

ROTARY from page 1A

Rotary Auction is much more than just fun. It makes this community a better place to live. And I have proof,” Ferguson said at one point in the play. “Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the evidence will show that your support is a chance to change the lives of local young people. You see, not too many years ago, I was one of those students.”

She went on to explain that a Rotary scholarship helped her with her schooling, which ultimately led to her return to Florence as an attorney at Hanawalt Ferguson, Attorneys at Law.

“Indeed, but for that scholarship, I may not be standing before you today,” Ferguson said. “I implore you, ... make it possible for more young people to thrive and make this year’s Florence Rotary Auction the best ever.”

After this speech, The Mad Hatter announced that this year would be a special “unbirthday party” and unveiled the poster for The Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, which will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

“Welcome to my tea party,” Spencer said. “They say it is a place full of wonder, danger and excitement. They say to survive there you have to be ‘mad as a hatter.’ Well,



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

thankfully, I am.”

Auctioneers during the event will again be father-son duo Blair and Bob Sneddon, who have served as auctioneers since 1970 for Blair and 1989 for Bob.

In addition, a team of 24 Rotarians serve on the Auction Committee, and people are welcome to step in to help.

McMullen said, “Kim and I get a lot of credit for this, but we don’t do it all. It’s all of our committee members, the whole Rotary Club and everybody involved who puts this auction on. Give yourselves a great hand.”

Other ways to participate include donating teacups to the Rotary Auction Decorating Committee, who plan to use donated sets in displays and decoration. These will not be returned, as some

sets may be permanently altered. People can also donate items for the auction and raise money through Rotary coin jars throughout the community. Money from the coin jars go to the President’s Scholarship.

According to Spencer, this year the scholarship will go to a student who works full time.

“Those kids are often students who have great skills to go to college, but who are not able to do the extracurricular activities that other kids are able to engage in,” she said. “Just know, when you are putting coins in your coin jars, that is the plan this year for the Mad Hatter Scholarship.”

At the end of the auction presentation, Spencer thanked everyone who participated in the skit. “I do

Laurel Ferguson (right) played “Laurel in Wonderland” during the Rotary Auction Theme skit opposite her nemesis the Red Queen, played by Jenna Bartlett.

love ‘Alice in Wonderland,’ and I’m so glad we get to play with it this year.”

The rest of the meeting continued topsy turvy, proving that Rotarians “are all mad here,” as several people said.

People can purchase individual tickets or reserve half or full tables by contacting McMullen at 541-991-7048 or Erickson at 541-991-2070.

For more information, visit www.theflorence Rotary.org.

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WLCF grant applications due

Western Lane Community Foundation (WLCF) is still accepting applications for its 2020 grant cycle. The application can be found on its website located at wlcffonline.org. Applications are due by Jan. 15.

Each year, WLCF awards several grants to local nonprofit organizations for projects/programs in its target area of western Lane County. Grants are

awarded in the areas of education, medicine and science, the arts, and social and civic services. In 2019, over \$78,000 was awarded to several of these worthy causes. The annual amount to be awarded is determined by the performance of the invested portfolio of discretionary funds during the current year.

Grant requests for the grant cycle will be accepted

until Jan. 15.

The application may be downloaded at www.wlcffonline.org. Submit applications to Western Lane Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1589, Florence, OR, 97439 or to wlcff@wlcffonline.org in PDF format.

Applications must be postmarked or received no later than close of business on Jan. 15.

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