

Every Child from 1A

Coontz continued, "We held an initial orientation and had almost 40 people express interest in being involved in the organization to support foster families and foster kids."

When Every Child branched out to Florence, the group's leadership team began talking with the Florence Visitation Supervisor at DHS.

After viewing the one room for child and family visitations, it was identified as needing a makeover. The visitation room, like many in the DHS system, had become out of date and was not a welcoming site to families in the foster care system.

This fit with Every Child's desire to make foster care, and support for unprotected children, a priority for the community. It also led to the effort to raise the funds necessary for the facilities upgrade.

The group began fundraising for the DHS makeover in December. The upgrade to the office was completed with the assistance of a number of

individuals and some local companies, like Top Hydraulics.

"Since November, we have hosted a handful of other activities while doing the fundraising for the makeover. Every Child will continue to be involved in recruiting and supporting foster families and respite care workers, offering training, support and hospitality to DHS staff," Coontz said.

The visitation room now has new furniture and an improved seating area for clients.

There is also a new section of the room with games, books and drawing materials. This area is used to assist with interviews and to help children acclimate to the stresses associated with discussing and overcoming difficult family issues.

For more information on Every Child, contact info@everychildoregon.org.

The Central Coast Resource Center DHS office is open Monday to Friday. It provides help with food benefits, cash for families, child care assistances and refugee services.

For more information, call 541-997-8251.

Care Fair from 1A

individual services," Doua added.

Statistics regarding caregivers provided by the Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) and borne out by Doua's experience at Spruce Point indicate that while some caregivers are paid for the work they do, many are not. The personal toll this work takes on the unsupported caregiver is a great concern to Doua.

"Every day, we have caregivers coming to our community completely lost and not sure where to go or what to do. They have burned themselves out trying to take care of their loved one and they are at the end of their rope. We all have the greatest intentions when we are taking care of our family but doing it without support can sometimes escalate the problem and amplify the situation," she said. "When you add dementia to the mix, that is just a heavier stone to carry sometimes."

"We wanted to host this

event so caregivers can have a place to go and ask questions and get ideas of how to care for themselves and their loved ones."

According to Doua, one third of caregivers are 65 or older and are caring for a spouse, many of whom are dealing with physical infirmity. A large percentage are also coping with the emotional challenges associated with losing the person they love to Alzheimer's disease.

"Eighty-three percent of the help provided to older adults in the United States comes from family members, friends or other unpaid caregivers. Nearly half of all caregivers who provide help to older adults do so for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia," Doua said. "Alzheimer's takes a devastating toll on caregivers. Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial and physical difficulties."

Another aspect of the many issues associated with caregiving for Alzheimer's

patients regards the costs involved in treatment and the reduction in income that caregivers experience.

"Of the total lifetime cost of caring for someone with dementia, 70 percent is borne by families — either through out-of-pocket health and long-term care expenses or from the value of unpaid care," Doua said.

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. 16.1 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementia, according to statistics provided by the FCA.

"One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Florence statistics alone, with a median age of 60, puts us 54 percent higher than the Oregon average of having caregivers taking care of someone with Alzheimer's or other dementia," Doua said.

Doua's concern is for all caregivers, not just those employed at Spruce Point.

Her main reason for the fair is the many community members involved in taking care of a loved one or family member.

"We invite as many people as we can to our support groups and our education classes. Sometimes just being with others who are going through what you are going through is enough," Doua said. "When you are tired and emotional and every part of you hurts, you don't need to have someone fix it — you need someone who knows what it feels like, knows how you feel to give you a hug and just hold your hand and say, 'It's OK.' We want to make sure we can get people there and through this."

The Memory Car Fair will be at Spruce Point from 1 to 3 p.m. on April 18. Several vendors will also be in attendance.

For more information on the Memory Care Fair, call 541-997-6111.

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Siuslaw News **garage sale**
GUIDE

Last 2 Day Sale, household, furniture, new layer of jewelry, art supplies & artwork, great buys!

3960 Munsel Creek Dr., Florence. 541-997-1782.

Fri-Sat 4/13-4/14, 9am-5pm
Everything goes!

Fri-Sat 4/13-4/14 9am-4pm
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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

Thursdays through May 24

New Testament Class on St. Matthew

Taught by Joel Marks, adjunct professor of American History

6:30 to 8 p.m.
Open to public; refreshments served
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

April 13, 14 & 15

CROW presents Disney's "Tarzan"

Featuring Reveler's Aerial Works
7 p.m. showings: Friday, Saturday
2 p.m. showings: Saturday, Sunday
Tickets required
Florence Events Center
crowkids.com

April 14

Florence Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Free for households; small fee for businesses, schools, churches or non-profit
Florence Transfer Station
2820 Rhododendron Drive

"DNA: What's It All About?"

Family History Seminar

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Registration required
Florence Events Center
www.siuslawgenealogy.org

Grand opening of Patriot Place

Ribbon cutting and free hot dog lunch
1 to 4 p.m.
175 Nopal St.
541-590-5435

Early Rhody Flower Show

Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society
1 to 5 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

2nd Saturday Gallery Tour

3 to 5 p.m.
Various locations in Old Town and Uptown Highway 101
2ndsaturdaygallerytour.com

April 15

Early Rhody Flower Show

Siuslaw Chapter of the American

Rhododendron Society

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

April 16

Florence City Council Meeting

5:30 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center

April 17

Us TOO Florence

Prostate Cancer Support Group
With Dr. Roger McKimmy
Noon to 1 p.m.
Open to public
Ichiban Restaurant
541-999-4239

April 19

PeaceHealth Volunteers Luncheon

With featured speaker Dr. Brian Holmes DDS
11:30 a.m.
Lunch is \$5 for members or \$10
Florence Events Center
RSVP to womangolfer7@gmail.com

Backstreet Gallery Hosts Business After Hours

5 to 7 p.m.
Open to public
Backstreet Gallery

SECoast presents Gentry

7 p.m. - concert
6:30 p.m. - preconcert talk
Tickets required
Florence Events Center

April 21

Boat Safety Inspections

With U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 52
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Open to public
Breen Marine
4390 Highway 101

Vision Quest presents "Bring the Wild Alive"

With Cascades Raptor Center
10 to 10:45 a.m.
Open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

Vision Quest presents "Raptors Up

Close and Personal"

With Cascades Raptor Center
10:45 to 11:15 a.m.
Open to public, especially young children
Siuslaw Public Library

Annual Shred Day

Hosted by Oregon Pacific Bank
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Oregon Pacific Bank, 1365 Highway 101

Last Resort Players holds Auditions for "Grey Gardens"

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Open to public
Class Act Theatre

April 22

Last Resort Players holds Auditions for "Grey Gardens"

2 to 4 p.m.
Open to public
Class Act Theatre

Visit rivercal.org for more calendar events.

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