

Harbor seals splash in Port of Siuslaw



Three harbor seals followed fishing boats into the Port of Siuslaw docking area during Florence's annual Rods 'n' Rhodies on Saturday, Sept. 12. People visiting the car show or walking through the Boardwalk Market watched the seals play, splash, tease seagulls and swim past the boats.

PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

'Chicago' presale tickets: You've got it coming

The Last Resort Players are proud to announce that tickets for "Chicago," playing at the Florence Events Center the first two weekends in November, are now available. David and Rosemary Lauria direct the star-caliber cast of "Chicago." Local performers sing, dance and murder their way through Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse's classic musical of the best and worst of the jazz age. The presale ticket price is \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors and military. The special presale runs until today, Sept. 30, at the FEC box office, 715 Quince St., or online at www.eventcenter.org. Regular ticket sales open Thursday, Oct. 1. Regular ticket prices will be \$20 for adults and \$18 senior and military. "Chicago" will be performed at the FEC Nov. 6 to 8 and 13 to 15. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees will be at 2 p.m. For more information, go to www.lrpproductions.org or find "LRP: Chicago" on Facebook.

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SOS from 1A

"We don't know of any other community where this happens. Other similar organizations from around the state were impressed when we told them about our march and the people we get to participate in it," Wiegand said.

"For the past three years, following the march, we have had someone approach us to tell us that because of the march, they have become aware of our services and that they are coming into SOS to get help. That in and of itself is worth the time and effort to put on the march," he added. Earlier this month, as a pre-

lude to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, two advocates from SOS, Marie Hickman and Pamela Long, spoke to the Florence Area Community Coalition during the coalition's monthly meeting.

During the presentation, Long discussed the services provided by SOS that are necessary to support victims of domestic violence and others in financial stress.

"Not only is it a situation of safety, concern and health issues, but we have housing and utilities assistance, laundry assistance and transportation. There are also a lot of security and safety issues we have to deal with," Long said.

She explained that SOS does have a "safe house" in Florence, but, "because it is such a small town, we like to have a client who is from Florence located to a different community for their safety. There is no disclosure of where our safe house is here. Clients who are housed in our shelter are from another area, for their safety, so they are not found."

Long stressed that SOS needs emergency hotline volunteers.

"We need people who are dedicated and believe in the cause," she said.

One of the goals that SOS has for this year, according to Wiegand, "is to get more men

involved and to realize that domestic violence is a problem that affects everyone in our community. Awareness of what is happening is an extremely important aspect of what we do."

SOS will also be holding its annual Soiree fundraiser this Sunday, Oct. 4, at Homegrown Public House. The goal for this year's event is to reach its fundraising goal of being able to "burn the mortgage."

For more information, call SOS at 541-997-2816.

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.

City from 1A

"I'm really happy with what we've received as bids on this project," Miller said. "We had a really excellent turnout with the bids for this project. I considered three of them being very close."

Ray Wells' bid came in \$8,386 below the engineer's cost estimate, and according to the staff report, "has completed similar projects with very good results."

"Sounds good to me," said Florence Mayor Joe Henry.

The Siano Loop improvements are fully funded.

Miller then spoke about the next Rhododendron Drive project.

"This is an engineering services contract for \$223,666 to Civil West Engineering. It sounds like a lot, but there's a lot going on," he said.

The staff report said, "The goal of this project is to complete road improvements that will include traffic and pedestrian improvements in accordance with the 2012 Transportation System Plan along with the water system upgrades."

The project involves upgrading to a 16-inch waterline, starting at Kingwood Street, going north to Rhododendron Drive, then from Rhododendron down to Ninth Street.

According to the staff report, "The existing water system in this area is severely undersized and needs to be increased to better service the professional office district."

Miller said, "This will provide additional fire suppression for the hospital, which is in desperate need. Basically right now, the hospital cannot

expand anymore without additional fire flow. This will provide that."

In addition, the engineers will look at the condition of that section of road.

"We like to couple things together as we do projects and this is one of them," Miller said.

As part of the project, engineers will check for accessibility and make sure existing curbs and curb cuts meet requirements.

The next part of the project will be a \$32,000 construction services contract that will put in a storm line for future use.

"We will put the infrastructure in so we don't have to tear the street back up," Miller said.

That aspect of the construction will likely start in July, with a completion date of October 2016.

"If I understand correctly," Henry said, "we're going to be able to resurface from Ninth Street to 101, and we will ulti-

mately have sidewalks or paths, so that by the end of 2016, ... you could walk from Wildwinds to 101 on the paths, is that correct?"

"That is correct," Miller said.

"I think that's outstanding," Henry said.

"Thank you Mayor Henry for that very concise summary," said Councilor Susy Lacer, "because that paints a really beautiful picture for those who like to recreate along Rhododendron Drive."

"It's because you and your staff did such a great job of saving us money on the other piece," Henry added to Miller, "that now within our existing budget, without having to raise fees and do all that stuff, we can do this."

Councilor Joshua Greene said, "It's a great job. I'm so happy you could schedule this project in."

The city council approved both contracts unanimously.

Follow Chantelle on Twitter @SNews_Chantelle. Email her at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com.



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Sept.-Oct. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Classes and Workshops:

Make It and Take It: Beaded Bracelet
Friday, Sept. 25th, 3-5 p.m.
Instructor: Bettie Egerton
Fee: \$20 members/\$25 non-members
All supplies provided. Learn how to make a lovely beaded bracelet for yourself or for gifts.

ONGOING CLASSES:
Oil Painting with Michael Wood
Contact: fmwood@msn.com
Mondays, 3-6p.m. Call Michael for details, fees, and more information

Oil Painting with John Leasure
Contact: 541-991-2754 or jnleasure@hotmail.com
Saturdays, 9a.m. - noon

WRITING WORKSHOPS:
Step-by-Step Writing Workshop with Catherine Rourke:

- Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1-3 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 13, 1-3 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 3, 1-3 p.m.

These workshops are designed to help writers who often don't know where to start. Whether creating a short story, screenplay, article, essay, novel, memoir or nonfiction book, every writer needs a direction. FEE: \$20/members \$25/non-members

Catherine Rourke
928-300-5568 cell

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Tuesday, Oct. 6th, 4:00-5:30
BreakBeat Poets Performance:
All the way from Chicago, 4 nationally known hip-hop Poets are here in Florence. \$5 admission. (Tickets available at the Art Center)

Friday, Oct. 9th: Spoken Word Poetry Contest. \$\$\$ Prize for winner
5:00 Poets Registration- \$10
6:00 Performance begins - \$5 admission fee

Saturday, Oct. 10th, 3-5 p.m.
Second Saturday Art Tour

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
FRAA Annual Meeting. Board member elections.

Friday, Oct. 23rd, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
GRAND OPENING FOR FRAA ART CENTER: All are invited to join us as we celebrate the grand opening of our new Art Center at 120 Maple St. in downtown Florence!!!