

PeaceHealth to offer Palliative Care classes

Beginning in April, the PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Palliative Care program will host a series of classes designed to train prospective volunteers to work directly with palliative care patients in the community.

The trainings will be held at Lane Community College and include an overview of palliative care, the role of the palliative care team and the volunteer, communication and spirituality.

Palliative care programs serve patients who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and desire alleviation of symptoms — whether social, physical, emotional or spiritual.

Patients can receive palliative care at any time and at any stage of illness, whether terminal or chronic.

Though both palliative care and hospice care programs focus on pain and symptom management, palliative care programs also include treatment options.

“Florence is a town that thrives on volunteerism,” said Palliative Care Medical Social Worker Donna Becker. “The start of our new palliative care program presents another great

opportunity for Florence residents to give back to their community.”

Palliative care strives to improve a patient’s quality of life by offering comfort and care in times of pain and volunteering for a program such as this can be incredibly rewarding, according to Becker.

Palliative care volunteers will be trained in a number of roles: Providing companionship and support to patients, providing respite care to caregivers and additional acts of service, such as running errands for families, providing transportation, preparing meals or doing light household work.

Volunteers also contribute organizational support by participating in program activities and helping with events and celebrations.

Patient support volunteer classes will be limited to 12 members. The dates and times of the classes will be determined by participant feedback.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a palliative care volunteer, or for more information, contact Donna Becker at dbecker@peacehealth.org or call 541-902-6734.

Phelps recognized for service to COCBBR

Delbert “Del” Phelps, was recently recognized by the local Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors (COCBBR) and the Oregon Association of Realtors (OAR) for his long-term service to the Realtor community and for his long history of service to the Florence community over more than 40 years.

Phelps, a Realtor affiliated with the Florence office of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services NW, has served the central Oregon coast since 1998 and was recently honored with the presentation of two Distinguished Achievement Awards, including the Life Service Membership Award 2016 from OAR, and also the Recognition Award for 2016 from COCBBR.

Phelps has been an active member of the Florence community and was described as “devoting thousands of hours to a wide range of community services, both elective and service oriented, as well as invaluable in his service to COCBBR in his continued guid-



COURTESY PHOTO

Award recipient Del Phelps (second from left) with fellow COCBBR members.

ance and leadership to the board.”

Phelps served five years as a State Director of COCBBR, representing the local board. He also served on the OAR board,

as well as the Political Affairs KOG Chairman for OAR for two years.

In 2006, Phelps was asked by incoming 2007 state president, Art Kegler, to serve on

the OAR Executive Committee for the year 2007, which he accepted.

“I am truly grateful to my local board and to OAR for this recognition,” said Phelps.

Library begins annual ‘Blind Date with a Book’

Siuslaw Public Library will once again celebrate Valentine’s Day the entire month of February by offering “Blind Date with a Book.”

Come into the library beginning today to pick up a “mystery date.” The surprise date could be a mystery, a fascinat-

ing historical or literary fiction selection, a spell-binding young adult novel or a superbly written biography.

The library invites you to spend time with a delightful new author or step out into a genre different from your usual selections.

You may arrange for as many blind dates (one at a time, please) during the month as you can fit into your schedule.

Here’s how it works: Visit the library and select one wrapped book per visit from the “Blind Date” bookshelf. Check out the book and, when you arrive home, unwrap your date.

When you have finished reading the book, fill out the evaluation form (your prize entry) and bring it to the library. All entry forms will be included in weekly drawings for fun prizes. Pick up a new date, if you like, when you drop off your form.

“Dates” will be available through Feb. 28.

The idea behind “Blind Date With a Book” is to open up new worlds to library patrons,

expand reading horizons, and maybe even beat back the late winter doldrums.

Kevin Mitte, Adult Services Librarian, designed the popular program.

“The ‘Blind Date With a Book’ program has been so successful, we’re doing it again this year. Take a chance and read a book that you wouldn’t otherwise pick up, then submit your book review as an entry form for some great prizes,” Mitte said.

More than 150 dates were arranged and evaluated last year. Surprises and prizes await all participants.

For more information about the program visit the Siuslaw Public Library in person, call 541-997-3132, or visit the library’s website at www.siuslawlibrary.info.

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