

NOVEMBER  
2015

Florence Events Center

# Center Stage

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# CHICAGO

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# November and December are 'Seasons of Caring' in Gallery One

The Florence Events Center Gallery Committee is presenting a themed exhibit during the months of November and December in Gallery One, titled "A Season of Caring." Art will include photographs, paintings and 3D works, all with a theme of social needs (children, elderly, homeless, veterans, etc.), and ways to care (service animals, health professionals, volunteers, etc.), foods of the harvest season or themes involving Thanksgiving, Christmas and

family.  
On Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a reception that will benefit the Florence Food Share and Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) nonprofit organizations.  
There will be a bin for food donations, and one for donations of warm coats and blankets to help those in need in our community.  
From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be

a "soup kitchen" style lunch with live music offered to gallery visitors. For \$1, attendees will be served soup and bread, coffee and water. There will also be an art raffle to benefit Food Share and SOS, with local artists donating artworks and jewelry for the raffle.  
All proceeds from the art raffle and soup kitchen lunch will be donated to Food Share and SOS.



## Local artists can 'Dance With Sea Lions' in celebration of FEC's 20th anniversary



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER

Season of Caring exhibit reception —  
Nov. 14  
LRP's production of "Chicago" —  
Nov. 6-8 and 13-15  
Monkey Bugs — Nov. 14  
Ken Lavigne concert — Nov. 21  
Festival of Trees — Nov. 28-29

### DECEMBER

FRAA Art Festival — Dec. 4 & 5  
Empty Bowls — Dec. 4-6  
Light up a Life — Dec. 11-12  
Poison Pen Players "Dead in the Sled" — Dec. 12  
Community Chorus "Appalachian Concert" — Dec. 13  
Eugene Ballet's "The Nutcracker" — Dec. 15  
Concealed Weapons Training — Dec. 16  
Jazz Kings Christmas — Dec. 17  
Oregon Brass Band holiday concert — Dec. 20



**ONGOING EVENTS:**  
Florence Rotary Club luncheon -  
Tuesdays at noon

Next year marks the FEC's 20th anniversary as a leader in community arts and entertainment. A coastwide celebration of this milestone will come in the form of the iconic sea lion and its longstanding relationship with the Florence area. Jennifer Connor, FEC marketing specialist and event coordinator, said, "This is a project not just for the FEC and our celebration, but a project for the city, community and whole Oregon coast."

Dancing with Sea Lions will be a public art display sponsored by the nonprofit group Friends of the Florence Events Center and local businesses and individuals.

Twenty area artists have an opportunity to be a large part of the historic project, which is centered around 20 fiberglass sea lions that are 7.5-feet tall. Each is a blank canvas that can be decorated to reflect the artist's own unique style. Sponsorships are now available for the project. Sponsoring a sea lion costs \$1,500, with a total of 20 sponsorships available. Other sponsorship options are also available. For example, two businesses, Sea Lion Caves and Three Rivers Casino and Resort, have teamed up under the name "Stellar Underwriters."

Forms and information are available at the FEC, Banner Bank and Oregon Pacific Bank.

"I keep going back to our original theme, that the arts have a ripple effect on the community. Art reaches out to all ages, and this project will reach out to all ages too," Connor said.

The "blank canvas" is a plain design nicknamed "Porter," which is modeled after a cow sea lion.

The Dancing with Sea Lions committee based the active design on the logo, initially created by Karylenn Keppol, of Florence, who is now at The Art Institute of Portland. Keppol's sea lion design is also featured on Dancing with Sea Lions geocache coins, created by Cheryl Pinnock. The coins will be awarded to geocache enthusiasts who are awarded codes for visiting the various sea lions on display.

The project officially kicked off Nov. 1, when the call to artists went out. A grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund will provide a \$500 stipend for the artists who are selected and complete their project.

