

MAPLETON from page 1A

“Preschool came at a perfect time as my girls have been wanting to go with school with their big sister,” Janine Halverson wrote. “My girls love to learn and are ready to socialize. Thank you for this amazing opportunity.”

“The preschool adds an important steppingstone for students, parents and the community,” another parent said in their letter.

A third parent added, “My daughter is so excited for preschool and we are happy that a preschool was available for her to go to because she was so ready.”

O’Mara stated that after years of hard work, it was extraordinary to finally see students in the classroom.

“I think I was more excited than anybody [on open-

ing day], taking pictures and greeting the parents. It was just phenomenal. I loved it,” she said.

It was mentioned that a parent from outside the district had enrolled a student into the program, paying out of pocket costs, instead of the free tuition that in-district parents receive. In-district students receive priority over out-of-district students, but board member John Simington wondered what would occur if too many out-of-district students signed up for the program, which currently is not at full capacity.

“It would be a good problem to have, but I could easily see a scenario where we’re at capacity, and then two kids move in from out of area and we’re too full to let them in. What do we do then?” Simington asked.

The district does not currently have guidelines for such an issue, but O’Mara said they would work on finding a solution.

Next, the discussion shifted to the school lunch menu, specifically the information printed on it.

“There’s been a lot of chatter about healthy food,” board member Mizu Burruss said, stating that there had been some online comments criticizing the apparent lack of healthy foods available to students, per the released menu.

“I think we should be aware that there are parents that are tuning in and interested in making sure the food is healthy for the kids,” Burruss said.

O’Mara agreed, saying, “It’s hard when you look at the menu,” referring to the minimalist monthly menu.

Monday the 21st lists only a muffin for breakfast and a corn dog for lunch.

“What it doesn’t say clearly is that there’s always two entree options,” she said. “And then there’s at least seven salad bar options.”

The students have fruits and vegetables daily, with O’Mara recalling a moment that week when a third grader came up to her and said, “I really like salad now!”

“I thought, ‘Yay!’” O’Mara said. “That’s the hard part about just going by what the menu says we’re eating. It’s not just a muffin for breakfast. Its string cheese or peaches or an apple or banana.”

Burruss stated that parents did defend the servings online but was concerned that some parents out there would be concerned that

the kids were simply having a slice of pizza and a muffin throughout the day. O’Mara suggested that they change the menu to ensure that parents, and students, know all available food options at school.

“It funny we’re talking about this,” O’Mara said. “I got contacted by someone, and I’m not sure if she wants her name up there, but she wants to support healthy snacks for Mapleton students. She wants to provide high quality snacks like string cheese.”

The woman has suggested donating up to \$10,000 for the project, which the board called an “extraordinary” gesture.

Finally, the school board reviewed options for upgrading Mapleton’s security system with brand new surveillance cameras

throughout the district. Board members heard a presentation from Eugene firm Security Monster on the possibility of placing new cameras throughout the hallways and parking lots in the district, as well as in areas such as the student commons.

“I see the need, clearly,” Burruss commented, while asking if there would be any backlash to a more robust system. “I haven’t heard any reaction to the surveillance of the cameras,” she added, pointing out that they have been helpful in addressing issues within the school.

The district has received multiple bids on the security system and will most likely make a final decision during their next meeting after a cost comparison can be made.

What’s happening in the Siuslaw region

Weekly

Florence Pickle-Ball Association

Monday, Wednesday and Friday — weather permitting
8:30 to 11 a.m.; Open to all ages and skill levels
Rolling Dunes Park, 35th St, Florence

Mondays

Sit-n-Knit or Crochet Drop-in

Noon to 6 p.m.; \$10
The Mustard Seed, 509 Kingwood St.
www.themustardseed1720.com

Suicide Survivors Support Group

Facilitated by SVFR/WLAD Community Support Team
5:30 to 7 p.m.; open to those who have lost a loved one to suicide
Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, 2625 Highway 101

Tuesdays

Peace Harbor Farm Stand

Collaboration between PeaceHealth, Trillium Community Health Plan and FOOD for Lane County | Fresh, seasonal vegetables and fruits free to people with OHP or who qualify for food assistance
PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center, 400 Ninth St.

Florence Rotary Club

Noon; lunch purchase available
Florence Events Center
theflorence Rotary.org

WellMama Peer Support Group

Every second and fourth Tuesdays
6 to 7:30 p.m.; open to birthing parents and their support people
Peace Health Medical Center Women’s Clinic, 340 Ninth St.
541-999-4880, birthingmamas.jen@gmail.com, www.wellmamaoregon.com

Wednesdays

Fun Connections Playgroup

For parents and children 5 and under
10:30 a.m. to noon
Open to families of young children
Pregnancy & Parenting Center, 1525 12th St, Suite G

Points of Grace Community Acupuncture

Experience relief from pain and stress
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; donations appreciated
1845 Highway 126

Florence Kiwanis Club

Noon; lunch purchase available
Ocean Dunes Golf Links
www.florencekiwanis.org

Celebrate Recovery

5:30 p.m.; open to public
Florence Church of the Nazarene, 1536 12th St.

Thursdays

Women’s Empowerment

A safe space for encouragement, life skills
4 to 6 p.m.; open to women
Siuslaw Outreach Services, 1576 12th St.
Call 541-997-2816

Community Chorus of Florence

7 p.m.; open to public
Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101
541-999-7575

Fridays

Florence Testing for HIV & HepC

Every second and fourth Friday
Hosted by Alliance for Men’s Wellness and HIV Alliance
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Free to public
PeaceHealth Oregon Cardiology, 310 Ninth St.

