

MAY  
2016

Florence Events Center

# Center Stage

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## SEAcoast's **NEW HOT CLUB**

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# 'Sea Life' themed art exhibit continues through May in Galleries One and Five

While the FEC's "Dancing Sea Lions" have migrated to their new temporary homes in Florence and beyond, the Sea Life exhibit will stay at the Florence Events Center in Galleries One and Five through May. The collection of stunning paintings, photography and sculptures are on display and available for purchase.

Art medias include oil painting, watercolor, acrylic, colored pencil and mixed media represented by artists Ron Hildenbrand, Kat Cunningham, John Leasure, Dan Leasure, Katie Miller, Paul Kingsbury, Eileen Hearne, Tracy Webster, Colleen Goodwin Chronister, and Claudia Ignatieff.

Photographers displaying their works are Kevin Liebel, Michael MacDuffee and Bob MacDuffee. In addition, the glass-case exhibit is filled with myrtle wood sculptures

by artist Terry Woodall.

The galleries are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on weekends during special events.

For more information, contact the FEC office at 541-997-1994, or visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

**Local artist Paul Kingsbury, with his acrylic painting "Majestic Coast."**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY:

- Community Chorus spring concert — May 1
- FRAA Poetry Slam — May 7
- FURA workshop — May 10
- Rhody Showcase Performance — May 11
- SEAcosta's New Hot Club concert — May 13
- Wallflowers and Wine — May 14
- Geocache Friends — May 14
- FRAA Rhody Art Show — May 21 and 22
- Rhody Flower Show — May 21 and 22
- SHS Choir Concert — May 24

### JUNE:

- Gypsy Camp Vintage Market — June 3 and 4
- SHS Band Concert — June 6
- Coastal Fitness Spring Show — June 9
- DanceAbility — June 10
- Green Fair — June 11
- Lane Blood Mobile — June 13



### ONGOING EVENTS:

Florence Rotary Club luncheon - Tuesdays at noon

## Community Chorus to debut new director at spring concert

The Siuslaw High School Chamber Choir, the Encore Dancers, CROW Kids and the Flotones will all be special guest performers at the May 1 Community Chorus of Florence performance. The spring concert, titled "Irving Berlin Meets Uncle Sam," will include a number of patriotic songs as well as old favorites that people enjoy singing or humming along with. Irving Berlin wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which made him a "legend" before he turned 30.

During his 60-year career, Berlin wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 19 Broadway shows and 18 Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards.

The concert will be held Sunday, May 1, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, with attendees age 18 and younger admitted free.

In addition, new Community Chorus of Florence director Jennifer Weier will make her debut during the spring concert. Having moved to Florence in December of 2015, Weier quickly became enmeshed in the local music scene. In addition to directing the Chorus, Weier, an accomplished pianist, also provides accompaniment for local church choirs and the Flotones.

She also teaches piano and has a number of students.

Since beginning her piano studies at age 4, Weier progressed to the point of graduating with a piano performance degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has performed internationally and is planning to complete a master's degree in piano performance in Germany at some time in the future.

Despite her busy volunteer and conducting schedule, Weier tries to practice piano for five hours a day. She manages to fit in hobbies such as hiking, running and cooking.

For more information about the Community Chorus or tickets, contact the FEC office at 541-997-1994, or visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).



**New Community Chorus director Jennifer Weier**

## CENTERSTAGE

A publication of the Siuslaw News.

Published each month. Distribution: 7,000 in the Siuslaw News, Florence and surrounding areas.

**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

541-997-3441

Ron Annis, CENTERSTAGE LAYOUT & DESIGN

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Printed by Central Coast Publishing



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# SEAc coast to host music of New Hot Club



On Friday, May 13, at 7 p.m., you'll be in luck when The New Hot Club of America comes to "wow" Florence. This dazzling ensemble is comprised of some of today's top gypsy jazz artists in North America. You'll want to tango in your seat as they recapture the sound, style, and spirit of the 1930's-era Hot Club of France.

Tickets, artist profiles, show times, video clips, and more information are available at [SEAc coastEA.org](http://SEAc coastEA.org). Tickets are \$30, or \$10 for those under 18. Tickets may also be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; or by phone at 541-997-1994 or online at [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).



## 'Dancing Sea Lions' celebration makes big splash

More than 750 people were in attendance for the official "Splash Off" of the FEC's Dancing With Sea Lions reveal, which is part of the center's 20th anniversary celebration. The project is a public art program featuring 20 hand-decorated fiberglass sea lions on display from Reedsport to Newport and locations throughout Florence.

On April 8, the FEC held an artist reception for the Dancing with Sea Lions artists, committee members, sponsors, underwriters and the Friends of the FEC

before the free public Splash Off! event April 9.

Jennifer Connor, FEC marketing specialist and project coordinator, said she loved that the project makes art accessible.