"In the beginning, they will get \$250 up front so that they can get their supplies and start the project. When the sea lion is completed, they'll get another \$250. We hope that's an incentive to bring in the artists, and that will get a lot of ideas going," said Connor, who explained that a line-art drawing will be available for artists to compose their color sketch, where they

will also need to list design elements and materials.

All artist applications will be due by the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 4.

"I hope that our local artists really jump in and get excited about this. It's an opportunity for them to be recognized," Connor said.

The Florence Public Arts Committee is helping set standards, so certain designs will not be allowed.

Selected artists will be notified by the end of December. They will receive their statues in early January and finish work in March, before the April 7 and 8 Dancing with Sea Lions Splash Off, when all 20 unique sea lions will be on display at the FEC.

"I foresee some of these sea lions will be in the area for years," said Connor.

While they are on display, a map will detail each of the 20 locations, starting at the Umpqua Discovery Center in Reedsport, stretching through Florence to the Sea Lion Caves on Highway 101 and up toward the Sea Lion Foundation in Newport. Many of the sea lions will be available for auction in October 2016.

For more information about Dancing with Sea Lions, visit [www.facebook.com/DancingWithSeaLions](http://www.facebook.com/DancingWithSeaLions).

## CENTERSTAGE

**DEADLINES:** Event copy: 10th of the month prior to publication;  
**Display Ads:** Camera-ready ads must be received by the 15th of month prior to publication.

Jenna Bartlett ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE  
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Ron Annis, CENTERSTAGE LAYOUT & DESIGN

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Rod McCulloch



# Murder, lust and liquor add up to great fun in ‘Chicago’ the musical



Maree Beers as “Roxie Hart” is the main character of Last Resort Players’ (LRP) “Chicago the Musical” — just don’t let Jennifer Marus, who plays “Velma” hear you say that. In fact, Jason Wood as matron “Mama” Morton and Matthieu Korso as lawyer “Billy Flynn” would

probably disagree, as well. But hey, that’s “showbiz,” kid. Beers leads the 40-plus member LRP cast through the high-velocity and often cagey world of jazz, liquor, lust, greed and murder. Marus is the former star who fights to keep the spotlight. The stars’

mutual antagonism will keep the audience eating out of the palms of their hands. LRP’s vaudeville production is a jest on 1920s jazz theater. Ron Green and his band play live on stage for the entire show, serving as an unofficial liaison between the audience and the stage.

“This is a musical I’ve always wanted to direct,” said director David Lauria. The production team includes Lauria, his wife Rosemary, Paula Burnette, Dave Hansen and Leah Goodwin. Talented set designers, prop makers, costume designers, light technicians and sound technicians have given many hours to the production to make it a high caliber show.

Several of the cast members also have dual roles in the production. Besides playing “Mama,” Wood fills a second pair of shoes as the show’s musical director; ensemble member Angela Palmer choreographed every dance in the two-act show; merry murderesses Polly Fleming and Genevieve Meltzer created a vaudeville look for the show with costumes and accessories.

Every aspect of the show is about shaking the blues away — with hot music, sizzling dances, and themes ranging from self-reliance to honest love. And physical love ain’t so bad, either.

LRP presents “Chicago the Musical” for six showings at the Florence Events Center (FEC) on Nov. 6 to 8 and 13 to 15. Friday and Saturday evening performances will be at 7 p.m. Sunday matinees will be at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and military. Contact [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org) or go to the FEC box office at 715 Quince St for tickets.

For more information about LRP and “Chicago,” go to [www.lastresortplayers.org](http://www.lastresortplayers.org) or view the show’s website at [www.lrpproductions.org](http://www.lrpproductions.org).

