

PeaceHealth from 1A

Anyone wishing to monitor the walk-in clinic wait time can go to www.peacehealth.org/phmg/florence/services/primary-care/Pages/walk-in-clinic.

Peace Harbor CEO Rick Yecny said the last round of contract negotiations that took place May 8 between PeaceHealth and the Oregon

Nurses Association (ONA) yielded some positive results.

"We had a meeting with our mediator for a full day. I'm not on the negotiating team, but my schedule freed up and we were negotiating until 10 p.m. Monday night," Yecny said. "It was much better than the prior meeting that we had on April 26.

"There was progress made toward the end of the evening. The union pulled several proposals off the table and we reached tentative agreement on five other items. It is important to know that we have never asked for concessions. Everything has always been an improvement," he said.

Yecny said both sides were disappointed they did not reach a final agreement, but that the federal mediator had to end the session at 10 p.m., because he had to be in Vancouver, Wash., for a 7 a.m. meeting the next morning.

"It was a good meeting, it was constructive and we probably would have stayed until 2 a.m., if we could have," he added.

PeaceHealth Strategic Communications Director Marcy Marshall said, "Unfortunately, to ensure we progress in good faith with the ONA, we won't be able to share the specifics around the tentative agreements."

Yecny said, "We don't have

another scheduled meeting until July 12, but the door was left open to do some email negotiations."

In a follow-up email, ONA representative Gary Aguiar said, "We agree that it was a productive session on Monday. The employer moved on wages. They accepted our step structure. And the annual increases are much closer to our original proposal.

"We remain hopeful we can resolve issues still on the table. In particular, we have proposals on employee benefits and limits to on-call in both surgical services and our home health and hospice department."

Artist Helen West honored in Yachats May 13 to 14

YACHATS — A tribute to the career of artist Helen West will be held in the the 501 Building of the Yachats Commons this weekend, May 13 to 14.

Featured in the show is an exhibit of nine never displayed pastel works, recently discovered in storage. This exhibit is comprised of art from West's collection, plus works from private collectors.

In interviews, West said, "I can share the emotion and joy I feel in the world about me. I love the things I see. I paint with my brain and eyes. People only use a small percentage of their sight. Painting teaches a person to see. I am fortunate to have

lived most of my life surrounded by mountains, rivers and streams."

West moved to Oregon with her mother in 1990 and built a home in Yachats in 1992.

The showing is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is free. The pastels and paintings from her studio have been framed and will be available for sale.

Profits from sales at the show will fund community arts education and projects through the nonprofit Polly Plumb Productions, the show's sponsor.

For information, email mguerro@peak.org or call 541-547-5024.

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Police from 1A

can take several weeks. There are a lot of pieces that need to be examined."

He said the investigation is still in the information gathering stage.

On May 8, at approximately 9 a.m., OSP troopers were notified of assistance needed at the Florence Police Department's jail.

State troopers and officers responded and found Larson and Sansom had been seriously assaulted when they were attempting to release a 40-year-old male from the custody of the jail.

"As medics arrived to attend to the two officers, the 40-

year-old male became non-responsive and medics turned their attention to him. The male was transported to Peace Harbor Hospital and was pronounced deceased," said the report issued by OSP.

The two Florence police officers were transported to Peace Harbor Hospital for their injuries.

Due to privacy issues, the hospital could not comment on the nature of the injuries, but a hospital spokesperson said both officers have been released.

According to Lane County District Attorney Patty Perlow, no further information is available until the investigation is concluded. She expects that to be sometime next week.

Awareness from 1A

Holmes encourages the community to come to the Autism Walk and meet neighbors and other people who are dealing with the ramifications of Autism in their lives.

"We want this day to also be about fun," Holmes said. "Our kids on the Autism Spectrum have a hard time and we want to help in any way we can."

Community members can volunteer next Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., but people can also make donations to the Autism Society of Oregon.

According to Holmes, the society helps families here in Florence.

She also said the need for information and the desire to network with others sharing a similar experience is an important element of the walk as well.

"The Autism Society of Oregon helped me connect with available services that help my son. I hope to share this information with other families interested in finding resources," she said.

For more information on how to participate in the first Florence Autism Walk, or to donate to this effort, call 541-901-1780.

"This first Autism walk should be fun for all, and we hope interested members of the community will come out and join us," Holmes said.

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