

City Club to hear ‘Camp Florence: Our (not so) Best Kept Secret’

Florence City Club’s meeting on Thursday, Nov. 7, begins at noon at the Ocean Dunes Golf Course Clubhouse. Pete Roberts, the director of Camp Florence, will discuss the history and mission of the youth facility under the newest philosophy of Positive Human Development.

A native Oregonian, Roberts graduated from Springfield High School and received a degree from Western Oregon University. He has devoted his career to the Oregon Youth Authority, working for five years at

the Maclaren Correctional Youth Facility in Woodbury one year at the Hillcrest School in Salem and 21 years at the Grants Pass Youth Correctional Facility.

“I’ve always been aiming at getting to Camp Florence,” claims Roberts. A promotion, a vacancy and the stars aligned for him a year ago when he was hired as the director of the correctional youth facility and was able to move his family to Florence.

Once here, he felt himself fortunate to be supported by an excellent staff, saying,

“Having been a high school and college athlete, I know the value of a good team and there’s a great one here at Camp Florence.”

Roberts and his staff are immersed in developing their young charges’ ability to form healthy relationships, appreciate community involvement and move on from past mistakes.

“I’ve been impressed with how this town has embraced Camp Florence,” Roberts said. “These boys have worked hard to get to this point and they are committed to turning their lives

around.”

One way that this happens is through intern programs such as the one Daniel and Frankie have been active in at Dr. Osborn’s veterinary clinic. Recently, Daniel was profiled in an article in the Siuslaw News before his release from Camp Florence. Frankie, his replacement, will be speaking about his experiences with animals in the clinic.

A current program similar to Maclaren’s Project Pooch, lets Camp Florence boys work with dogs that need socializing, a process

that benefits both dogs and the kids working with them.

Roberts brought his wife and three children to Florence this fall. Two daughters are already away from home attending school and a son is currently enrolled at Siuslaw High School.

For those attending City Club’s meeting, lunch can be purchased at the clubhouse bar and grill prior to the meeting.

For further information, contact City Club representative Annie Schmidt at 541-997-1023.

Baisinger appointed to Florence United Methodist Church

A fourth-generation Methodist preacher who’s pastored churches and started independent ministries, Florence United Methodist Church’s new pastor Dr. Karen Love Baisinger seems unable to ‘retire’ in any conventional sense.

Baisinger’s appointment to Florence by the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church in July came as no surprise to the congregation who had

listened to her preach eight times in the year before she was called. Described as expansive and accessible, the Tennessee native can slip “y’alls” into explanations of theological concepts as well as expressions of current popular culture.

“I’m a mystic,” Baisinger explains, having started the interfaith Church in the Round in Olympia, Wash., that saw representatives of the Buddhist, Hindu, Native

American, Christian and Celtic traditions come together for worship in 1993. “I want to undistort the Christian path from cultural accretion.”

The youngest of four women in her 1980 graduating class at Memphis Theological Seminary, she sought pastoral training after a psychologist at a local religious university — who recognized her calling to ministry in the vocational testing he administered — called it “deviant” because she was female.

She received her Doctorate of Ministry from Wesley

Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. in 2005.

Trained as a counselor, Baisinger has herself taken a spiritual path that has led her to a variety of inter-faith ministries, all the while raising two children.

Prior to her appointment in Florence, Baisinger was Chair of Eugene’s First United Methodist’s Adult Transformation Team (Christian Education) and directed Keepers Cafe, a free breakfast for their homeless neighbors at FUMC Eugene. She partnered with Food For Lane County to expand the feeding ministry from an

average of 20 guests to over 180 each Thursday as well as lengthening the time provided for warmth, generous amounts of food, coffee and connecting from 30 minutes to about three hours.

Beginning Nov. 6, Baisinger will lead a special 10-session program on Transformational Resilience for the Florence community, scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

More information and pre-registration is available at the church office, 333 Kingwood St., or by calling 541-997-6025.

FUUF to hear about ‘Science of Mind’

On Sunday, Nov. 3, from 10 until 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, guest speaker Rayma Davis will lead a service titled, “Everything You Wanted to Know About the Science of Mind, but Were Afraid to Ask.”

One of Davis’ favorite quotes from Ernest Holmes, the founder of the Science of

Mind, is, “I live in the faith that there is a Presence and Power greater than I am, that nurtures and supports me in ways I could not even imagine.”

Come for a lively discussion of the principles of the Science of Mind. People are asked to write questions on the paper provided, and Davis will answer them.

The fellowship, located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, and 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.

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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) – 997-3951
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www.FlorenceUUF.org - (541) 997.2840

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