

Pride from 1A

Johnston said. "We got students to come in and we walked down the highway, and the students were keeping a list of everything that needed to be done. And then we thought, let's just have a cleanup."

The students began envisioning a project that would go beyond just trash cleanup. They picked out flowers to plant and decided to beautify the old railroad shed at the fork in the highways. It was that project which

led Coos Bay Rail Link to adorn a locomotive engine with the schools Mapleton Sailors' logo.

"It's rewarding because the students are part of something," Johnston said. "You can see it on their faces. They're using teamwork and camaraderie."

Harden added, "They wanted to see a future here."

While a large crowd of students is expected to attend the event, adults throughout the region are also invited to take part.

"The kids want to see that the

adults care, and the adults want to see that the kids care," Harden said. "The kids have a passion for this, but they want the adults to step up. For me, that's the key. Let the community know there's things they can do."

And for a community like Mapleton, which has no city government, volunteerism is vital to the community's survival.

"It's everything," Harden said. "Whether it's here or the Lion's Club or the library, we couldn't function without our number of volunteers. Without

the number of people who step up, we couldn't function. Lion's Club has always done scholarships and bingo, and they give it all back to the community. Mapleton wouldn't exist without volunteers."

Its events like Mapleton Pride Cleanup that Harden hopes will motivate people in the region to take part in their community through volunteerism and inspire ideas on how to improve the town.

"There are people in the community who want to give back and they don't know how," she

said. "This is a way for them to help. People are wanting to be involved with keeping the community clean and as safe as possible. This gives them an outlet and makes them think of things they hadn't even thought about to help the community, beyond

donating money or bringing in cans of food to the Mapleton Food Share. This shows. It's a physical difference that they can see."

The event runs from 9 a.m. to noon, and gathers at Maple Food Share, 10718 Highway 126.

Interim from 1A

He added that because the board "had a non-traditional transfer" without the usual staggered terms of directors, "We also needed someone with compliance experience in dealing with restricted endowments to insure we had proper reporting policy's in effect."

Butzer will take over the leadership role at OCHS beginning Tuesday.

She said she is looking forward to the challenge.

"As the interim executive director at OCHS, part of my work will be to encourage board members, staff and volunteers alike to focus on the agency's important mission — which is providing excellent care for the animals in their custody, securing safe and loving new homes for those animals and providing education to the public about how to reduce or eliminate pet over-population through spaying and neutering," Butzer said.

UCHS's choice for the interim director position has consider-

able experience working with nonprofit organizations in transition.

Butzer is confident the community will be encouraged with the changes she intends to initiate.

"It's clear that the people of the Florence area are concerned about the status of OCHS at this time and how it will successfully move forward," she said. "Nonprofit Association of Oregon Associates like myself have extensive experience helping nonprofit organizations fulfill their missions successfully through good governance, responsible financial management, support of a qualified and caring staff and the welcome assistance of donors and volunteers from the community."

The OCHS Board of Directors continues to be busy in their first month of service. They are still meeting regularly to familiarize themselves with the operations and financial situation at OCHS.

Hannigan said lack of communication with the organization's former leadership has led to

delays in identifying assets and records for both financials and past board decisions.

There is currently no manager for the OCHS shelter or the Thrift Store on Bay Street.

Hannigan also reported that some volunteers have decided to move on and others have recently joined in assisting at the shelter and the Thrift Store.

These changes were expected and Hannigan thinks having a director, even on an interim basis, will help to alleviate concerns regarding the recent changes.

Butzer's hiring is one of the more significant actions the board has taken since April's election, and it comes at a good time, as the OCHS has recently received a significant donation.

The large monetary donation is from Jo Ann Sutton, a resident of Florence and a longtime supporter of OCHS.

The money received from Sutton will allow OCHS to implement a strategic plan for the future once it is crafted by Butzer and the board.

Butzer is clear about her mis-

sion and she is confident that the DOJ and OCHS members will approve of the new, more professional and transparent direction at the organization.

"We will ensure that governance and operational systems are established, implemented and working well," she said. "We will encourage communication to be open and clear and we will work to be inclusive in our policies and actions."

Butzer also said she has a personal reason for accepting the temporary position at OCHS.

"I'm pleased to begin my work at OCHS this coming week as I am a long-time supporter of my own local humane society in Cottage Grove. My professional work and my love for cats and dogs will dovetail as I work alongside the OCHS board and staff," she said. "My 18-year-old orange tabby cat, Dan, has kindly given me permission to be away from home to perform this work."

"Thank you in advance to the people of Florence whom I'm confident will support the re-emergence of a strong Oregon Coast Humane Society."

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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

Wednesdays

Points of Grace Community Acupuncture
 Experience relief from pain and stress
 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Donations encouraged
 Wellspring Clinic
 1845 Highway 126

May 5

Mapleton Pride Clean Up Challenge
 9 a.m. to noon
 Open to public; taco lunch provided for volunteers
 Mapleton Food Share

Plant and Rummage Sale
 Women of the United Methodist Church

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Open to public
 Florence United Methodist Church

Parking Lot Sale
 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Open to public
 Florence Habitat for Humanity
 ReStore

"The Reunion" Beatles Fantasy Tribute
 7 p.m. — show
 Tickets required
 Florence Events Center

May 6

Jazz Kings — "You Asked For It"
 2 p.m.
 Tickets required
 Florence Events Center

May 7

Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting
 6:30 p.m.
 Open to public
 Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Office
 1775 Laurel Way, Suite 4, Florence

May 8

Florence Startup Happy Hour
 5 to 7 p.m.
 Open to public
 Beachcomber Pub

May 11

Land-Sea Conservation Talk + Beach Cleanup
 11 a.m. — Educational talk on land-sea conservation
 11:30 a.m. — Travel to Stonefield Beach SP (Bring sack lunch for snacking if you wish)
 12:30 to 3:00pm — Beach clean-up
 Cape Perpetua

Coastal Woman Veteran's Lunch
 11:30 a.m.
 Open to woman veterans and their guests
 1285 Restobar

Hawaiian Hula Basics at the Coast
 2:15 p.m.
 Open to public
 Lane Community College Florence Center

CROW Spring Dance Showcase
 7 p.m.
 Tickets required
 Florence Events Center, crowkids.com

May 12

Oregon Dunes Triathlon
 6 a.m.
 Registration fee; volunteers needed
 Woahink Lake on Canary Road
 oregondunestriathlon.com

Florence Garden Club Plant Sale & Marketplace + Florence Senior Center Food Fundraiser
 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Open to public with a menu available all day
 Florence Senior Center

BioBlitz: Migratory Bird Day
 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Open to public
 Cape Perpetua

Florence Area Democratic Club Meeting
 11 a.m.
 Open to public
 Siuslaw Public Library

"Dinner on the Wild Side"
 Wildlife of the Oregon Dunes
 Presented by Vision Quest
 5:30 p.m.
 Open to public; dinner purchase from Smokin' Pops Carolina Bar-B-Que

optional
 Lane Community College Florence Center

Community Chorus Mother's Day Concert
 7 p.m.
 Open to public
 Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw
 541-997-3469

Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers
 8 p.m.
 Tickets required
 Three Rivers Casino

May 13

Mother's Day Celebration
 Noon
 Open to public
 Florence Elks No. 1858
 1686 12th St.

Community Chorus Mother's Day Concert
 3 p.m.
 Open to public
 Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw
 541-997-3469

Visit rivercal.org for more calendar events.

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