"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.

FEC Director Kevin Rhodes opened the artist reception, where all 20 full-sized sea



lions filled the flat floor of the events center. Rhodes said the FEC continues to host local and regional events. By the end of this year, the tally will total 8,000 events.

"Although the celebration continues throughout the year, Dancing with Sea Lions is certainly the pinnacle event. Jennifer and the whole committee has done a fantastic job," Rhodes said.

Each Dancing with Sea Lions sculpture was sponsored by an area business or organization. The project was underwritten by Sea Lion Caves, Florence Urban Renewal Agency and Three Rivers Casino Resort.

City Councilor Joshua Greene, who is also active in the Public Arts Committee and Florence Urban Renewal Agency, said, "When you think about the FEC and all that Jennifer and her team have done to get this done and get it out there from Newport to Reedsport, this is really terrific. You come in here and you see this unbelievable expression of creativity, fun and excitement, and all by these artists in our community."

City of Florence Public Works has installed the sea lions at their locations around Florence. For a full map, information on the artists and more pictures, visit [www.dancingwithsealions.com](http://www.dancingwithsealions.com).



# Royal court takes center stage for Rhody Showcase May 11



The annual Rhododendron Festival is Florence's premiere event, bringing more than 10,000 people to this small, coastal town for four days of celebration. But before the vendors, bikers and parades fill the streets, the Rhody Court take to the stage for the Rhododendron Court Scholarship Showcase

to determine this year's royalty.

Once known as the Rhododendron Pageant and now held in advance of the annual Rhododendron Festival, the event features local high school juniors and seniors who will compete for scholarships and title of Queen Rhododendra during Rhododendron Days.

The showcase will be Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the Florence Events Center, along with video presentations, displays of talent, dance numbers and live interviews of the princesses.

In addition, a junior court of five princesses and five princes will represent grades 1 through 5.

For the past several weeks, members of the Senior Rhody Court and Junior Princesses have been serving as ambassadors for the festival by visiting senior residences, volunteering in the community and, most

recently, rehearsing their talents for the fun-filled Rhody Showcase.

Court members will be judged individually on participation, mentorship, public speaking and platform presentation, pin sales and talent.

Queen Rhododendra will be crowned at the end of the showcase, and both courts will make appearances in the the Kids Parade and Grand Floral Parade during the 109th Rhododendron Festival, May 19 through 22.

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$13 and are available through the Florence Events Center box office by calling 541-997-1994.



## Spoken Word poets have a chance to shine with rhyme

Get your rhyme on May 7, during the Big Wave Spoken Word Poetry Slam and Contest taking place at 6 p.m. at the Florence Events Center. Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is the organizer of this statewide event, which is offering the largest cash prizes in Oregon.

The first place winner will receive \$500, along with \$250 for second place and \$100 for third.

Poetry slams were invented in the late 80's in Chicago as a way of breathing new life into open-mic poetry events. The audience is involved, not only because the five judges are chosen randomly from the audience, but also because audience members are encouraged to verbalize or otherwise indicate their appreciate or dissatisfaction with the judges scoring.

Finger snapping indicates the poet has said something that resonates with the audience. Boing of scores that are deemed too low, and wild clapping and whistling for those brave poets who bare their souls, are

common.

Poetry slams attract a wide range of poets and diverse subject matter, including heartfelt love poetry, searing social commentary, comedic routines, and bittersweet personal stories.

Poets are free to perform any style.

"If you have never been to a Spoken Word Poetry contest," says chairwoman Bettie Egerton, "this is the one to attend. We will have the best of the best, from all around Oregon. You will laugh, cry, snap your fingers in appreciation and be emotionally transformed by the poetry you hear."

Admission to the event is \$10, which supports FRAA Poetry Events and the Youth Poetry Program.

A special youth poetry contest will be held at 2 p.m., with the winner receiving \$100, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

For more information, visit the FRAA website at fraaoregon.org.



## An evening of Wine and Wallflowers returns

Come create your own wall art with artist John Leasure while enjoying a glass of wine Saturday, May 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m. All the paints, canvas and art instruction are provided to create your own sunflower masterpiece. Tickets are \$40 per person and include a free beverage (one glass of wine or non-alcoholic choice) and a multitude of delicious snacks while participants are given professional, step-by-step painting instruction.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot by visiting [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org), stop by the FEC box office at 715 Quince Street, or call at 541-997-1994.

This fun event is sponsored by the Friends of the Florence Events Center.





## FRAA hosting Rhody Days art exhibit



A show by local and coastal artists and craftsmen will be presented by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) at the Florence Events Center during Rhody Days, May 21 and 22. In the tradition of the arts festival, visitors will experience and delight in the unique artistry while also having a chance to meet the artists.

