

**OCHS** from 1A

The public comment portion of the meeting grew disorganized after attendees, who were told by Bare to “sign in and check the box on the sign-in sheet indicating they wished to speak,” discovered the sheet did not include such a box.

This prompted Bare, instead, to begin asking everyone who had signed in if they wished to speak. Most did not, but the unclarity of the process added to the overall sense of disorder that has become a consistent pattern at OCHS Board meetings.

Bare and Gervais were once again unwilling to respond directly to many of the questions posed by the audience during the public comment portion of the meeting — in some cases refusing to acknowledge the content of some of the members’ questions.

Bare said, “Thank you, next.” The lack of a response from Bare and Gervais added to the sense of frustration in the small crowd.

As he has for the past three meetings, long-time OCHS member Tony Cavarno attempted to get answers to questions regarding a number of relevant issues, including expenditures and long-range plans. Once again, his questions went unanswered.

“I have been to a lot of board meetings over the years, at all types of organizations and I have never seen anything like this,” Cavarno said. “My wife and I have been involved with the OCHS for many years and I believe this board should resign. They are not providing the members with answers to our questions and, frankly, I find their performance disgusting.”

Gervais’ lack of details regarding the recent deaths of three puppies at the shelter seemed to exacerbate the problem.

Gervais and Raven reported the animals and their mother had been seen by a vet in Veneta and “simply passed away due to ill health.”

Gervais and the board were then asked by an OCHS mem-

ber why the shelter would not allow the remaining puppies and their mother to be placed in foster homes.

They refused to respond, ignoring the rising volume of dissent in the room.

Other questions ignored by Bare and Gervais were about the amount of money, if any, that was being spent on legal fees in light of the recent request by the Oregon Department of Justice for a multitude of documents due yesterday, and also why the board felt the need for a police officer to be present at meetings.

The lack of a response by the board generated shouts, prompting a warning from Bare that some in the group would be forcibly removed.

The meeting ended with no final statements given or summation presented, leaving many audibly frustrated, with some loudly commenting that the OCHS board should resign or be replaced.

The next meeting of the OCHS has not been formally announced.

**Holiday Festival to bring Santa, sales & music**

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce is kicking off its annual Holiday Festival on Saturday, Nov. 25.

Santa’s arrival, hayrides, lighted boats at the marina and the official lighting of its Christmas tree will take place in Historic Old Town, with shops and galleries remaining open for holiday shopping all around town.

Many events will take place in Historic Old Town between 3:30 and 7 p.m.

“Rain or shine, it’s time to celebrate together,” said Bettina Hannigan, the chamber’s executive director. “Our Old Town area is getting decked-out for the holidays and we are excited to announce that the City of Florence has planted a gorgeous live tree at the Siuslaw Interpretive Park for our town to enjoy year after year.

“Come on out to be a part of the festivities.”

At 3:30 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive via

firetruck down Bay Street, courtesy of Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue.

“Bring the kids, naughty or nice, to Gazebo Park in Old Town to visit with Santa, enjoy hot cider, music, candy canes and all of the sparkling lights,” said Hannigan. “There will be free hay rides down Bay Street between the Port of Siuslaw and the parking lot west of The River House Inn.”

As it gets dark at about 5:30 p.m. people can gather at the Siuslaw Interpretive Park when Mayor Joe Henry flips the switch to light the new tree for the very first time.

Live music by Robert Paslay and Friends from Eugene will add to the festivities.

Saturday is also national Shop Small Day in honor of supporting small businesses.

“Bring your shopping list and ‘Shop Small’ by visiting Florence merchants throughout town on Bay Street, the Antiques District and Uptown

101,” said Hannigan. “Many have new inventory coming in and are offering shopping specials all day Saturday and throughout the season. Let’s keep our shopping dollars in our community.”

New this year is the “Light Up Your Boat Float” at the Port of Siuslaw docks in Old Town. Boat owners — of anything from yachts to canoes — are encouraged to bring their boats, decorate them for the holidays, and be part of the festivities.

Participants can moor their boats overnight on Nov. 25 for free to be part of the event, but they must register with the Port before Tuesday, Nov. 21.

The Chamber will award a trophy for the best decorated vessel. In addition, the local Coast Guard station will dock one of their vessels as part of the festivities.

For more information, call the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce at 541-997-3128 or visit FlorenceChamber.com.