**You’ve got it coming.**



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**THE MUSICAL**  
**LAST RESORT PLAYERS**

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**DAVID LAURIA**

**BOOK BY**  
**FRED EBB and BOB FOSSE**

**LYRICS BY**  
**FRED EBB**

**WINNER OF:**  
**6 - Tonys**  
**6 - Academy Awards**  
**and a Grammy**

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**  
**JASON WOOD**

**MUSIC BY**  
**JOHN KANDER**

**based on the play “Chicago” by**  
**MAURINE DALLAS WATKINS**

**Florence Events Center**  
**November 6 - 8 & 13 - 15**  
**Fri & Sat: 7:00 Sun: 2:00**

**Tickets at [eventcenter.org](http://eventcenter.org), 541-997-1994, or box office**  
**Show Info at [www.lrpproductions.org](http://www.lrpproductions.org)**

**\*Chicago\* is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.**



# Winter Music Festival to include folk and a little funk



Formerly known as the Winter Folk Festival, this year's two-day music fest will see the return of festival favorites as well as introduce some music with a little more edge under its new moniker, The Winter Music Festival.

"It's always been Winter Folk Fest," said Rachel Pearson, chairwoman of the Friends committee that is shaping the direction of the new Winter Music Festival, which Pearson explained will keep an emphasis on folk while expanding the genre and diversity with new headliners like The Shook Twins and Jonathan Edwards.

The goal isn't to change as much as refresh the popular festival with more

variety of sound while keeping the overall flavor.

Ten musicians, singers and ensembles will fill the FEC with music on Saturday, Jan. 16, and Sunday, Jan. 17. The folk-focused festival began in the early 2000s, when a Mapleton-based band called The Singing Loggers put on a concert and showcased some of the area's homegrown talent. Since then, the festival has mainly featured headliners popular in the folk music scene. The Winter Music Festival is focusing on the "ABCs" of the folk genre: Americana, Blues and Contemporary music.

Among those performing at this year's festival will be Crow and the Canyon, Cabin Fever NW, John Craigie, Ian McFeron, True North, Bob Haworth and the popular contemporary folk music of Pretty Gritty, who returns for the second year to the festival.

In addition, the stage will welcome local performers, such as up-and-coming singer and Siuslaw High School graduate Billy Jones, who will open the music festival Jan. 16. Also, local singer/songwriter Molly Hardin, who recently sang at Backstreet Gallery during September's Rods 'n' Rhodies in Old Town.

Pre-sale of Winter Music Festival tickets have begun and continue through Jan. 15. A full weekend pass includes

admission to the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concerts, with Saturday and Sunday passes, all for a special pre-sale ticket price of \$43. Individual Saturday passes (10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) are \$12.50. Sunday passes (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) are also \$12.50.

Tickets for the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concert (7 p.m.) are \$28.

Individual tickets will go on sale Nov. 16.

And while some things have changed, others — like the opportunity to introduce students to live music — will remain.

"In 2000, I heard The Trail Band in a concert put on by Florence Performing Arts, which is now SEAcoust. I thought, 'We've got to get the school kids in to hear this,'" Pearson said. "It seemed like a simple thing, but now this is my part-time job. It is my passion, the music and the kids."

For Pearson, the most important



aspect of the festival is the kids' concert, when 900 area youth from Siuslaw, Mapleton and Reedsport school districts get a "top-quality educational concert in a real theater." The Trail Band, an Oregon-based eight-piece ensemble that features songs from the Oregon Trail era, will be returning to give the traditional kids concert this year on Jan. 14. After the first successful kids' concert, the music committee decided to combine it with the folk concert by The Singing Loggers.

The kids' concert will also feature Lynn Anderson's students in traditional Native American regalia and dances.

The artisan fair will continue in the meetings rooms throughout the festival, with the addition of wine and cider tastings. A new caterer will be at the FEC during the event as well.

Visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org) or go to the FEC box office at 715 Quince Street for tickets.



## SEAcoust brings heartthrob vocalist Ken Lavigne to Florence

Ken Lavigne. He's got the looks. He's got the charm. He's most certainly got the voice.

And now SEAcoust has got him for Florence.

"Ken has performed on many world stages, including New York's Carnegie Hall and in England for Prince Charles. It

will be a great date night or girl's night out on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m.," says Sandy Kuhlman, SEAcoust board member and producer for the concert.

