

# Community Voices

INSIDE — A7

# TEEING OFF AT NEW GOLF TOURNAMENT

SPORTS — B



# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## 'You've got to help out in some way'

Power of Florence's new student organizers talk about their experiences with volunteering, coordinating event

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

"If your community is so awesome that people are willing to give up their Saturday to help out other people, that really shows who we are as a town," Ava Glowacki said. "We're pretty cool people."

Ava, along with her mother Ella and her best friend, Faith Lumadue, are officially taking the reins of the Power of Florence this year. The two 13-year olds were given the opportunity after the event's original founder, Kaylee Graham, graduated from Siuslaw High School this June.

They're also extremely nervous talking about the program.

After giving the opening quote, Ava looked at her mother with a smile, asking if the quote worked.

"That was good," Ella said.

"Yeah, you should quote me on that," Ava said.



This year's Power of Florence leaders are Ava Glowacki and Faith Lumadue, two Siuslaw Middle School 13-year-olds who have officially taken the reins from founder Kaylee Graham.

There's a lot to be nervous about. Since they became involved, the

three have put in countless hours organizing and publicizing the event,

making sure that everything goes off without a hitch.

There's a lot to organize. As of right now, there will be 14 volunteer groups giving their time on the event, from cleaning the Oregon Coast Military Museum to adding bark and removing weeds from the front of Siuslaw High School.

As for events, there's the free pancake and scrambled Egg Breakfast at the United Methodist Church, the Power Walk through Old Town (the official start of the day at 9 a.m.) and the Party in the Parking Lot on Highway 101, which will have more than 30 booths devoted to raising funds for various causes around the region. There will also be live entertainment and vehicle demonstrations from local and state agencies.

How the three got involved with such a monumental task started when Kaylee asked Ava and Ella out for coffee.

"We thought, 'Oh, that sounds fun!'" Ava said. "So, we go there, sit down, have a hot chocolate, and then we talk."

See HELPING page 6A



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

New Executive Director David Montes has joined Florence Food Share, 2190 Spruce St.

## New director begins at food share

Florence Food Share has hired a new executive director to manage the organization's food distribution pantry, located at 2190 Spruce St. David Montes has been hired to fill the position which was vacated by Norma Barton in April.

Montes has previous experience working with and for nonprofits, and he seems confident in his ability to step in and take the leadership reins at food share.

"During my 18 years working in social service nonprofits, I've had a supervisory, managerial and fundraising roles in the areas of child abuse prevention, hospice, early childhood development, developmental disabilities, life skills education and work with runaway and homeless youth," Montes said. "In my most recent role, before moving to Florence, I was the client services director for multiple pregnancy centers and maternity homes with Living Hope Centers."

Monte was drawn to the position at Florence

Food Share in part due to the manner in which the pantry works individually with clients.

"I'm a strong believer in empowering people to improve their quality of life. I was impressed with the Client Choice Model at food share, which allows people to choose for themselves what products they receive," he said. "Another facet was food share's partnerships with several local organizations who do their part in meeting the needs of our community, such as Helping Hands and Habitat for Humanity."

The new director is also concerned with providing educational opportunities for interested clients and feels that offering nutritionally oriented services is an important element in the organization's toolbox.

"Empowering our clients through healthy nutrition education is also a part of Florence Food Share's culture that caught my attention," Montes said. "This includes our Cooking Skills demonstration on Wednesdays, which uses ingredients grown in our garden and is funded through Siuslaw Vision 2025."

See FOOD SHARE page 9A

## LANE COUNTY SHERIFF K9 UNIT RECEIVES LOCAL DONATIONS

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) recently received \$1,000 in financial donations from Florence Elks Lodge 1858 and local veteran's group Band of Brothers to help pay for advanced K9 training for "Hektor," a 20-month-old Belgian Malinois, and his human handler, Deputy Raymond May.

Hektor and May are the newest addition to the LCSO and are preparing to participate in a multi-week, advanced training program, which costs \$4,500.

Sharon and Tom Armstrong are members of the Elks Lodge, and they decided to try to contribute to the costs associated with the additional training after seeing a press release describing the need for financial support from the community for the advanced training.

Tom is a member of the unofficial group of local veterans known as the Band of Brothers and a longtime member of the Elks.

The Band of Brothers meets weekly at the Elks Lodge, and Tom brought up the idea of making a donation for the training at a recent meeting.

Lane County Sheriff's Office's newest K9 Unit, consisting of Deputy Raymond May and Hektor, received money from local residents to help with training.

"The Band of Brothers takes up a collection on a regular basis, and when the fund builds up to a certain level they want to find a community-based project to support," Sharon said. "So, when they saw the picture of the dog in the Siuslaw News, it grabbed their attention and they thought that would be a great way to show our support for law enforcement and contribute to a worthwhile cause."

Tom then contacted the LCSO and eventually spoke with Hektor's handler, May. May and Hektor had received their initial training but were preparing to learn more sophisticated techniques and procedures that would benefit the entire county.

May was appreciative of the donation being considered and agreed to make the trip to Florence to introduce the dog to the people that were donating



COURTESY PHOTO

money to assist in the K9 pair's advanced training.

"When Deputy May called back, he said he would bring the dog to a meeting — and that really convinced the group it was the right fundraiser to get involved in," Sharon said. "When he spoke to our group, he was very funny, and the dog was so impressive, we knew we had made a good choice."

She said that when the time for the presentation of the check arrived, she was surprised at the reaction of those in attendance.

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SUNDAY  
73 55

MONDAY  
72 53

TUESDAY  
70 53

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