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“The anniversary of the devastating wildfires that affected so many Oregonians last year falls during Preparedness Month and on top of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic,” said OHA Behavioral Health Director Steve Allen. “People often experience heightened distress surrounding the anniversary of a disaster event, so it’s a good time to recognize and work to support ourselves, our families and our community’s emotional health needs right along with our other preparedness activities.” Allen says Preparedness Month is a good time to empower community members to take action by preparing for the next public health emergency. That preparation can displace fear of disasters.

“Kits and plans are a starting point and what we put in them can save lives and also bring comfort,” says Allen, noting how including a few fun activities or toys can make a difference for kids. “When it comes to protecting our emotional health, sometimes it’s about having healthy coping strategies.”

Some of these coping strategies include taking care of your body through sleep, exercise and healthy eating; taking lots of breaks to unwind or help strong feelings fade; staying informed while still avoiding exposure to too much news; and reaching out for help when needed.

Children and youth can be especially vulnerable to stress during and after emergencies. Communities can support them by encouraging them to par-

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participate in their families’ preparedness activities in age-appropriate ways. After a disaster, adults can help kids by encouraging them to share what they’re thinking, answer their questions, limit their exposure to media cover-

age of disasters, keep to routines, and get them support when they need it.

Emergency management professionals around the country chose the theme “Honor with Action” for this year’s Pre-

paredness Month. After the wide range of disasters this past year, it fits well with OHA’s emphasis on emotional health preparedness and recovery.

“Our social connections are an important part of what make us resilient,” Allen says. “The pandemic, along with the wildfires disaster, has made it hard to stay connected, but it is more important than ever to re-establish connections or build new ones. Take time to honor the losses of the past year by reaching out to loved ones and neighbors. Also, reach out to survivors and see what help they need.”

If you or someone you know is thinking of harming themselves or needs help because of drug or alcohol use, call Lines for Life which is a 24/7 crisis line at 800-273-8255. Lines for Life also offers

specialized support for seniors, military members, youth and those facing racial equity concerns. In addition, it provides specialized services through its COVID-19 & Oregon Wildfire Outreach Program. Find more information at www.linesforlife.org.

Other services:

- Call to Safety provides support for persons of all genders facing domestic and sexual violence. Call or text 503-235-5333 or visit calltosafety.org.
- Wildfire-focused support can be reached at <https://www.safestrongoregon.org/>.
- More mental health resources for the public are available at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/AMH/Pages/Get-Help.aspx>

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LEVY from page 1A

tax. A few even directly oppose the levy.

The reasons for this opposition are centered around high salaries paid to WLAD employees and unrealized financial savings expected after the administrative functions of the two districts were merged, among others.

There is also a contingent within the community who believe that residents would be better served by a private company model rather than the publicly funded model now in place.

Schick has responded to these criticisms, citing the

detailed budgetary process both districts undergo each fiscal cycle and the mindful manner in which he and his staff approach the process.

“The board of directors have been very prudent in making sure that every single dollar received in revenue is spent openly and wisely. As a public agency our budget, including all our expenses, is open to review by our citizens and we are happy to answer any questions on our finances,” Schick said. “We have been able to maintain our service levels despite increases in healthcare and other benefit costs, and increases in the costs of equipment, fuel and medical supplies.”

He also points out the paramedic wage scale has been frozen at 2018 levels, which was a proposal forwarded by WLAD employees to ensure the district can remain in good shape financially.

The decision to ask for a new levy was discussed in detail at prior WLFEA board meetings, with directors voting to send the request to voters.

Former WLAD Director Farnsworth has stated if the costs to run the department were reduced, the levy would not be needed. He said he believes the wages paid to WLAD employees are inexplicably high and should be reduced to cut unreasonable

costs. Farnsworth and other community members have paid for and printed informational materials and run advertisements in local media outlets, including the Siuslaw News, detailing his position.

Schick has gone on the record disputing the interpretations of Farnsworth and remains convinced the approval of the levy is central to maintaining the current level of service provided to area residents.

