves, caps and mittens are sought and will be appreciated.

Items can be dropped off at the OCHS Thrift Store, 1193 Bay St. in Old Town.

Denyse, Shelby, Trudie, Lalitha, Melissa

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## LOCAL ACTIVISM RETROSPECTIVE



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Silver Lining Gallery and Boutique is presenting a retrospective of community activism as its October show in the Gallery Above Silver Lining. The compilation of newspaper articles, images and graphics was gathered over the last 20 years and shows the long history of social activism in the Florence community. KXCR's Stuart Henderson (left) and gallery owner Kimberly Flenor put the finishing touches on a display that is part of an exhibit covering a wide variety of issues. An open house to view and discuss the materials will be held this Saturday, Oct. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m.

## Elks Lodge, SEAc coast host luncheon for vets

On Wednesday, Oct. 5, 90 veterans were the guest of Elks Lodge 1858 and SEAc coast Entertainment for a performance by Cantus, followed by lunch. The Elks Lodge hosted the event through a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

The lodge partnered with Seacoast Entertainment, which brought Cantus to Florence as part of its 2016-17 concert series.

The event opened with the presenting of the colors by the VFW Honor Guard. Guests were welcomed by the Lodge's Exalted Ruler, Joyce Middleton, and then led in a welcoming prayer from Elks' Chaplin Karen Smales.

After a brief introduction, Smales turned the floor over to Cantus.

Cantus, a professional male vocal ensemble that sings a capella, proceeded to pay homage to Florence's veterans with their program, "No Greater Love Than This," which



COURTESY PHOTO

The men's vocal ensemble group Cantus performs during a special luncheon held for veterans and hosted by SEAc coast and Florence Elks Lodge 1858.

include a wide array of music from solemn hymns to the up-tempo "Over There."

Their unaccompanied voices filled the lodge with acoustic music for nearly an hour.

Cantus' first set was a tribute to World War I, during which it shared a letter from the front as a brief interlude between songs.

Several of the group's pieces

were original compositions using the words and writings of veterans from World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Afghanistan.

Cantus reached as far back in time as the Civil War in its music. A melody of protest songs, including "We Shall Overcome," was woven into the performance as a reflection on freedom.

The program touched on the nobility of serving, the complexity of war and the emotions that accompany it, with the performance of "Imagine" as its closing number.

As the host of the event, Middleton had invited all local veterans to attend, including: The Coastal Women's Veteran Group, veterans from Spruce Point, the VFW, American Legion, DAC, Green Beret and the Band of Brothers.

In addition, an invitation was extended to the U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River.

The various organizations were well represented amongst the 90 guests and the "army" of volunteers who were drawn from the Elks, the Ladies of the Elks and the SEAc coast Entertainment board.

Cantus concluded its visit to Florence with a concert later that night at the Florence Event Center, which served as the season opener for SEAc coast Entertainment's concert series.

## FRAA to celebrate one-year anniversary Oct. 28

The public is invited to attend a celebration by the non-profit Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) on Friday, Oct. 28, from 5 to 7 p.m.

It has been one year since

FRAA moved to its 120 Maple Street location and held its grand opening. FRAA will celebrate the anniversary with music by guitarist Denny Weaver, catered food by Le

Bouchon and door prizes from participating artists.

The first year has been a successful one, largely due to FRAA's supporting members and sponsors, who share

FRAA's vision of supporting all the arts in the area.

Examples of FRAA's outreach include poetry readings and contests; writer's salons and classes; art festivals; painting classes; workshops; gallery exhibits (FRAA Gallery; OPB; Siuslaw Library; PeaceHealth Hospital, FEC and a Youth rotating exhibit at FRAA); special shows (Three Glassy Ladies, Ken McDougal Photography); coordination with other local groups (2nd Saturday Art Walk; FEC Winter Music Festival; demArts; CROW; public art displays; Chamber of Commerce; Wine Walk; Oktoberfest; Rhody Days; Downtown Revitalization) and maintaining connections with the Lane Co. Council for the Arts, and Oregon Coast Council for the Arts.

Two future events will include working with local schools to bring art to the classrooms, and working with the Watercolor Society of Oregon Convention in Florence in 2018.

Membership specials are now being offered for new members, and for returning members who register early for the 2017-18 year.

For more information, visit the FRAA website at [www.fraa.oregon.org](http://www.fraa.oregon.org).



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

**OREGON COAST HUMANE SOCIETY**

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This message brought to you by:

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