

Call to poets for third 'Spoken Word' contest Saturday

Florence's Spoken Word Monthly Poetry Contest is looking for more poets to participate in the contest held at Kenneth B Gallery's new location in Old Town.

This third contest, set for Saturday, May 2, offers a "winner takes all," up to \$250, for first prize. Additionally, this event will now offer a free open mic for all poets who wish to share additional poems after the contest readings.

Registration begins at 3 p.m. and is only available at the door, due to technical difficulties with the online process.

Registration fee is \$10 per poet, and a \$5 donation for the

audience is suggested.

Readings begin at 4 p.m. All poems for the contest must be original and read within three minutes.

Jurors will be Stuart Henderson, artist and activist; Robert White, last month's first-prize winner; and Karen Brown, professor of writing at Lane Community College.

The location for this contest has changed to better accommodate what has been a standing-room-only event in the past.

This and all future poetry contests will now be held at the new KB Gallery, located at 120 Maple St.

City seeks 'art influencers' for new committee

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Last week, Florence City Council passed a resolution to form a public art committee for the city. The committee will consist of three artists, three citizens at large, a member of a local art agency, one city councilor and one member of city staff. The city will open the application process soon, with hopes for the new committee to meet officially in June.

"This is very near and dear to my heart," said Council President Joshua Greene.

Area artists, businesses, community members and even Florence Events Center (FEC) staff have been working toward getting more public art in the city for some time.

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) formed a steering committee to begin organizing the various efforts.

"We applaud what the FEC is doing," said President Harlen

Springer. "They're trying to find ways to get more public art out there. We're simply trying to find a way to coordinate all that."

The steering committee met with the city council in March and proposed to become a city committee. With city council's unanimous vote of approval, the committee might be picked by the end of May.

The committee will begin the process of establishing a public art policy and program for Florence. They will explore how other jurisdictions handle the acquisition and display of public art and apply what they learn to the Florence area.

Councilor Ron Preisler cautioned, "Art is not inexpensive. Is there a plan in place for fundraising for additional projects? I know we have the first one pretty well set at the Port (of Siuslaw). Are we waiting for the committee to come forward with options?"

Springer said, "There are a

number of sources for funds for this endeavor."

He listed private donations, grants, business donations, city funds and fundraising projects.

He also reported that through private donations and a grant from Western Lane Community Foundation, they already have enough funds "to purchase the city's first piece of outdoor public art."

"We plan to have that in place sometime in the fall," he said.

City Manager Erin Reynolds also mentioned that Florence Urban Renewal Agency is addressing public art in upcoming meetings.

"We are excited to see this. It's a great way to kick off economic development and art in the community," she said.

Greene said, "We want to see everybody showing as much art everywhere, so that people look around this town and say, 'It's got art, it's got beauty, it's got architecture.'"

The committee will be made of seven voting members and two members from the city. As long as the majority are from within the city boundaries, as many as four representatives can be from the surrounding area.

Besides artists, Greene hopes for "art influencers," like those involved in architecture, landscaping design and galleries, to join the committee.

The city also emphasized the importance of grant writing skills as a consideration.

Councilor Susy Lacer said, "I am very excited about this whole public art movement. I'm excited to see this progress."

"Thank you to everybody," said Greene. "This has been a longtime coming and you've gotten hard work done."

Those interested in joining the public art committee should look for applications online in May at the city's website www.ci.florence.or.us.



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Police from 1A

Two fire trucks held up an American flag along the route. Numerous motor officers from around the state provided traffic control.

Community members lined the streets with signs to honor Datan, his family and law enforcement.

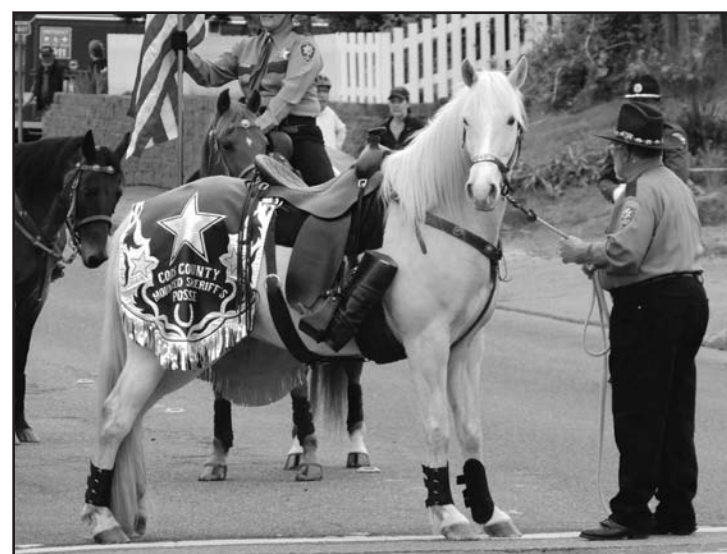
According to Pitcher, community members held their hands to their hearts and some stood at attention and saluted.