Some of the types of artistry that will be included: woodturning, fused glass, stained glass, bead weaving, photography, metal work, garden décor, intarsia, fractal art, pine

needle baskets, fiber arts and linens, wearable fabric art, knitted and crocheted accessories, scroll saw wood art, raku ceramics, obsidian knives, rocktopography, hand painted pottery, watercolors, pyrography, lampwork beads as well as a variety of unique jewelry.

The show's artists will be donating 10 percent of their sales to support the Florence Arts Center, 120 Maple Street.

Admission is free."

## Rhodys to bloom at annual flower show May 21 and 22

Celebrate the namesake of Florence's annual Rhododendron Festival at the American Rhododendron Society's Siuslaw Chapter Rhododendron Flower Show May 21 and 22. The flower show, which is a judged event, aims to educate and introduce the public to as many varieties of rhododendrons as possible. The show is free and open to the public as soon as judging is completed.

The exhibit is a great place to find what

flowers would look great in your garden and view varieties of both rhododendrons and azaleas from around the world. The Siuslaw Chapter also has an outdoor plant sale both days. Many selections of rhododendrons and azaleas are available for a reasonable price.

Doors are open Saturday, May 21, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## Siuslaw High School choirs, bands to host spring concerts



Music from the Siuslaw High School bands and choirs will fill the auditorium when they perform their year-end concerts on the Florence Events Center's main stage. A concert featuring each of Siuslaw's award-winning bands will key-up Tuesday, May 24, and the SHS choirs gathering to perform their singing talents with special, hand-picked student selections on Monday, June 6.

Both concerts begin at 7 p.m. and are free to the public.

The choirs' Spring Pops Concert will

feature the high school Concert Choir, the student-driven A'Capelicans (A'Cappella group) and the Chamber Choir in a special themed show.

On both nights, there will be solo and group acts by many individuals from the school's award-winning music programs. This concert will highlight SHS seniors in their final high school performance, as well as recognize some of the outstanding musicians and what they've accomplished throughout the year.





# Gypsy Camp bringing vintage items to town

An extravagant vintage flea market will come to Florence during the Gypsy Camp Vintage Market at the Florence Events Center, June 3 and 4. On Friday evening, the Vintage Market will host a Champagne and Shop from 4 to 8 p.m.

Admission is \$7 for adults and free for children age 17 and under.

Come sip champagne and browse the best vintage goods on the coast. The market continues on Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 and free to those who paid on Friday.

Historically, gypsy camps around the world have been known for bright, colorful people selling their wares from wagons and carts, setting up and tearing down as they

traveled. They brought to the towns unique crafts and house wares, decor and collectibles.

The Gypsy Camp Vintage Market merchandise mission is similar. It brings vendors selling antique, vintage, repurposed and up-cycled goods, from French-inspired, shabby-chic, vintage cowboy or cowgirl, beach decor and more.

There are also wine and cheese vendors and an entire section dedicated to outdoor living.

Stop by for a snack or meal offered by Mon Ami.

There will also be several Gypsy Camp vintage trailers to get you excited for the camp season.

For more information, visit [www.gypsyncampvintagemarket.com](http://www.gypsyncampvintagemarket.com).



# Geocache Splash will offer treasures, fun May 14

Modern-day treasure seekers know as geocachers will descend on Florence and along the central Oregon coast for the Cache Splash May 14. This event is part of the Florence Events Center's 20th anniversary Celebration, Dancing with Sea Lions.

"Porter the Sea Lion" is inviting geocachers to the Cache Splash Off being held May 14, at 8 a.m., at the Florence Events Center. The first 25 people to sign up at the

FEC will receive a special Dancing with Sea Lions (DwSL) refrigerator magnet. There will be a chance to win some amazing prizes donated by generous merchants, along with theme-oriented geocaches.

For an extra chance to win these amazing prizes, bring an item that can be added to the raffle collection. A raffle will be held at 4 p.m. (Must be present to win.)

There is a "colony" of 20 artistically decorated fiberglass sea lions standing 7 1/2 feet tall to find, stretching from Reedsport to Newport. Geocachers will be looking for Porter in all her beautiful forms, as well as new caches as a part of the fun. Teamwork would be helpful, but isn't required — and don't forget your camera to take pictures with each Porter!

To claim DwSL geocoins, complete the Porterport, where details will be listed. Participants must complete the Porterport to receive a geocoin (while supplies last). On the day of the Splash Off event May 14, bring your completed Porterport to the FEC before 5 p.m. After the event, bring the Porterport to Sea Lion Cave, 91560 Highway 101, anytime between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to receive a trackable geocoin while supplies last.

Only one geocoin per family

Participants must present the original Porterport to receive a geocoin.

Geocachers can obtain your DwSL Porterport at the event. After the event a printable Porterport will be available at DwSL website.

This event will officially end Sept. 30, or when Porter leaves to be auctioned.



