

KB Gallery to host poetry contest with cash prize

On Saturday, March 7, the Kenneth B Gallery, 1458 First St. in Old Town Florence, will host its first monthly "Florence Spoken Word Poetry Contest," which offers a \$250 cash prize for the winning poem.

Each participating poet may read one poem for no longer than three minutes, and there is a \$10 entrance fee for poets to participate.

Registration starts at 3 p.m., and the readings begin at 5 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend for free.

This month's contest will be judged by Jill Hardin, published poet, singer and songwriter; Karen Brown, writing and literature instructor at Lane Community College, Florence; and Ryan Cronk, editor at Siuslaw News.

Mexcian brass band more than entertaining

Metales M5 Review

BY LUELL SCOTT

From the moment that Metales M5 walked into the pre-performance talk at the Florence Events Center, they entertained.

As the concert began onstage in the performance hall, Alexander Freund, one of two trumpeters, pulled the audience in with his warm personality and amazing talent.

Added to that, the rest of the group: Oscar Villegas Miranda on trumpet, Juan Carlos Quiterio Miguel on French horn, Roberto Carlos Cruz on trombone, and Jose Lopez Juarez on tuba.

They show us that whether they are in-between numbers or performing, guests were there to enjoy the night with them.

The curtain opened to a dark house, the silhouette of Metales M5 against a red backdrop playing Vuelta de Fuego by Kevin McKee, a beautiful piece with trumpets synchronized and answering each other's call, ending with perfect blending and energy.

Freund shared with us that during the long hours returning from China they decided to do a piece of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto, No. 3.

Freund jokingly said, "After this you will know why Bach did not compose it for Brass."

It was an amazing performance. They continued with Bach



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Mexican brass band Metales M5

– playing Fantasie in C Major, which was written for the organ, and sharing with the audience the versatility of brass instruments, and equally beautiful.

Continuing on their flight from China, at about 15 hours, they wandered onto a cartoon network and realized that Bugs Bunny loves Opera.

Sharing with us their rendition of Giacchino Rossini's Overture to the Barber of Seville, which was a theme song for Bugs, and continuing on with Flight of the Bumblebee that features Juarez on tuba like I have never before seen or heard.

They then shared Engelbert Humperdinck's moving "Evening Prayer" from Hansel and Gretel, one of my

personal favorites, followed by Pashkov's Tango, "A story of Love" and much more.

They also performed what I can only call the "The Duel", acted out perfectly while played, not missing a beat; and a "Brass Band Culture" featuring Freund on trumpet.

I think my favorite moment of the night was when all but Miguel on French horn walked into the audience, surrounding everyone with music while playing Michael Kamen's Brass Quintet featuring the French horn.

It was truly amazing to feel the music surround us.

Equally enjoyed were two pieces from West Side Story; "Maria" and "Tonight"; their favorite Beatles song, Michelle; and a song to celebrate Freund's

birthday on Feb. 14.

Tonight I heard brass played like never before, fingers flying over their chosen instruments and a trombone that I now respect more than ever before.

Tonight was also more proof that music is universal, bringing people together, even when there are language barriers, to touch our heart and soul.

Metales M5 was presented by Ernie Doud, president of Seacoast Entertainment Association's 2014-15 concert season.

Watch for SEA's next exciting concert, The Voetberg Family, on Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m.

For tickets call the FEC box office at 541-997-1994.

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PeaceHealth caregivers send gratitude overseas

Each year the PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Employee Activity Council works on a project in which it gives back to the community of Florence.

This year, that project was Holiday Cheer for Heroes.

This project had such a positive response, the caregivers decided to help provide a little encouragement to the overseas active duty soldiers as well.

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center caregivers collected items and let-

ters to send to these active duty soldiers through the organization Operation Gratitude.

Nine large boxes were filled with packaged snacks, personal care items, books, greeting cards, stuffed animals and more.

The mailed boxes weighed over 345 pounds.

All items were sent to Operation Gratitude where they are dispersed to individual soldiers.

To see wish list items or to learn more about Operation Gratitude, visit woperationgratitude.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

A PeaceHealth Operation Gratitude volunteer helps sort donations that will be sent to active-duty U.S. soldiers.

Last Resort Players to host auditions Feb. 28

Auditions for the June performance of "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

are being held Feb. 28 and March 1, beginning at 2 p.m., on the main stage of the

Florence Events Center.

All rolls are for adults.

In this riotous play, an eclectic group of six mid-pubescent (played by adults) vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime.

While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home life, the "tweens" spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words hoping to never hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake.

Six spellers enter, one speller leaves.

Those planning to audition should bring sheet music or an accompaniment track, a headshot and resume.

More information is available at www.lastresortplayers.org, or by contacting Paula Burnette at 541-997-4092.

ARE YOU A THREE RIVERS CASINO RESORT COMMUNITY CASH WINNER?

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Friday 2/13	Raymond Bray Betty Blake	Florence Florence	Safeway Safeway
Saturday 2/14	Tia Menser Elsie McKean	Florence Florence	Q Nails & Spa Safeway
Sunday 2/15	Lori Coffindaffer Shirley Shotwell	Florence Mapleton	Safeway Three Rivers Casino Resort
Monday 2/16	Norma Saxon Linda McPhedran	Florence Florence	Rite Aid Travelers Cove

Each winner receives \$50.00 in Community Cash!

Winners have 7 days from the date drawn to claim their prize.

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