During the service, awards were given to the family of Datan, including the state flag that flew over the capital building on April 20 and the Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice award from Gov. Kate Brown's office.

The service included an honor guard formed by members of police agencies, a 21-gun salute and a rider-less horse. It ended with the final radio call for Datan's badge, No. 524.

The Coos County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the Oregon Fallen Badge Association, put on a fitting tribute to Datan and his family.

The "Wives Behind the Badge" association, which included wives of FPD officers, also assisted by helping with set up, feeding the many volunteers, finding and purchasing last-minute items and



A ceremonial rider-less horse walks in the procession.

many other tasks.

Pitcher said, "(The volunteers) helped make the celebration of life a memorable event for Datan's family, friends, community members and his law enforcement family."

Thousands of community members attended the ceremony.

The state board in charge of

supporting police officers and their families in times of need held a meeting Monday to provide benefits for Datan's family. The fund, established in 1999, provides financial assistance to public safety officers who are disabled in the line of duty, and to family members of officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty.



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Boat from 1A

"The helicopter came very fast. Maybe 10 minutes after the crewman pushed the distress button," Patureau said.

The helicopter stayed near the catamaran for 15 to 20 minutes, communicating

through VHF radio.

"They asked if we needed them to pick up anyone for emergency treatment," Patureau continued. "We said no, that we were OK."

A Coast Guard 47-foot MLB from Station Siuslaw River ran the 30 miles out to the catamaran's location. A second 47-foot MLB waited to assist at the mouth of the Siuslaw River.

"The biggest issue was the language problem," Greenlied said. "It was difficult to relay information."

After salvaging the boom and the two sails, and clearing away the mast and unsalvageable debris, the Twin Image, under Coast Guard escort, motored to the mouth of the Siuslaw River, across the bar and up river to the Port of Siuslaw transient dock.

According to Coast Guard records, the catamaran tied up to the dock at 1 p.m., five hours after being dismantled.

None of the four members of the catamaran crew had U.S. visas, because they had not intended to dock in any U.S. port.

"We came from Tahiti directly to Vancouver. We have a Canadian visa, but we don't have an American visa," Patureau explained.

The two crew members flew home, but Patureau and Darceot have to stay until the boat repairs are completed and then finish their voyage to French Polynesia.

U.S. Customs issued a special 30-day boat parole, which gives the couple special permission to stay on the boat, but they cannot travel or visit other parts of the country.

"Generally, repairs covered under a boat parole would only take a few weeks. In this case, it could take four to six months," Patureau said.

Rather than reapply for boat paroles every 30 days for the next six months, the couple decided to apply for U.S. visas. But you cannot apply for a U.S. visa while you are in the United States.

"We decided that the best way for us, and for the U.S. Customs, is for us to go to Vancouver, B.C., by car and apply for a visa," Patureau said.

The couple is hoping for a quick trip.

The boat is French built, registered in the Cayman Islands and insured through a London-based insurance company. The previous owner was a New Zealander who was keeping the vessel in Canada, and the current owner is a French citizen living in Tahiti. Now the U.S. government is involved.

Once they have their visas, Patureau and Darceot will motor down to San Francisco, where there are boat haul-out facilities large enough to handle the catamaran's 29-foot beam. They plan to spend the nights in coastal ports along the way, eliminating the need for additional crew.

The couple has enjoyed their unscheduled layover in Florence as much as the circumstances would allow.

"The town and the people are very friendly, very welcoming," Patureau said. "In a small town like Florence, it is easy to meet people. If we go to San Francisco, it will be more difficult because it is a big city."

The only drawback to Florence, from Patureau's perspective, is the weather.

"It is a little cold for us because we are used to living in Polynesia, in tropical weather," he said. "Perhaps San Francisco will be warmer."

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