Lavigne will make an appearance for residents at Spruce Point Assisted Living earlier in the day on Saturday as part of SEAcoust's community outreach effort.

"Ken is a great tenor both in an operatic sense, but also in the tradition and stylings of the all-time great crooners," adds Kuhlman. "He has been labeled a charmer, a storyteller, a humorist, and an inspiring messenger of hope. He enjoys Celtic favorites, show tunes from popular Broadway musicals, and though he has a flair for the operatic, no one should pigeonhole him as just an opera singer. He'll bring it all to the Event Center stage."

Critics around the world write of Lavigne, "His voice seemed to be liquid gold, a pure lyric sound that had surprising undertones in his unforced lower range.

While it was always excellent, there were times when the focus was so precise as to soothe and excite at the same time," and "This is a tenor whose time has come... who has all that is needed to soar to the top of his field. The timbre of his high notes, the strength and mellowness of his low tones, his controlled vibrato and crystal clear falsetto — what a voice! What a performer!"

Lavigne is the second in a seven-performance lineup SEAcoust is bringing to the Florence Events Center this season that includes; guitarist Jesse Cook, Jan. 29; Ballet Fantastique, Feb. 20; the Glenn Miller Orchestra, March 18; Shuffle (a group so multit talented they let the audience pick the playlist), April 7; and gypsy-jazz artists The New Hot Club of America, May 13.

"For 35 years SEAcoust Entertainment Association has provided Florence with world-class entertainment at affordable prices — from household names to

undiscovered gems," says SEAcoust president Ernie Doud. "From classics to jazz, from eclectic to electric, from ballet to big band, you will love this season's variety. There will be something for everyone."

"The best way to enjoy all of these amazing shows is with the \$150 season ticket package—if you buy before Ken's Lavigne's concert," says Doud. "Individual concert tickets are \$30 each, so that's still a per-show savings of \$5! As a season subscriber you can enjoy all concerts from the same great seats at every performance."

Tickets, artist profiles, show times, video clips, and more information are available at [SEAcoustEA.org](http://SEAcoustEA.org). Tickets can also be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; or by phone at 541-997-1994.





# Third-annual Festival of Trees to shine Nov. 28 and 29



Love the shimmer and scent of decorated Christmas trees? Then come enjoy dozens of trees decorated by local businesses and organizations at the third annual Festival of Trees on Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Nov. 29.

The festival is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Holiday entertainment, cookies and refreshments will be offered. The event is free to attend, with a suggested donation of \$3. All money raised will benefit the Oregon Coast Military Museum.

From 4 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 29, a “Trees of Giving” gala with champagne and hors d’oeuvres will kick off the live auction of the festive trees adorned with gifts. There will be more than a dozen large trees, as well

as tabletop trees available for bid or for a “buy it now” price. Sponsors decorate the trees, as well as provide gifts to go under each tree. Gifts under the tree go to the charity of the buyer’s choice, and the tree can be kept by the buyer or given to the charity. Teams of buyers are welcome to join forces to purchase one of the trees.

Each tree is underwritten by one of the event’s major sponsors, which include Beachcomber Pub and Grill, KCST Coast Radio, TR Hunter Real Estate, State Farm Insurance and the Florence Rotary Club.

Tickets for the Trees of Giving Gala are available at the Gilday State Farm Insurance office or TR Hunter Real Estate office.

More information is available at [sue.gilday.jxfj@statefarm.com](mailto:sue.gilday.jxfj@statefarm.com)

## FRAA artists offering holiday show, gift-buying

The Holiday Arts Festival is the perfect place to shop for unique gifts for the coming Holiday Season. The Holiday Arts Festival show will be presented by Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) and opens Friday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 7:30 p.m., and continues Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local crafters and artists will display their unique works of art in many genres including wood, stained glass, pottery, fused glass, paintings, photography, cards, fiber designs, bead weaving, a variety of jeweled treasures, home décor and more.

