OCHS *from page 1A*

General and the Oregon Department of Justice (ODJ), which was prompted by concerns voiced by volunteers at the shelter.

All of the board members that were seated at that time resigned after the results of the inquiry became public through an investigation by the *Siuslaw News*. The DOJ had found that improper procedures were in place, which related to the selection of board members and the format for public involvement.

Curran's hire was the result of a nationwide search undertaken at the direction of the DOJ, which recommended OCHS should have an executive director in place to oversee all aspects of the management of the shelter.

On Monday, OCHS Board President Shauna Robbers was contacted but declined to comment regarding Curran's resignation. However, she did say that in the near future OCHS will be having a strategic planning session to discuss the needs of the organization as it moves forward.

Robbers also mentioned her overall appreciation of the efforts given by Curran but was unable to discuss specific details of the situation that led to his resignation.

The progress made during his brief tenure was considerable, according to Curran, but not always appreciated by board members.

In fact, Curran said he believed actions taken by individuals on the OCHS Board undermined his authority and disregarded his advice on important issues facing the shelter.

"Under my leadership, we completed multiple projects that should have been done many years ago. And we dramatically reduced the monthly financial loss that OCHS operates under. OCHS was on a path to be a financially sound and successful organization in 2020. The board of directors, including the board president and board treasurer, repeatedly acknowledged the improvements delivered during my tenure — including after I submitted my resignation," Curran said, adding that despite the organization being on a solid path toward success, on multiple occasions over the last two months key members of the board chose to behave unprofessionally and inappropriately.

"I became deeply concerned by what I was witnessing and, recognizing that the situation with the current composition of the board was not likely to change, I realized my position as executive director had become untenable," said Curran, who submitted his resignation Jan. 1, 2020.

"I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished in 2019 and wish we could have delivered on the many improvements I had planned for 2020," he said. "I would like to thank the many exceptional community members, volunteers, supporters, donors, adopters, fosterers and staff who stepped up to make our humane society better over the past year.

"I wish the organization all the very best as it moves forward. The homeless and at-risk animals in our community deserve a wonderful shelter, run by an experienced and qualified executive director, who should be supported by a professional board."

As of press time Tuesday, the next OCHS public meeting had not been set.

For more information, visit oregoncoasthumanesociety.com.

RHODY *from page 1A*

wide variety of fun ideas," says the Chamber's executive director Bettina Hannigan. "It's relevant and relatable to everyone. We anticipate people will come up with great ideas representing the highlights of past decades, native peoples and pioneer history, a new take on the old 'Roaring '20s' images, favorite memories of life and times here in Oregon's Coastal Playground, and maybe even a nod to the 50th anniversary of the exploding whale."

This year's logo will appear in print, broadcast, and online materials to promote the event and draw visitors to Florence. The logo will be printed on commemorative pins, banners, advertisements, and print guides. The Rhododendron Court will sell the pins, the proceeds from which go toward scholarships for Queen Rhododendra, the King of the Coast, and members of the Rhody Court.

"Generations of families have enjoyed the annual Florence Rhododendron Festival by attending, enjoying the Davis Shows carnival, exhibiting their rhodies, showing off their classic cars and motorcycles, being in the parade, and shopping and dining in Old Town and all around town," adds Hannigan. "It's a family tradition, an Oregon institution. The event brings to mind many blasts from the past for thousands of people across the state."

The Florence Rhododendron Festival is Oregon's second-oldest floral festival, bested only by a year by the Portland Rose Festival, and sees thousands of visitors from around the state and across the country.

For more information on the 113th annual Florence Rhododendron Festival, including applications for the Rhododendron Court, exhibitor space, parade entries, or to volunteer on the Chamber's Rhody Fest committee, contact event coordinator Mitzi Hathaway at events@Florence-Chamber.com or 541-997-3128.

Habitat holds 'Heads or Tails' fundraiser

Members of the community have the chance to win a recliner from the Florence Roby's Furniture and Appliance during the Florence Habitat for Humanity Heads or Tails fundraiser.

People can buy a $10 ticket at the Habitat ReStore, 2016 Highway 101, now until noon on Saturday, Feb. 1. Each ticket will be exchanged for a football necklace, giving people the chance of play "Heads or Tails" that Saturday.

There is no limit of tickets a person can buy.

Buyers and players must be at least 18 years old, though buyers or their representative must be present to win on Feb. 1 at noon at the Habitat ReStore. The winner takes home a New Recliner courtesy of Roby's Furniture.

For more details or to purchase tickets, visit the Habitat ReStore or call 541-997-5834.

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