Live Music at Three Rivers

7 to 11 p.m.; 21+
Blue Bills Sports Bar at Three Rivers Casino Resort

Saturdays

Live Music at Three Rivers

7 to 11 p.m.; 21+
Blue Bills Sports Bar at Three Rivers Casino Resort

Oct. 19

20th annual Yachats Village Mushroom Fest

Hosted by Lincoln County Mycological Society; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
www.yachats.org/event/20th-annual-yachats-village-mushroom-fest/

17th Annual Miniature Homes Show

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

Weather Spotter Training

Hosted by City of Florence and Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; open to public
Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue, 2625 Highway

101
www.ci.florence.or.us/em/skywarn-weather-spotter-training

Goin’ with the Flo’ Vintage Trailer Rally

Noon to 3 p.m.; open to public
Port of Siuslaw

Ada Grange Fall Bingo

Noon; food & bingo available for purchase
Ada Grange, 10 miles out Canary Road
541-997-2380

Precious Plastics Florence Classes

2 to 4 p.m.; open to public
Florence Maker Space, 1230 17th Place Suite D

Paint and Sip Class with Karylynn Keppol

5:15 to 8:30 p.m.
Tickets required; 541-271-2485
Mindpower Gallery, 417 Fir Ave. in Reedsport

Harvest for Education

Soroptimist International of Florence’s fourth annual auction fundraiser
6 p.m.; tickets required
Florence Events Center
541-902-319 or 541-999-8292

Disciple band presents “Love Letter Kill Shot Tour”

7 to 10 p.m.; open to public
Florence Events Center

Oct. 20

20th annual Yachats Village Mushroom Fest

Hosted by Lincoln County Mycological Society; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
www.yachats.org/event/20th-annual-yachats-village-mushroom-fest/

17th Annual Miniature Homes Show

1 to 5 p.m.; open to public
Siuslaw Public Library

Oct. 21

Florence Parent Coffee & Chat

Hosted by Families Connected: Families Network
9 to 10:30 a.m.; open to parents of children with special needs
River Roasters, 1240 Bay St.

Oct. 22

Mapleton Cribbage Club

5 p.m.; open to public
Mapleton Branch of Siuslaw Public Library, 88148 Riverview Ave.

WellMama Peer Support Group

6 to 7:30 p.m.; open to families, partners and support people
PeaceHealth Medical Center Women’s Clinic, 340 Ninth St.
www.wellmamaoregon.com

Oct. 23

Lane County Search and Rescue Open House

Lane County Sheriff’s Office seeks recruits
6 p.m.; open to public
Lane County Sheriff’s Office, Harris Hall, 125 E. Eighth Ave. in Eugene

Oct. 24

Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Hosted by PeaceHealth Emergency Medical Services and Western Lane Ambulance District
7:45 a.m. to noon; contact matt@wlambulance.com or call 541-997-3212 to register or for more information
Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue, 2625 Highway 101

Precious Plastics Florence Crafting Day

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; open to public
Florence Maker Space, 1230 17th Place Suite D

Oct. 25

Veteran’s Service Officer at Disabled American Veterans

Open to area veterans by appointment; 541-997-8060
Florence DAV Hall, 1715 21st St.

Scare-CROW “Freak Show” Haunted Maze

6 to 9 p.m.; admission required
CROW Center for Performing Arts, 3120 Highway 101 | Crowkids.com

“Spooky Word” Big Wave Poetry Night

7 to 9 p.m.; open to public
FRAA Art Center, 120 Maple St.

Oct. 26

Kiwanis Firewood Project Work Day

Split and stack firewood before having a hot dog BBQ
9 a.m. to noon; open to public

Florence Municipal Airport
www.florencekiwanis.org

“Offshore Aquifers and Fresh Water Security” with Dr. Todd Jarvis

Presented by Yachats Academy of Arts and Sciences
6 p.m.; \$5 suggested donation
Yachats Commons in Yachats

Scare-CROW “Freak Show” Haunted Maze

6 to 9 p.m.; admission required
CROW Center for Performing Arts, 3120 Highway 101 | Crowkids.com

Lane County Search and Rescue Open House

Lane County Sheriff’s Office seeks recruits
6 p.m.; open to public
Lane County Sheriff’s Office, Harris Hall, 125 E. Eighth Ave. in Eugene

Oct. 27

Ada Grange Halloween Party

Featuring games and a costume parade
1 to 3 p.m.; open to public
Ada Grange, 10 miles out Canary Road
541-997-6933

Florence Ukulele Club “The Flukes”

1:30 to 2:15 p.m. — Beginners
2:15 to 2:45 p.m. — Advanced Beginners and Intermediates
3 to 4 p.m. — Song Circle for all levels
Loaner ukuleles available; open to public
Siuslaw Public Library
janetwellington@gmail.com

Free Holiday Tasting & Meal Planning Event

5 p.m.; open to public
Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4445 Highway 101

Oct. 28

Wandering Reel Traveling Film Festival

Showing at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.; tickets required
City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101
citylightscinemas.com

Heart of the Coast Housing Alliance’s Community Halloween Party

6 to 10 p.m.; donations accepted
Florence Elks Lodge

A Weekly Listing of Community Events in the Florence Area

Submit all events information to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com

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- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday)
5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Bryan Mehlfahr attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday)
12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

Contact Bob for more information:
(H) 541-997-6626 • (C) 541-999-4239
maribob@oregonfast.net

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