

Apply now for Friends of the FEC grant cycle

The application period for the Friends of the Florence Events Center (FEC) Performance Grants has opened and applications should be submitted no later than July 1, 2018. The Friends of the FEC provide

grants for other nonprofit organizations that schedule performance events for fundraising at the events center, 715 Quince St., throughout the year. The amounts of the grants will be determined at the July month-

ly meeting of the friends. Applications are available at the FEC office anytime they are open, Monday through Friday. For more information, visit event-center.org or call 541-997-1994.

OCHS from page 1A

Board President Jack Hannigan has taken a lead role in overseeing the revival of OCHS, which is one of Florence's most successful nonprofit organizations. Hannigan welcomed members with his upbeat personality, which established a positive tone as he opened with a progress update for the shelter.

"On April 18, we met with the ODJ at the Florence Events Center and representatives gave us three things that they wanted us to do immediately. The first thing the Justice Department wanted was for us to repeal the current set of bylaws. Those bylaws were invalid and needed to formally be repealed," Hannigan said. "The second thing the ODJ wanted us to do was to bring in another set of bylaws that brought members back into the organization and gave them voting rights.

"With the help of several people and other members of the board, we looked through bylaws and we came up with the bylaws from 2006 and we then ratified the 2006 bylaws."

The third thing that Hannigan said the ODJ strongly suggested was a change in the policy that permitted general public attendance at OCHS board meetings.

"The ODJ said it was one of the only boards of a nonprofit that was open to the public and the reason was expediency. As long as the board was commu-

nicating with the members of the organization, the board meeting should be private," Hannigan said.

Hannigan also spoke about meeting his new board members and beginning the process of developing a working relationship.

"It was a unique experience, to say the least, when we first met each other. It was a very interesting meeting as few of us knew anything about anyone else elected, so we all came in not knowing each other personally," he said.

The new acquaintances met daily after first being confirmed and installed by representatives of the ODJ.

The board members had to familiarize themselves with the different elements of OCHS and identify the most pressing needs in order to move forward with a plan.

Leadership for the animal shelter and the thrift stores was the first order of business for the new board, so the board hired Interim Executive Director Barbara Butzer as one of the its first official acts.

Butzer reported that she has hired a manager for the thrift store and has expanded the placement ad for the position of permanent executive director to a national search.

One of the most anticipated reports was delivered by Treasurer Jerry Hatcher, whose report detailed the organization's financial situation. One highlight was the recent large bequest from the Sutton estate.

The takeaway from Hatcher's report was that the OCHS has plenty of money at this time and should begin the process of securing the financial future of the organization.

Hannigan addressed this by announcing the formation of a committee that would focus on making sound financial decisions on the behalf of OCHS.

"I've asked City Manager Erin Reynolds, who is a CPA, and Mayor Joe Henry to join this committee and we will be looking into how to best invest this money for the short term and for the long term," Hannigan said.

Directors-at-Large Bonnie Comp-ton and Judy Roth gave updates on the welfare of the animals at the shelter, and Director Dolly Broch discussed a new photo program that should dramatically improve the images of adoptable pets on line.

Another important area of concern for OCHS volunteers and staff was the issue of safe handling of long-term canine residents of the shelter. To answer these concerns, OCHS has hired professional trainers to improve the techniques used by volunteers and staff to walk and display animals.

The directors also agreed to quickly implement all of the remaining suggestions made by the ODJ in the wake of its inquiry and the resulting analysis of the needs of the OCHS.

Some OCHS members may have felt an element of apprehension prior

to the meeting — based on the chaotic nature of past board meetings, where exchanges between board members, organization members and unaffiliated members of the public sometimes turned into shouting matches and threats. These ultimately required the presence of Florence police officers to maintain order.

There was no police presence at Wednesday's meeting, with OCHS' current directors expressing a desire to be transparent and responsive to member concerns.

Lane Community College Florence Dean Russ Pierson was on hand as Parliamentarian to assure proper parliamentary procedure was followed. He moderated a short and civil public question section of the meeting, during which only a few questions were asked.

Hannigan reinforced the more inclusive approach the current board is taking by talking about unanswered questions the public may have.

"Because we have only been here for two months, we will get your name and then we will answer every one of those questions when we research the answer, so we can give you a confident reply," he said.

The OCHS Board of Directors also expressed a need for volunteers at the shelter and the OCHS Thrift Store on Bay Street.

For more information on OCHS, call 541-997-4277 or visit www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org.

