

PEACE HARBOR CELEBRATES NEXT-GENERATION ‘LA PALOMA’

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center caregivers, volunteers, donors and board members gathered outside the hospital Thursday, Sept. 12, to celebrate the unveiling of a new courier vehicle—a generous gift from the Peace Harbor Medical Center Foundation and volunteers.

The vehicle, a golf cart, carries the name “La Paloma” — Spanish for “The Dove.”

“It’s a fitting name for a vehicle that helps bring peace and comfort to the patients and caregivers it serves,” said Heather Quaas-Annsa, program director of development for the Peace Harbor Foundation.

The original La Paloma was a gift from the Peace Harbor Auxiliary back in 1997. There’d been a series of expansions to the Peace Harbor campus since the new hospital opened in 1989, and the challenge of transporting patients, caregivers and supplies from building to building was becoming a concern.

Former hospital board member P.T. Smith took the issue to hospital administration, asking for an action plan. Hospital volunteers graciously stepped forward to purchase a golf cart. Thirteen years later, P.T. Smith stepped up again, donating \$11,000 for a much-needed replacement vehicle. Now, after logging some 2,000 miles per year, the nine-year-old La Paloma is ready for retirement!

The volunteer-operated golf cart



The Peace Harbor Medical Center foundation gifted PeaceHealth Peace Harbor a new courier vehicle (above) to replace the older model (below right) gifted to the medical center in 1997.

will continue to provide transport five days a week, eight hours a day, rain or shine, across the Peace Harbor campus.

“We are so grateful for the commitment and service from all of the La Paloma crew, as well as the inspiration and motivation of its found-

ing members,” Quaas-Annsa said.

PeaceHealth, based in Vancouver, Wash., is a not-for-profit Catholic health system offering care to communities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska. PeaceHealth has 16,000 caregivers, a group practice with more than 1,200 providers and 10

medical centers serving both urban and rural communities throughout the Northwest. Today, PeaceHealth continues with a spirit of respect, stewardship, collaboration and social justice in fulfilling its mission.

For more information, visit peacehealth.org.

Siuslaw Sauntering at Sutton Creek on Sept. 21

Join the Siuslaw Watershed Council on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for “Siuslaw Sauntering at Sutton Creek,” a one-mile walk. The hike begins at the Holman Vista Overlook, six miles north of Florence in the Sutton Recreation Area. Designed as a self-guided

hike with a fact sheet aligned with numbered markers along the trail, people may walk alone or with a volunteer familiar with the trail. At five different locations, people will learn about this creek that salmon pass through on their way to spawning creeks above Sut-

ton and Mercer Lakes. Attendees will also hear about Snowy Plovers and the area’s ever-changing dunes.

People will then head upstream, where they will look at debris jams and diversity of species along the way. There will also be the chance to see some of the common invasive plants in the meadow, where, if people choose, they can help with removal.

This marks the end of the walk, and provides a perfect spot for a picnic, a sandy beach to wade in the creek and cool toes, or to return to the parking lot.

Most people can then complete the Loop Trail, another half mile, or allow a volunteer to shuttle people back.

There is no cost for this walk. Donations to the Sius-

law Watershed Council, www.siuslaw.org, or to ECO (Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors), www.ecologiepeopletdoors.org, are appreciated and welcomed to support watershed education for our local youth.

Sutton Recreation Area – Holman Vista is a U.S. Forest Service fee site, though multiple interagency passes, including the Oregon Pacific Coast Passport, are accepted.

For more information contact “Educational Saunterers” Jim Grano at 541-268-9954 or Dennis King at 541-999-9213.

The event takes its name from a quote by John Muir: “I don’t like either the word [hike] or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains — not ‘hike!’”



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