

Senior from 1A

weekends, when there aren't any of our normal activities going on."

The center is hoping to increase the type and frequency of the events that are scheduled at the center. It also wants

Florence residents to know that the facility can support almost any type of event.

"We have a professional kitchen and chefs that can prepare food for events," said board member Don Stone. "We also have the ability to move walls to make for a larger space. We've hosted birthday

parties, wedding functions and, at this time of year, Christmas parties."

The center's kitchen is an integral part of the organization's daily activities, with many members of the community benefiting from the meals prepared there.

"We help prepare and dis-

tribute Meals on Wheels lunches on Monday, Wednesday and Friday," said Borges. "And because they only provide meals three days a week, we provide one on Tuesdays and Thursdays to between 40 and 50 people on those days."

There has been another major change that can benefit

the community in other way.

"We haven't always been a nonprofit 501(c) 3 and now we are, so we want people to know that they can make charitable donations to the center that are tax deductible," Borge said. "And now we have an account at Banner Bank so anyone can drop off a donation there, or you can write a check here at the center and we will give you a receipt for tax purposes."

This change in the center's status comes at a time when the board has decided to begin a new fundraising campaign focused on creating a building expansion fund — a need that comes as a result of the successful daytime activities that make up the bulk of the center's programs.

"We really don't have any more time available to fit in additional daytime programs. If we have more room, we could add more activities," Borge said. "We would also gain another large room for activi-

ties, a better office complex with a meeting room for smaller groups, and — most importantly — another set of bathrooms."

Another aspect of the Senior Center that many don't know about is its well-staffed but under utilized Alzheimer's Respite Center.

This program is designed specifically to provide support for the many caregivers in the community. The Respite Center allows individuals suffering from memory loss to spend time in a safe, caring space while their caregivers administer to other responsibilities.

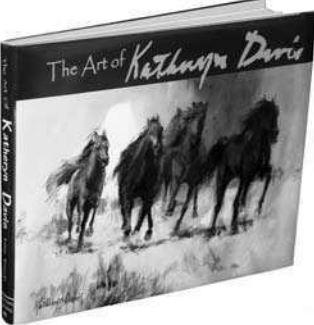

The cost for this and all of the programs at the center are minimal but scholarships are available.

Participation in the daily activities and care at the Respite Center is \$10, which includes lunch. Another change at the center is the elimination of its yearly membership fee,

"Right now there is no fee to join," said Stone. "You can come in and participate in all of our activities for \$1, except for lunch, and that is \$1 for the whole day."

For more information, call the Florence Senior Center at 541-997-8844 or stop in at 1570 Kingwood Dr.

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