Come meet the artists who will be showing their latest creations: Annette Bignami, Tami Platisha, Maria Cruz, Karen Souza, Debbie Kiturkes, Guy Lundy, Ralph and Vicki Martin, Claudia Ignatieff, Ron Hildenbrand, Bonnie Wilson, Julie Ellington, Vicki Sieber-Benson, Cindi Covert, Norma Burkett, Karen Sculley, Heather Burnem, Tina Shoys, Peggy Goodrow, Francine Derus, Sylvia Christmas, Charlee Hendricksen, Claudia Brown and Paula Becker.

Artisans exhibiting in the Holiday Arts Festival will be donating 10 percent of their sales to the new Florence Art Center. Admission is free.

## Empty Bowls celebrates 20 years of helping the hungry

Buy an empty, handmade ceramic bowl created by local artists and, in the process, help someone who may otherwise go hungry for the holidays. That’s been the idea behind the Empty Bowls event, now celebrating its 20th year. This year’s event will offer more than 700 handmade ceramic bowls to the public with the purchase price of \$10 each, with smaller bowls available at \$5 each. Bowls will be accompanied by a coupon redeemable for one cup of the soup of the day at a participating restaurant during the month of December.

Along with local Florence artists from throughout the area, more than 75 Siuslaw High School students will be involved in the production of handmade ceramic bowls. Through the Empty Bowls event, ceramics students are not only learning how to create handcrafted ceramic bowls, they are also learning how to give back to their community in a unique way. This project has helped raise their awareness of the needs of others and how they might assist in meeting those needs.

A silent auction is also available for attendants to participate in.



The 20th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser will be held Dec. 4, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Dec. 6, from noon to 3 p.m., with all proceeds benefitting Florence Food Share. Admission is free.

For the second year, the Siuslaw High School Culinary Class will join forces with Empty Bowls., with culinary students providing refreshments for the Artists Reception and the Empty Bowls Fundraiser.

Under the direction of instructor Kyle Lewis, students will be creating delicious snacks for Empty Bowls attendees.

So come purchase a one-of-a-kind piece of art that is beautiful to look at, functional and will help the needy.



## Monkey Bugs discount children’s apparel to ‘pop up’ at FEC

Monkey Bugs is a family owned children’s resale “pop up” with the goal of helping families in communities across Oregon by providing quality children’s clothing (newborn-18) at affordable prices. In addition to its store locations, Monkey Bugs also travels to locations around Oregon, bringing with it a wide selection of quality used clothing. At Monkey Bugs, you don’t have to search for sizes or have to worry about checking for stains or holes. Monkey Bugs selects only the best items and always offers a wide variety of items to choose from. In addition, its inventory is always changing, so those who attend a Monkey Bugs pop up event one time will find different items the next time. Monkey Bugs pop up shops are clean and organized, with spacious aisles for strollers, along with activities for kids.

Monkey Bugs will pop up at the FEC on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# Begin the holiday season by 'Lighting Up a Life'

Peace Harbor Hospice will host its annual Light Up a Life ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.,. Funds raised at this event go to support a variety of hospice programs throughout the year. The event allows anyone to purchase a star in remembrance of someone who has passed away or to honor someone who has made a difference in their life. All are welcome, whether or not your loved one was on hospice.



Admission to the event is free. A tree decorated with the stars of names that are being honored will be lit.

Refreshments and music will be provided.

If you would like to recognize someone special in your life you can make a donation to PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Hospice, 400 Ninth Street, and a star will be hung with the recognition given to your loved one on this special day during the "reading of the names" ceremony.

Contributions are tax deductible; 100 percent of contribution to Light Up A Life remains in Florence to benefit PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Hospice program, a nonprofit organization.

For more information about PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Hospice or the annual Light Up a Life celebration, call 541-997-3418.



