

Pacific Coast Wind Ensemble plays Saturday

The Pacific Coast Wind Ensemble will perform a benefit concert Saturday, May 6, at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, beginning at 2 p.m.

The program will feature marches, medleys, show tunes, a Dixieland number, an overture or two and more. Plus something special: To highlight the closing of Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus, the band will cover that most iconic of circus marches: "Entry of the Gladiators."

The band is currently led by

director Tom Muller, from Waldport, whose knowledge and enthusiasm have combined to create a lively program for the band's annual Spring Concert.

A donation of \$10 per person is suggested, with steep discounts for families.

Proceeds from this concert will be donated to Siuslaw High School's band program.

For further information, contact Eric Bigler, band secretary, at 541-563-7642 or email him at ebigler@europa.com.

Respite from 1A

"Our purpose is three fold. First is to provide socialization for the person with memory loss. Equally important is to provide respite for the caregiver, and, thirdly, we want to provide a service to the community," Duncan said.

Unfortunately, the center is finding it more difficult to fulfill this mission. The respite center runs entirely on volunteer staffing and those volunteers are becoming harder to find.

The center also needs an infusion of funds to pay the Florence Senior Center's monthly rental fees.

As such, volunteers are concerned that the services they offer will soon be unavailable to members of the community.

"We've had volunteers that have been with us for years and years. As with any volunteer organization, there are times when some volunteers decide to move on. So, we have had to close one day a week, on Wednesdays, because we are unable to staff the center that day," Duncan said.

Memory care clients pay a minimal daily fee that goes to paying the monthly charges for the space used. The center also offers scholarships to those who cannot afford the daily fee of \$10.

The center's programs are based on the model accepted by the state as the strategy best suited to preserve the dignity and self sufficiency of a person afflicted with memory loss for as long as possible.

"We use the 'best friends' model here, which has been accepted by the State of Oregon as the best approach for dealing with people with memory loss," Duncan said.

The "best friends" approach is as simple as it sounds.

The volunteers at the respite center are trained in techniques that honor a person's life experience and their intrinsic value as an important member of the community in which they live.

Volunteers then incorporate those experiences and the personal history of clients into the daily discussions and activities in which they participate.

The center operates primarily on donations and the daily fee charged to patients. The \$10 charge clients pay includes a healthy lunch and four hours of caring, attentive and engaged client supervision.

Duncan and Memory Loss Respite Center volunteers are dismayed by the reduction in service hours they were recently forced to implement.

Mostly because the need for their services is rising, with trends showing an increase from 9.9 percent of the population having Alzheimer's to more than 33 percent by 2030.

This increase is likely to lead to an additional increase of 38 percent in Medicaid costs by the year 2025.

The Alzheimer's Association, the primary advocacy group for victims of the illness, estimates that nearly 1,500 Oregonians die each year from the disease, making it the sixth leading cause of death in the state.

These are trends that speak to the need for increased funding and additional services —

Club from 1A

Another motivating factor in the quest for improved academic performance is the more tangible incentive of Club Bucks.

Club Bucks are awarded to club members for a number of reasons, including receiving good grades on their report cards and helping out at the club with clean-up and event preparations.

Kids can also earn Club Bucks by allowing Aaron to review their homework after turning it in and receiving grades from their teachers. This gives staff an idea of the academic progress of the individual students and reinforces the correct answers with the students.

Bucks earned can then be redeemed at the Club Store for school supplies, snacks and other items.

Each month there is a special prize for Club Buck recipients and the monthly special can be almost anything, with this month's prize being the highly desired Fidget Spinner, a device that helps "fidgety" students concentrate by giving them something to work with their hands.

The recent academic success of the students that attend the

Boys and Girls Club is not surprising to Aaron. She feels the discussion groups get the young people thinking about the big picture and another program offered encourages them to think of the everyday details.

"We have also started our 'Game of Life,' which is part of the Money Matters program," Aaron said. "The kids all choose careers, lifestyles, whether or not they have children, and if so, how many and how old they are, and their starting bank balance. They will also be choosing an apartment or house, purchasing a car and figuring out their utilities, childcare and grocery bills."

The combination of understanding the complexity of real life situations and discussing the larger issues that young people face has been well received by club members.

Results are in and they are very good.

"These programs have had a huge impact on the kids, even without them knowing it. When I first made them participate, I was met with whines and groans, because the kids didn't want to have to sit and learn anymore. But now, they are excited about attending every week, and look forward to playing the games," Aaron said. "They are seeing that



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hard work and effort goes a long ways. This is a super smart and competitive bunch."

For more information on the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County, call

Boys and Girls Club after school programs help club members attain academic success and learn real life lessons they can use after graduation.



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May 6

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Speakers
&
Demonstrations



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Wellness
Center

10am-4pm

Florence Events Center
715 Quince St., Florence

Admission is \$3
OR FREE with canned donation to
Mapleton Food Share
or
by bringing in your
plastic planter pots to be recycled




Give or Take

Give

unwanted items
9:00am to 2:00pm
Nothing broken or dirty please
just things someone else can use!

Take

things you can use
10:30am to 4:00pm
Anything you need and can use!

YES

You can give:
books, DVDs/CDs,
Garden ware, IT, Tools,
Clothes/shoes, small
furniture, small
electrical items, toys

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