ARRESTS from page 1A

Those arrested included charges for:

- Brooke Bales — Possession of a Controlled Substance (PSC) for Meth-amphetamines and Frequenting a Place Controlled Substances are Used
- John Barron — Felon in Possession of a Firearm
- Justin Thompson — PSC for Heroin, Frequenting a Place Controlled Substances are Used and Felon in Possession of a Firearm
- Michael Bechtold — Attempting PCS for Heroin, and PSC-Schedule III Drug
- Brianna Mill — PSC for Heroin and Frequenting a Place Controlled Substances are Used
- Kenneth Hammerberg — Frequenting a Place Controlled Substances are Used

According to officials, the investigation is ongoing and those who have been charged may receive additional charges as the investigation continues.

Police say there may be more arrests as well.

"We are thankful that many people got the message to stay away from the active location," said Sgt. Carrie Carver with the Lane County Sheriff's Office. "When people hear about an event like this, they sometimes like to go there. We prefer the exact opposite. Our jobs are much more difficult with a large audience."

Though the activity had a large presence along Highway 101, Messmer said there was no danger to the public during the arrests, and Highway 101 remained open during the incident.

Residents and travelers continued to see a police presence in the area for several hours after the arrests.

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

Tuesdays Yoga for Pain Management & Easeful Body Sponsored by PeaceHealth Peace Harbor 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free and drop-ins welcome Lane Community College Florence Center	June 23 Kiwanis Golf Tournament 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration required Ocean Dunes Golf Links	June 24 Copa Cabana Beach Soccer Tournament All Day 800-422-5091 Driftwood Shores	June 26 Planning Commission Meeting 5:30 p.m. Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.	June 29 OPB's 34th annual Ice Cream Social 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to public Oregon Pacific Bank
Florence Farmers Market 3 to 7 p.m. Open to public Kingwood and Bay streets	Florence Masonic Lodge Breakfast Fundraiser 9 to 11 a.m. Donations welcome Florence Masonic Lodge, 84910 Highway 101	Walk Among Giants Hosted by Vision Quest 1 to 3 p.m. Open to public PAWN Trail RiverCal.org	Deadwood Creek Restoration Planning Siuslaw Watershed Council and Siuslaw National Forest 6 to 8 p.m. Open to public Deadwood Community Center, 91792 Deadwood Creek Road	Paint and Sip Class with Karyllynn Keppol 5:15 to 8:30 p.m. Registration required Mindpower Gallery, 417 Fir Ave. in Reedsport
Wednesdays Points of Grace Community Acupuncture Experience relief from pain and stress 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations appreciated 1845 Highway 126	Writers on the River "Writing to Heal Your Life" 10 a.m. to noon FRAA Art Center CJReditor@gmail.com, 541-708-2120	Florence Ukulele Club "The Flukes" 1:30 p.m. — Beginners 3 p.m. — Song Circle for all levels Loaner ukuleles available and open to the public Siuslaw Public Library janetwellington@gmail.com	June 27 Florence Urban Renewal Agency Meeting 5:30 p.m. Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.	Big Wave Poetry Slam Presented by Florence Regional Arts Alliance 6:30 p.m. \$5 admission Florence Events Center bigwavefraa@gmail.com
Weekly Yoga at the Yachats Commons Therapeutic — Tuesday 9:30 to 11 a.m. & Friday 8 to 9:30 a.m.; gym Vinyasa Flow for beginners/intermediate — Thursday 3 to 4:30 p.m.; Room 8 Bikram-Ease — Tuesday 4:20 to 6 p.m.; Room 8 541-47-4139 and altruh444@gmail.com	Copa Cabana Beach Soccer Tournament All Day 800-422-5091 Driftwood Shores	June 25 to 29 Siuslaw Watershed Council Watershed Camp For 4th- through 12th-grades Camp is \$75 for the week; scholarships are available https://buff.ly/2KMurGK or 541-268-3044	Caregivers Dealing with Dementia 6 p.m. Open to public Spruce Point Assisted Living	Sparkle on the Siltcoos Fireworks Show 10 p.m. Open to public Darlings Marina and Resort Donations accepted at www.gofundme.com/sparkle2018
Weekdays to Aug. 17 Summer Meal Program Free to youth 18 and under; no questions asked Breakfast: 8 to 8:30 a.m., Siuslaw elementary and high schools Lunch: Elementary: 11:30 to 11:55 a.m. Miller Park: Noon to 12:15 p.m.	Trails Locals Love Hosted by Vision Quest 1 to 2:30 p.m. Open to public Siuslaw Public Library RiverCal.org	June 25 Craig Carothers Concert 7 to 9 p.m. \$10 admission Best Western Pier Point Inn	June 28 Western Lane Ambulance District Board of Directors Meeting Noon Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, 2625 Highway 101	Visit rivercal.org for more calendar events.
	Olem Alves and Inner Limits 7 to 11 p.m. Open to public 21+ Blue Bills Sports Bar at Three Rivers Casino Resort	June 25 to 29 "Game On!" Vacation Bible School 9 a.m. to noon Youth registration required First Baptist Church	Florence Pub Talk	

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