## Community Chorus to present Appalachian Winter

On Sunday, Dec. 13, the Community Chorus of Florence (CCOF) will present a concert reminiscent of folk Christmas carols. "Appalachian Winter," written by Joseph Martin, is a cantata that celebrates the legacy of early American carols and hymnody. Composed in the spirit of folk music, the cantata combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements creating a blend that is fresh and pleasing.

Popular American carols like "Away In a Manger" and "O' Little Town of Bethlehem" dance with traditional spirituals such as "Children, Go Where I Send Thee" and "Go, and Tell It on the Mountain."

Thoughtful narration weaves the movements together in a meaningful tapestry of song and Scripture.

The chorus performance will be led by co-directors Elise Arnold and Paul Gauthmuller.

In addition to the cantata, a number of other familiar carols will be presented, including "Behold That Star," "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," "Silent Night," "I Wonder as I Wander" and several others that audiences will surely recognize.

The Flo Tones will be special guests as will the Siuslaw Valley Children's Choir.

The concert will begin at 2 p.m. at the Florence Event Center.

Tickets are \$10, with students attending free.

For more information, visit the CCOF website at [www.communitychorusflorenceor.org](http://www.communitychorusflorenceor.org).

## Concealed handgun permit certification class being offered by NRA instructor

For anyone planning to purchase a handgun for the purpose of carrying a concealed firearm, the state of Oregon requires class and certification prior to applying for a permit. Oregon residents must apply for a CHL in the county they live in, and Oregon does not recognize any other state's CHL permit.

On Dec. 16, NRA certified trainer Shaun Curtain of Firearm Training Northwest will be offering two classes at the Florence Events Center providing the necessary Oregon Concealed Carry training certificate.

Curtain has been a Hunter Education chief instructor for 10 years, with monthly classes at the Vancouver Trap Club. He has also been a college instructor for 15 years, with concealed carry classes offered twice a semester at both Mt Hood and Lane Community College.

The class begins with a review of Washington Firearm Laws and how to obtain a Washington Concealed Carry Permit, and then Oregon Laws and how to obtain an Oregon Concealed Carry Permit (including a training certificate).

Two classes will be available, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Class runs three hours. Cost is \$45, and payment can be made in cash or check at the class. An Oregon driver's license is all students need to bring.

Prior to class, the new NRA Personal Protection Outside the Home video will be presented, although not required viewing.

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# Poison Pen Players bring holiday murder and laughs to FEC

Join the Poison Pen Players, a Florence based comedy murder mystery troupe, for the return of its popular holiday production, "Dead in the Sled: Ho, Ho, Ho...Oh No!"

The play is set in the town of Christmas Valley, where, each Christmas, the Chamber of Commerce hosts a Community Caroling Concert, and awards the coveted yard signs to those displaying the best "Holiday Cheer" at this event. This "friendly" competition each year has just about driven the locals mad with jealousy, conspiracy theories and alliances "to the death" sworn over back fences all over town.

Nicholas Kringleman, owner of Christmas Valley's only restaurant, "Kringleman's Deli," has closed his business, and will be out of town, as usual. Nicholas never competes for prizes and always leaves home, only returning on the

Dec. 26.

The Dimmer twins, Shimmer and Glimmer, are up to their typical nasty tricks as the highly anticipated event approaches. When they aren't busy tearing up the town, they are fighting tooth and nail with each other. Glimmer has the most cunning and criminal intelligence, but she is insanely jealous of Shimmer, "the pretty one."

Walter Winterberry (played by same actor as Nicholas Kringleman) hates Christmas. He is the postmaster of Christmas Valley, and, as such, is responsible for hand canceling all the cards sent to the town for remailing by obsessed Christmas nuts living in non-festive places with names like Death Valley. Ebenezer Scrooge would be proud to call him a friend.

Wanda Winterberry, Walter's sister, a driving force behind all of the Christmas

mania, is in full steamroller mode as usual. What she lacks in money and taste, she makes up in boundless enthusiasm. Wanda loves everything about Christmas, and spends the entire year scrounging around for junk she can use to create her "holiday masterpieces."