“I am very concerned that the false and misleading information being actively put out by Farnsworth, Marks, and Pilcher in the Siuslaw News is not being countered by actual facts, easily confirmed facts. I think our citizens deserve to see both sides and I would be happy to provide an alternative view to the distortions being presented by this extremely small but vocal opposition group,” Schick said.

Additional in-depth information regarding the vote to authorize the levy will be included in the Nov. 2 Election coverage.

For more information on WLAD, visit www.westernlaneambulance.com.

Faith – Friendship - Fellowship – Fun

CHURCH DIRECTORY

To include your organization in this directory, please call us @ 541-997-3441

BAHA’I FAITH OF FLORENCE
Ongoing Devotions, Study Circles, Services to the Community, Join us on Facebook.
Join your friends via zoom, Monday’s 7:30-8:30p.m.
“SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS”
Florence Baha’i Community For info: 541-590-0779

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
2705 Munsel Lake Road, All are welcome!
Sunday Worship Services are at 10 AM & 11:15 AM.
Bishop Larry Farnsworth 541-999-1979

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
4590 Hwy. 101, Across from Fred Meyer — 997-7418
Sunday School, 9:30a.m. – Worship, 10:45
Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. –
Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.

CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Corner of 10th & Maple- 541-997-3533
Sunday Services are 9am and 11am and on Facebook live and KCST at 11am
Wednesdays at 7pm
<https://www.florencecrossroadag.org/church-online>
Other platforms update after the service.
florencecrossroadag.org
office@florencecrossroadag.org

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2nd & Ivy - 541-997-2961 - Non-Denominational
Service is on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Service also streaming live at 10:00 am at florencechurch.com

FLORENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16)
1833 Tamarack Street
(2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)
Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.
www.churchofchristflorence.org

FLORENCE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
1318 Rhododendron Dr. • 541-997-2523
Sunday Service 11am (Children Sunday School)
Mid-Week Activities, all ages.

FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) – 997-3951
Worship on Saturday 11:00 A.M.
Adult/Children’s Sabbath School 10:00 A.M.

FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road
RUAAUU? All are welcome to explore the answer.
Until it is safe to meet in person, Sunday Worship Services are available 24/7 on our website: www.florenceuuf.org

FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025
Link to Sunday services at www.florenceunitedmethodist.org
or find us on Facebook.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH
1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) — 997-6337
Pastor George Pagel – Something for the entire family.
Sun. Services: 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study returns this Fall.
Website: florence4square.com

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN E.L.C.A.
21st & Spruce Streets—997-8113
Pastor, Paul Strike • All are welcome.
Sunday in-person worship service@ 10:30.
Also available to you on website www.florencenewlifelutheran.org.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW
3996 N Hwy 101 541-997-7136
Internet and in person Sunday services at 10AM,
Call the church for details.
Reverend Greg Wood
All Welcome. Come as you are.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
“War is still not the answer.” FCNL
We meet Sunday’s at 11am in our homes.
Call 408-482-1141 or 541-997-4237 for locations.

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S.
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Pastor Steve Waterman
85294 Hwy. 101 S. – 997-8038
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www.puppro.wixite.com/lcflorence

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL
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Habitat for Humanity

Florence Habitat ReStore
Volunteer to help Florence Habitat for Humanity ReStore. From customerservice to donation coordination, there’s a volunteer opportunity for you! Our greatest need right now is cashiers. We are grateful for your continued support!
541-997-5834 | 2016 Hwy 101, Florence • www.florencehabitat.org

Helping Hands Coalition

We are in need of volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. We need volunteers to serve food, set up for meals and also prepare meals beginning at 11:00 am and finishing at 2:00pm.
New Location: Community Baptist Church, 4590 Hwy. 101, Florence (Across from Fred Meyer)

Oregon Coast Humane Society

relies heavily on volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer and a variety of skills and talents are always in need. Volunteer interest forms may be found online, at the shelter and at our Thrift Shop on Bay Street.
www.oregoncoasthumane.org/volunteer/

Us Too Florence

Saving men one PSA test at a time. “Someone to talk to...who understands!”
541-997-6626 • maribob@oregonfast.net
www.ustooflorence.org

To include your organization in this directory, please call us @ 541-997-3441