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**THIS WEEK ON THE COAST**

**A WEEKLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE FLORENCE AREA**

SUBMIT ALL EVENTS INFORMATION VIA EMAIL TO [PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM](mailto:PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM)

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| <p><b>Nov. 18</b></p> <p><b>“Pies Plus” at St. Andrews</b><br/>9 a.m. to 1 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>St. Andrews Episcopal Church</p> <p><b>Four Square Church Christmas Bazaar</b><br/>9a.m. to 3p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>16241 Highway 101<br/>541-997-6337</p> <p><b>18th annual Pounding for Florence Food Share</b><br/>10 a.m. to 2 p.m.<br/>Community invited to donate canned goods which will then be matched \$2 per pound<br/>Grocery Outlet</p> <p><b>Victorian Belles Christmas Bazaar</b><br/>10 a.m. to 7 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Three Rivers Casino Resort</p> <p><b>Christmas DIY Night Make and Take and Potluck</b><br/>4 to 7 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Florence Christian Church<br/>990 Second St.</p> | <p><b>Ada Grange Thanksgiving Bingo</b><br/>5 p.m. — Kitchen opens<br/>6 p.m. — Bingo begins<br/>Open to public<br/>Ada Grange, 10 miles out Canary Road</p> <p><b>Sip and Paint Class with Karyllynn Keppol</b><br/>5:30 to 8:30 p.m.<br/>\$40 per person — RSVP required<br/>Mindpower Gallery, 417 Fir Ave., Reedsport — 541-271-2485</p> <p><b>Spaghetti Dinner featuring the band 3 Man Slam</b><br/>6:30 to 9:30 p.m.<br/>Tickets required<br/>Florence Senior Center<br/>541-997-8844</p> | <p><b>Nov. 19</b></p> <p><b>Victorian Belles Christmas Bazaar</b><br/>10 a.m. to 3 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Three Rivers Casino Resort</p> | <p><b>Nov. 20</b></p> <p><b>Florence City Council Meeting</b><br/>5:30 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Florence City Hall<br/>ci.florence.or.us</p> | <p><b>Nov. 21</b></p> <p><b>Us TOO Florence Prostate Cancer Support Group</b><br/>With Urologist Roger McKimmy<br/>Noon to 1 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Ichiban Restaurant<br/>541-999-4239</p> <p><b>Siuslaw Diabetes/Pre-diabetes Support Group</b><br/>2 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Siuslaw Public Library<br/>541-902-6059</p> <p><b>Rhody Society Meeting</b><br/>Featuring Terry Henderson of Log Cabin Nursery<br/>7 p.m.<br/>Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw<br/>www.siuslawars.org</p> | <p><b>Nov. 23</b></p> <p><b>Thanksgiving Day</b><br/>Free Thanksgiving Dinner<br/>Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Florence<br/>11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.<br/>Open to the Public<br/>Florence Elks Lodge<br/>1686 12th St.</p> | <p><b>Lane Community College Florence Center Closed</b><br/>Nov. 23 to 26<br/>For more information see the academic calendar online <a href="http://lanec.edu/calendars/academic-calendar">lanec.edu/calendars/academic-calendar</a></p> | <p><b>Nov. 24</b></p> <p><b>Spruce Point Holiday Bazaar</b><br/>1:30 to 3:30 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Spruce Point Assisted Living &amp; Memory Care<br/>375 Ninth St.<br/>541-997-6111</p> | <p><b>Nov. 25</b></p> <p><b>Festival of Trees “Walking Through a Winter Wonderland”</b><br/>Benefit for Oregon Coast Military Museum<br/>10 a.m. to 4 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Florence Events Center<br/><a href="http://oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com">oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com</a></p> <p><b>Last Chance to Register for the Florence Nativity Festival</b><br/>Display your family nativity in this community event held on Dec. 1 to 3<br/>Contact Vickie Kennedy at 541-997-7404 or <a href="mailto:vdkenney54@gmail.com">vdkenney54@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><b>Light Up Your Boat Float</b><br/>Sponsored by Port of Siuslaw, Breen Marine and Florence Area Chamber of Commerce<br/>3:30 to 7 p.m.<br/>Open to public<br/>Boat Displays docked at Port of Siuslaw Marina<br/>RSVP by Nov. 21 at 541-997-3040</p> <p><b>Florence Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting</b><br/>3:30 to 6 p.m.<br/>Open to public to meet Santa Claus and hear holiday songs<br/>Historic Old Town Florence</p> <p><b>Wallflowers &amp; Wine</b><br/>6:30 p.m.<br/>Tickets required<br/>Florence Events Center<br/>Early RSVP encouraged</p> | <p><b>Nov. 26</b></p> <p><b>Festival of Trees Dinner and Auction</b><br/>Benefit for Oregon Coast Military Museum<br/>5 p.m.<br/>Tickets and RSVP required<br/>Florence Events Center<br/><a href="http://oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com">oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com</a></p> |
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