Holly Garland, police Chief of Christmas Valley, has a few problems of her own. She has reluctantly agreed to head up the judging committee this year, against her better judgment. Her own home isn't decorated yet because she's been too busy, and she has been spending most of her time riding herd on the Dimmer twins.



Poison Pen Players' shows are fully scripted with high-energy physical comedy and audience interaction.

Performance is Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$43.95 and includes a three-course meal and at least one murder. Purchase tickets by phone at 541-888-968-4086, online at [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

## Eugene Ballet to present Holiday classic 'The Nutcracker'



It wouldn't be the Christmas season without that classic holiday tradition — "The Nutcracker." This popular seasonal show comes alive on the Florence Events Center stage Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. The Eugene Ballet's holiday extravaganza once again fills the stage with smiling faces of all ages as hundreds of young dancers join the company to tell this beloved story with its grand adventures taken by Clara and Hans.

"The Nutcracker" brings the holiday spirit into focus, transporting the audience through Clara's dreams and the wondrous characters she encounters along the way. With the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier as guides, you'll fly away to the Snow Kingdom and the Land of the Sweets, but not before battling the Mouse King and his pirate hench-mice.

Toni Pimble's exquisite choreography and Don Carson's colorful and magical sets are masterfully orchestrated to create the perfect tradition to put everyone into the holiday spirit.

For tickets and more information, stop by the FEC, 715 Quince St., call 541-997-1994 or go online to [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).



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# Get tickets early for fifth annual Crab Crack

The fifth annual Florence Crab Crack is a sure fire remedy for the dreaded “cabin fever,” which threatens to afflict the general populace of the central Oregon coast every winter. Get your ticket and join the other 399 people who will attend the Crab Crack at the Florence Events Center on Saturday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy great food and company while aiding the less fortunate in this area.

Beginning Dec. 1, tickets will also be available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Florence Food Share, 2190 Spruce St. All the proceeds from this event will benefit Florence Food Share, a local food pantry that provides resources to those facing hunger in Western Lane County.

Oregon coast Dungeness crab, along with pasta, coleslaw, garlic bread, sodas, coffee and BJ’s Ice Cream, will be served by “crab head” volunteers. A no-host bar will also be available.

While savoring the delectable crustaceans and side dishes, attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase one or many



of the special silent auction items.

Tickets to this event are \$35 each, with only 400 tickets available. The deadline for ticket purchases is Jan. 25 and will not be available at the door. Past Crab Cracks have sold out early, so get tickets early.

Several sponsors are already stepping up to make this event possible. All individuals and companies are welcome to “sponsor a crab” for the event and help Florence Food Share serve those in need in our area.

For more information, arrange group seating or purchase tickets, contact Bob MacDuffee at 541-997-9599 or email [dunesguy97439@yahoo.com](mailto:dunesguy97439@yahoo.com).

## Jazz Kings to croon your Christmas season favorites

Shirley Andress returns with her 8th-annual Florence Christmas “Swinging On a Star,” featuring Tracy Williams, Marisa Frantz, Bob Cross and Bill Hulings fronting Jesse Cloninger and the Emerald City Jazz Kings in Christmas Swing configuration! Look for all of your favorites, plus a few surprises in this heartwarming evening of Christmas cheer and togetherness tailored to this season’s Jazz Kings 20th Anniversary of Swing!

And since so many of our best-loved Christmas songs were written during the Swing Era, that’s not going to be so hard

to do: look for old favorites like “White Christmas” (1942), “I’ll Be Home For Christmas” (1943), “The Christmas Song,” “Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas” (both 1944), “Let It Snow” (1945), and many more!

It will be an evening for the entire family Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$27 for college student with ID, \$15 for youth (17 and younger).

For tickets call the Florence Events Center at 888-968-4086 or visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org)