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# Coastal Fitness to present annual spring show June 9



On Thursday, June 9, starting at 6:30 p.m., the Florence Events Center will come alive with jumping, tumbling fun with young gymnast students from Coastal Fitness. This year marks fitness center's 21st annual show and will spotlight skills and talents of local youth of all ages. Come be inspired by the achievements of young people whose tumbling routines will be filled with enthusiasm, energy and fun as they showcase their skills.



All performers featured have trained at Coastal Fitness and Aquatics, where gymnastics, trampoline and dance classes are offered to children ages three and older.

For ticket information, or to learn about summer classes and swim lessons, call Coastal Fitness at 541-997-8086.

For ticket information, or to learn about summer classes and swim lessons, call Coastal Fitness at 541-997-8086.

# FEC to 'Go Green' during annual Green Fair



"Living green" has become more than a catchphrase as more people try to live green. It's the direction people are taking as the importance of protecting the environment becomes a growing focal point for the planet. While "living green" once just meant sorting recyclables, it has evolved into making lifestyle changes that are environmentally friendly and sustainable. To further these efforts, Siuslaw News, KCST Radio and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce will host Florence's seventh-annual Green Fair on Saturday, June 11.

Businesses will assemble at the Florence Events Center with information and displays demonstrating how consumers and businesses can choose products and take simple steps to create less waste, save money, be healthful to the environment and leave a smaller carbon footprint on the planet.

Whether it is about recycling, using less energy or protecting the soil, air and foods we eat, the Florence Green Fair will offer ideas and solutions for adopting a greener lifestyle.

"Businesses will gather to show local consumers how to improve their lifestyle while preserving this planet," said Siuslaw News general manager Jenna Bartlett. "Children and adults will learn how easy it is to be environmentally friendly. Equally important, the show is an opportunity for vendors to introduce their products and services in a way that is meaningful to people who want to make such changes."

Exhibits, seminars and interactive activities are scheduled through the day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission to the Florence Green Fair is \$3.



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# DanceAbility brings eclectic dance to Florence



“Don’t Leave Me” is an enthralling modern dance performance that celebrates creativity and the potential that is only possible when people with and without disabilities

work together as equals. This is the first professional mixed-abilities performance to ever be shown in Florence. It is also the first time that DanceAbility International will perform in Florence.

“Don’t Leave Me” is being presented by the DanceAbility international dance company, in collaboration with the University of Oregon School of Architecture, which designed the set structures. The show explores how we are all dependent on each other and how space determines action and vice versa. The dancers use the ever-changing set design as apparel, as furniture and as architecture. The human and architectural bodies act as a symbiotic community.

This cross-discipline collaboration of dance and architecture takes risks with frames and bodies. During a rehearsal, one of the dancers was high up on the designed structure and felt it start to shake. She immediately called out to the

dancers below her “don’t leave me!”

This became the title of the piece.

It speaks to our interdependence and also the DanceAbility method belief that nobody should be left out or left behind.

This performance will open audience’s hearts and minds. It shows the unlimited potential of people when disabilities are not viewed as something inferior. The dancers with and without disabilities create and express together as equals.

DanceAbility International performances surprise and delight, as they dissolve labels and barriers.

This project is made possible in part by Western Lane Community Foundation, Plum Creek Foundation, and Lane County Cultural Coalition, with operating support from Lane Arts Council and Oregon Arts Commission.

“Don’t Leave Me” will be performed at the Florence Events Center June 10, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$22.

For tickets, visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org) or call 541-997-1994.



## FEC offering artists many exhibit opportunities ahead

The Florence Events Center will have several opportunities for artists to display their talents in galleries One and Five during the fall and winter of 2016, and continuing in 2017. The FEC Gallery Committee, as part of Friends of the FEC, is giving artists advance notice of upcoming exhibits, as well as offering new and creative challenges to artists.

The first special exhibit will take place in October and November. This will be the second annual Artistic Visions Award Show. Artists can display up to three pieces of artwork, including 2-D, photography and 3-D.

Cash awards will be given to winners in each category, as well as honorable mention ribbons. Qualified jurors from outside the Florence area will judge this show.

In December 2016, the FEC will offer a new exhibit encouraging people to “Give Art this

Christmas.” Artists will be asked to submit works that are \$100 or less, and a fun reception will be planned with live music, refreshments and photos with Santa.

January and February 2017 will be third annual “For the Love of Animals” exhibit, with a reception held to benefit the Florence Area Humane Society. Pet photos are always a fun part of this event. March and April will be a patriotic themed exhibit, with a reception benefiting DAV and the Military Heritage Museum.

Florence and the surrounding regions have many talented artists who are encourage to share their works at the FEC.

Publicity and details on each of the upcoming exhibits will be available the month prior, and applications will also be available at that time at [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).