

UPRIVER KIDS FUNDRAISE FOR SUMMER CAMP

Kids throughout the Siuslaw region took part in a festive Cuatro de Mayo celebration last Friday, which included a taco feed, games, a raffle and prizes.

Children dressed up in traditional Mexican attire during the festival, which saw dozens of participants both old and young taking part in the fun festivities.

The event was held in conjunction with the Swisshome Evangelical Church and Mapleton churches in the hopes of raising enough funds to send around 35 kids to camp for the summer.

For elementary school aged children, Camp Harlow in Eugene is the destination, where boys can sleep in a covered wagon and girls get to stay in beautifully kept lodges. Different activities include horseback riding, go-carts, craft time and a swimming pool.

For the middle and high



COURTESY PHOTO

Upriver community children take part in a Cuatro de Mayo celebration to raise funds for summer camp.

schoolers, a trip to Eagle Cove Camp is on the docket, where attendees can take part in boating, inner tubing, music and an inflatable slide into the lake.

“Not a lot goes on here in Mapleton,” event organizer Cassie Barrows said. “In the summertime, we have the river. But the kids get bored. This gives them a chance to get out

and do something different from what they usually do outside of Mapleton and make new friends.”

The camps are religious in nature, with daily study time devoted to Christian principles, but camp goes don’t have to be a part of the religion to participate.

But one of the most impor-

tant parts of the process is the fundraising itself. The group needs a total of \$9,000 to send the kids, which the group raises through various fundraisers throughout the year. Along with the Cuatro de Mayo celebration, which raised \$1,716, youth have taken part in car washes and spaghetti dinners over the past years.

“The fundraising part is really important,” Barrows said. “We want them to set a goal, follow through, and work for something. And it can be fun to do that.”

More fundraisers will be held throughout the year.

To take part in the fundraisers, donate funds or sign kids up for the camps, email Barrows at barrows44@outlook.com.

Checks for donations can be made payable to Swisshome Church and mailed to Barrows at 11922 East Mapleton Road, Mapleton Or, 97453.

Florence Farmer’s Market to open in Old Town

The New Florence Farmer’s Market will officially open Tuesday, May 15, from 3 to 7 p.m. The market will be located next to the Veteran’s Memorial Park in Historic Old Town, at Bay and Kingwood streets.

The market will be open rain or shine every Tuesday through October.

Florence is joining towns up

and down the Oregon coast in providing locally grown and processed foods to fill the need for food security locally and in surrounding areas. Committed responses from 10 area vendors will provide greater access to a variety of organic and sustainably grown farm products, both fresh and processed.

And as part of the market’s

mission to support the community, the SNAP program will be accessible to its participants at the market.

The market is an initiative of the Siuslaw Vision 2025 program and is sponsored by the Florence Area Community Coalition.

A market team, coordinated and assembled by Mary Shaw,

worked this year to make the market a reality.

“Community response for the market has been tremendously supportive,” said Shaw. “Many residents helped to fund the market through its gofundme page.”

For more information, visit the Siuslaw Vision website at rivercal.org.



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