

# Spirituali-Tea to seek 'Eudaimonia' Monday

Those interested in discussing diverse spiritual ideas in an atmosphere of respect and inquisitiveness are invited to join a group that has been meeting for years at 875 Seventh St., beginning at 6:30 p.m.

This week's topic will be eudaimonia.

When Varun Soni, dean of religious life at USC, was in college, he embarked on a spiritual journey to find happiness. As part of his journey, he spent a semester living in a Buddhist monastery in Bodhi Gaya, India, studying Buddhist philosophy, scripture and practice.

It was there that he first encountered Buddha's First Noble Truth: Life is suffering and to live is to suffer.

But what connects us as human beings is our shared desire to be free from suffering.

He eventually realized that happiness was the wrong goal for him, and in some ways, it was a trap. He found that happiness arises, and ceases based on external conditions that are often beyond control.

What he was really seeking was equanimity, a calm and resilient state that is beyond happiness, and that emerges from internal conditions that are often within control.

He went on to say that folks are looking to thrive in their lives, they are looking for well-being and a sense of belonging, they are looking for meaning and purpose, for significance and authenticity, for joy and inspiration.

And ultimately, they are trying to embody what ancient Greek philosophers called eudaimonia, a state of human flourishing and peak performance in the art of living.

He found that in terms of achieving eudaimonia, spirituality and science are now in agreement: The single most important factor for human flourishing is the cultivation of loving and enduring relationships.

The depth and quality of our loving relationships determines how we feel about our lives, and so the best way for us to achieve eudaimonia is to spend time living meaningfully and sharing life experiences with the people we love.

All are welcomed to bring their thoughts for a lively discussion.

At the end of the gathering, the group will read all the prayer requests that have been left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse, 208 Laurel St.

# Wood carving by Dan Heffron on exhibit at Chamber

Dan "Heffy" Heffron of Heffy's Gallery is this month's featured artist at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's Visitors Center.

"This is incredible wood carving, true artistry," said Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan. "There's a table-sized turtle that's just gorgeous, plus some stunning watercolor paintings by Jowanna Gosselin."

Heffy's Gallery is presenting 18 pieces of exceptional wood carvings and Gosselin's watercolors throughout August. He specializes in wood burning sculpture and using unusual burl woods.

"The turtle took three and a half months and its shell is made from a lightning-strike maple burl from Michigan," explained Heffron.

Heffron has been carving wood professionally for more than 40 years but engaged in

the building trades and logging industry in his native Michigan "to support his habit."

"Heffy is a new chamber member and is already working to make a difference for Florence and the chamber," Hannigan said.

Heffron is self-taught and makes his own tools for his unique style, and plans to offer carving and sculpting classes, in wood and stone, soon. He loves combing the local beaches after winter storms for the best materials.

He opened Heffy's Gallery on July 4, at 1856 37th St., behind Linda's Thrift Shop at 37th Street and Highway 101.

The 1,000-plus square-foot shop features about 170 pieces of Heffron's work, including a carving of a golden eagle with an eight-foot wingspan.

The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.



The wood carving of artist Dan 'Heffy' Heffron will be on display at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center through August.

# FUUF ponders vision of future at next meeting

On Sunday, Aug. 26, from 10 to 11 a.m., Dr. Ruth Miller will deliver the message titled "Labor in the Emerging Culture: A Vision for the Future."

The meeting will be held at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF).

As Labor Day weekend approaches, Dr. Miller said she

sees a western industrial culture that has reached a turning point: human labor produces less than machine labor, and there are fewer jobs for those who work with their hands than for those who work with their heads. Karl Marx predicted this time, and it has come.

"What does that mean for the

future?" Dr. Miller will share historical and economic trends that suggest a different kind of culture is emerging, in which both labor and management shift radically, and offer a vision of a culture that honors all people and all effort.

FUUF, located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach

Rd., is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.

For more information, visit [www.florenceuuf.org](http://www.florenceuuf.org).

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**CITY** *from page 1A*

higher levels of E. coli and enterococcus bacteria discharged into the Siuslaw River."

Mike Miller is Public Works Director for Florence and is responsible for the proper operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Miller reports that he is working closely with staff to correct the unexpected bacteria problem.

"The peak flow periods for the wastewater plant are typically 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. Our issue during this last week was that the filamentous bacteria had uncontrolled growth in the treatment system, creating a situation where the plant's benefi-

cial culture (bugs) were being washed out of the clarifier into our effluent discharge stream and rendering the UV disinfection system less effective during the peak flow period," Miller said. "We believe that the current extended dry and warm weather pattern played a role in the unwanted bacterial growth."

Miller went on to explain that staff has been very proactive in their response to the increase in harmful bacteria outflow from the plant and the latest test results indicate the bacteria is in retreat.

Messmer said city staff have taken water quality samples in the affected area, upstream on the Siuslaw River and downstream on the Siuslaw River.

Notices have been posted to advise the public of the potential hazards and to avoid contact with the water.

"The public is highly advised to thoroughly cook any shellfish harvested in the immediate vicinity of the Florence Wastewater Treatment Plant and to take universal precautions by washing hands with soap and clean water," Messmer said. "Our dedicated and highly trained wastewater treatment staff are working hard to restore the biological balance so that the plant can quickly return to normal operations."

Miller added that the while the process taken to address the bacteria situation at the plant has begun, it may take a bit lon-

ger than hoped to completely rectify itself.

"The good news is that recent fecal coliform test results of the wastewater plant effluent was well below our discharge permit parameters. Additionally, our test results for the Siuslaw River upstream, downstream and at the discharge outfall area indicated no measurable organisms per 100 ml of water for fecal coliform. One test result is not necessarily an actual permit violation, however we feel strongly that being good stewards of our natural resources, it is better to be proactive in notifying the public of a possible or potential health concern," Miller said.

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