

# MainlyPiano House Concert Series hosts benefit for OCHS

Pianist/composer Dan Chadburn and singer/songwriter Tom Nichols will be making their sixth concert appearance in Kathy Parsons' MainlyPiano.com House Concert Series on Saturday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. Joining them will be Dan's sister, Jenny Chadburn, also a gifted solo pianist and vocalist. This concert will be for the benefit of the Oregon

Coast Humane Society here in Florence and all donations will go directly to them. Cash, checks and pet supplies are all gratefully accepted. Dan's concerts are relaxed and informal and include a piano improvisation in each half. He has released seven instrumental albums, most of which have received significant radio airplay worldwide. His 2016

release "Beyond Words" was nominated for Whisperings' Album of the Year as well as Zone Music Reporter's Solo Piano Album of the Year. Tom released his first solo album, "Trust," in 2011 and has produced the albums of many artists — including Dan — in the Washington D.C. area. In addition to his work in music, Tom has an active career in

conservation and social justice issues. He is currently the vice president of finance and operations for the Arcus Foundation in New York City. From the late 1980s through early 2000s, Jenny Chadburn performed as Jenny Butler, The Jenny Butler Trio and in an original band called NuMonet. After a long hiatus to focus on education and career, she joins

Dan and Tom to share her gift as a solo pianist and vocalist. At the House Concert, there is a suggested donation of \$20 at the door, but any and all donations will be accepted. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 541-999-9720 or emailing at kathypliano@gmail.com. The address and directions will be given when reservations are made.




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**ACADEMY from page 1A**

The centuries-old desire to leave earth and soar among the clouds is not nearly as difficult as it once was, and a perfect example of this change is taking place this summer at the Florence Municipal Airport. This is where for the third year in a row, members of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Lane County and local aviation firm Aero Legends are taking the first steps down a path that may lead students to obtaining a pilot's license and flying a plane of their own.

Terry Tomeny is a retired U.S. Air Force pilot and owner of Aero Legends, which offers flying lessons and recreational flights in a colorful and historic Biplane.

Tomeny and others donate the fuel and the classroom space for the Air Academy and provide the students with an example of how a pilot and a small business owner can have a significant role in helping a young person better understand the options available to them as they grow up.

During the academy, Tomeny and other volunteer pilots instruct the students on the basics of aviation and work closely with them on the math that is required to determine fuel usage and flight times. The young pilots also learn basic airplane maintenance and flight instructions.

The students this year are almost equally divided between boys and girls.

"This is all done for kids in the Boys and Girls Club, hosted by Aero Legends, and this year supported by a grant from Western Lane Community Foundation and some generous donations by some Rotarians," Tomeny said. "The students went to the Eugene Airport this week and on Friday they worked with pilots individually to go over safety checks before taking the plane up with their instructors."

Chuck Trent is the director of the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County, and he is very pleased with the interest shown by the young people at the club in the Air Academy. This is the third year the

club has worked with Aero Legends to offer youth the chance to learn the basics of flying. The two-week seminar concluded on Friday with all of the students taking the controls of their individual aircraft and putting to use the information they have learned in the last two weeks.

The increasing interest in science related fields of study and the rising importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum for students is one of the main reasons Trent is such a fan of this particular program.

"STEM education is critical to the ultimate success of our young people, as STEM jobs in the United States are expected to grow nearly twice as fast as other fields," he said. "Unfortunately, there is a shortage of both interested and adequately prepared kindergarten through 12th-grade students in STEM subjects, especially among minority youth and young women."

While the long term need for scientists and engineers is one of the main reasons for the Air Academy, there is the more basic goal for Trent and Tomeny — the two just want the participants and their families to have some fun while learning.

The two-week class schedule included a celebration of the conclusion of this academy and all the work done by the student pilots.

"Friday is going to be really cool," Trent said. "We are going to use a taxi formation that is used in air shows and the kids will fly from 9 to 11 a.m. I'll be out on the flight apron with a radio so that parents can listen in as the kids fly the course they plotted and make all the radio calls. We will have a graduation ceremony after the last plane lands, followed by a BBQ for the families and friends of the kiddos."

For more information on the Florence Air Academy and other after-school programs, contact Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County at 541-902-0304 and bgcwl.org.



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