

PARKS *from page 1A*

“What all those come up to is having the Parks Division work with communities to really grow and develop a parks system that meets community needs, looking at economic vitality for smaller communities to attract tourism by providing recreational opportunities,” Conrad said.

He also stated that the goals will be kept in line with the spirit of the communities the parks reside in.

The division maintains a number of parks in the Siuslaw region, including Harbor Vista, Archie Knowles, Camp Lane, and various water access parks including the Mapleton boat landing and Heceta Beach. Throughout the county, the division is the caretaker of 68 parks in total.

The Lane County Parks Division has seen a number of successes in recent years, including an uptick in RV and tent camping at Harbor Vista Park.

Archie Knowles Campground, which reopened in 2016, has also been finding its niche as one-night stop for western-bound travelers.

“We also have a building interest with families who want to rent the whole campground,” Conrad said. “They can have all their family together, and that’s a great opportunity to have it as one massive group site for the weekend.”

A few weeks ago, the Mapleton Boat Landing was reopened after being silted in and deemed unusable for a number of years. The site is now dredged and open to the public, and the division plans to continue to dredge once a year.

Beyond maintaining existing properties, the division is also looking to expand.

“We’ve got some projects and ideas for Bender Landing to work with the property owner to put in a trail system to provide different experiences for bird watching or different access points for the river system,” Conrad said.

But to keep these parks flourishing, the county needs the help of community members. The division has a limited budget of 3.5 million annually to maintain its 68 parks. It only has six full time rangers to cover the 4,300 acres the division cares for and relies heavily on part time workers and volunteers to help maintain the parks.

Lane County also relies heavily on friends’ groups. A major component of the six-part plan is utilizing and growing these groups in a strategic way.

“One of our strategies is to form an umbrella friends’ group for all of the Lane County Parks that could help smaller friends’ groups with fundraising and guidance,” Conrad said. “That could go throughout all our parks and do projects and community service. We do have several friends’ groups that are really active and provide a lot of benefit to the parks and the community. We want to continue to build on that.”

After the division finishes touring the plan through Lane communities (six in total), the plan will then go through multiple public meetings with parks advisory committees and planning commissions. If all goes well, the Board of County Commissioners will adopt the master plan in early December.

But to make sure that the plan is complete by then, the division needs as much input as possible.

“We would love to have that, so that when we do go to the

board, we will feel confident that the master plan is fully supported by the community and is the direction the community wants their parks division to go, as well as how we’re going to grow and develop the parks throughout the county,” Conrad said.

Beyond the Aug. 3 meeting, the public is invited to read the plan online and fill out an online comment form. The public is also invited to the numerous upcoming county meetings to give public testimony.

“I encourage people to come out to talk and engage with us,” Conrad said. “All the feedback we’ve gotten so far has been really positive. We’ve got great goals and great strategies. We’re really excited to get it going and start that implementation phase.”

The Florence meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 2 at the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Main Station, 2625 Highway 101.

To view the Master Plan and leave online comments, visit www.lanecounty.org.

The comment section is available until Aug. 30.

Spirituality Tea looks at building civilizations

On Monday, July 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m., all are invited to join a group of people who enjoy finding the common grounds in diverse spiritual thoughts and paths.

The meeting is at 875 Seventh St. in Florence.

The topic is “Civilization Building.”

This Monday, evening July 30 at 6:30 pm, you are invited to join all of our dear friends who have attended our gatherings for over 18 years and who enjoy finding the common grounds in diverse spiritual thoughts and paths.

The topic is “Civilization Building.”

The Writings of the Bahá’í Faith say, “The goal of building a new civilization requires complete change in how society is organized and also in the conduct and behavior of individuals. In this connection, Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings intend to effect a transformation in the whole character of mankind, a transformation that shall manifest itself, both outwardly and inward-

ly, that shall affect both its inner life and external conditions”.

Members of the group believe it is essential to accept that all the people of the world, indeed of every community, are one. The recognition of this vital truth has many implications on the life of a community and of society at large.

When spiritual and scientific knowledge is accessible to all, the group believes, members of a community can together learn to apply it to their collective life.

This is related to the community-building endeavors of the Bahá’í discussed in the previous statement that are intensifying in many clusters, neighborhoods, and villages across the globe.

The group believes that the change in culture they are fostering is evidence of how a new society emerges from the efforts of growing numbers of people to apply the teachings of God in this day to the life of a growing number of communities.

Bring thoughts on the subject

for open discussion.

The gathering will end at 8 p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

For more information, contact Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0616.

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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

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

Florence Farmers Market
3 to 7 p.m.
Open to public
Kingwood and Bay streets

Wednesdays

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

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, altruh444@gmail.com

Weekends

Florence Oregon Boardwalk Market Crafter’s Market
Friday — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk

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.
Siuslaw Public Library: 12:20 to 12:35 p.m.
High school: 12:40 to 12:55 p.m.
www.siuslaw.k12.or.us; 541-997-2651

July 28

Florence Senior Center third annual Garage Sale
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Open to public
To vend, contact 541-991-7977
Florence Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood St.

Vision Quest hosts “Yakking about Kayaks”

With Mary Nulty and Dick Mason
4:30 to 7 p.m.
Open to public; day-use fee required
Honeyman State Park
RiverCal.org

Ada Grange Summer Bingo
5 p.m. — Kitchen opens
6 p.m. — Bingo begins
Open to public
Located 10 miles out Canary Road

Olem Alves & Inner Limits
7 to 11 p.m.
Open to public 21+
Blue Bills Sports Bar
Three Rivers Casino Resort, 5647 Highway 126

July 29

Florence Ukulele Club “The Flukes”
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. — Beginners
3 to 4 p.m. — Song Circle for all levels
Ukuleles available; open to public
Siuslaw Public Library
janetwellington@gmail.com

Aug. 1

SEACoast Season Tickets Sales Open
Eventcenter.org; seacoastea.org
Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Mapleton Summer Reading Finale
Waterslide, Picnic and Party
1 to 3 p.m.
Open to youth and families
Siuslaw Public Library in Mapleton, 88148 Riverview Ave.

Aug. 2

Florence Summer Reading Finale
Waterslide, Picnic and Party
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Open to youth and families
Siuslaw Public Library in Florence, 1460 Ninth St.

Habitat for Humanity Hosts Business After Hours
With Florence Area Chamber of Commerce
4:30 to 6 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Habitat for Humanity
ReStore, 2016 Highway 101

Community Forum: Lane County Parks Master Plan Draft
5:30 to 7 p.m.
Open to public
Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, 2625 Highway 101

Heritage Players present: “Siuslaw Pioneers Yesterday and Yesteryear”

A fundraiser for KXCR
6:30 p.m.
Tickets required
City Lights Cinemas

Aug. 3

MainlyPiano House Concert Series: Milo Graamans
7 p.m.
\$20 suggested donation
RSVP to 541-999-9720 or kathypiano@gmail.com for address

Aug. 4

Between Shadow and Light
Music and dance presented by Neil Patton and Dance Veritas
7 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Aug. 7

National Night Out with Florence Police Department
6 to 9 p.m.
Open to public
Miller Park
ci.florence.or.us/police/national-night-out-0

Visit rivercal.org for more calendar events.

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4981 Highway 101,
across Munsel Lake Rd
541-305-5411
Call for an appointment