

# Empty Bowls calls for artists and poster art

Planning for Florence Food Share’s 21st annual Empty Bowls is underway. Every year local artists donate hand-made ceramic, wood and fused glass bowls to be sold at the Empty Bowls sale held the first weekend in December.

For the past decade, Food Share has featured the work of a local artist on the poster advertising the event.

The art created especially for the event provides the focal point for the poster and is then raffled off at the event for extra revenue for the nonprofit. In turn, the artist supplying the work gets recognition in local and regional publications and a tax deduction.

Food Share is looking for a work of art that expresses the message of both the event and Florence Food Share.

Any medium is welcome, provided it can be photographed and donated to the event.

Food Share will cover framing, with artist input.

In order to be considered for 2017’s poster art artist, artists must submit their concept, including the medium and a description of the proposed

image. Additionally, artists can attach a photo of one of their previous works for an idea of their style.

Email submission to Vicki Sieber-Benson at ickesq56@gmail.com and must be received by Thur., Aug. 31.

The completed, unframed artwork would be due no later than Sept. 30.

Food Shares appreciates all those that have participated in Empty Bowls each year, and look forward to new participants joining this year’s event.

For questions regarding submitting proposals, call Sieber-Benson at 541-902-2221.

# Peace Harbor staff prepares for Solar Eclipse surge

The highly anticipated Aug. 21 total Solar Eclipse is right around the corner.

Astronomy experts and amateurs alike have been busy planning where they’ll go to get the best views, which solar viewers to purchase, and how they’ll document the historic event.

But with portions of northern Oregon sitting immediately within the prime viewing area known as the “path of totality,” and more than 1 million visitors predicted to flood the area through Aug. 23, officials at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center and local agencies have other issues on their minds.

Their focus has been on preparing for a potential influx of patients, disruptions in supply deliveries and cell phone service, and surges in prescription orders and clinic visits as citizens work to get ahead of predicted traffic congestion.

According to Jim Cole, injury prevention and emergency medical services coordinator for PeaceHealth Oregon, officials have been working to make sure its facilities and employees are on alert, prepared and ready, no matter what happens.

Several months ago, the hospital participated in Western Lane Emergency Operations Group’s disaster drill, which simulated a sudden influx of patients to the facility.

Preparations have also included making sure there are enough staff, supplies and other necessary resources for a potential patient capacity surge, and communicating and collaborating with public health and safety agencies across the region.

This means that PeaceHealth medical centers in Oregon and Southwest Washington will be on alert to potentially receive patients from a variety of locations.

“PeaceHealth is focusing on providing safe, high-quality care to patients and being ready, if necessary, to handle a surge of sick or injured people at its hospitals in Springfield, Eugene, Cottage Grove and Florence,” said Cole. “Patient care is our top concern, and we’ve been preparing for it.”

Watching the solar eclipse without proper eye protection can cause long-term vision damage.

Dr. Lee Azpiroz, optometrist at PeaceHealth Medical Group, points out that the eyes are not designed to withstand the intensity of viewing the sun directly, even for a brief period of time.

If you are concerned that you may have developed a problem after viewing the eclipse, you should be evaluated soon afterward by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

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