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News



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'Dead in the Sled' to 'sleigh' audiences this month

Florence's own warped and wicked Poison Pen Players are back with another hilarious murder mystery comedy for two performances in Florence. The first show will be at the Florence Events Center (FEC) on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m., and the second show will be at Three Rivers Casino Resort on Friday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.

This professional comedy murder mystery troupe has nearly 20 years of experience in the genre, and they claim that they really know how to relieve your holiday stress —

with a whole lot of laughter.

The show's title is "Dead in the Sled: Ho, Ho, Ho...Oh No!" and was written by Poison Pen matriarch Rose Ellen Jacobson.

The storyline is just as twist and unusual as the characters, and centers around a cut-throat award ceremony for the coveted Yard Décor signs in an idyllic little town called "Christmas Valley."

Characters include Nicholas Kringleman, owner of Christmas Valley's only restaurant, "Kringleman's Deli",

played by Marty Adams.

The 11-year-old Dimmer twins, Shimmer and Glimmer (played by Desiree Gaoiran and Tim Jones), are up to their typical nasty tricks as the highly anticipated event approaches.

Walter Winterberry (also played by Adams) hates Christmas. He is the Postmaster of Christmas Valley, and, as such, is responsible for hand-canceling all the cards sent to the town.

Kooky pants Wanda Winterberry (played by Paula Burnette), Walter's sister and

the driving force behind all of the Christmas mania, is in full steamroller mode as usual.

Holly Garland (played by Tamara Szalewski) is the police chief of Christmas Valley, and has reluctantly agreed to head up the judging committee this year, against her better judgment.

Finally, Mike Jacobson reprises his hilarious role as Amarillo Snowden, former ballroom dance champion, and aging gigolo reduced to earning money working for the cruise lines as an escort for the lonely, unaccompanied lady passengers.

Included with the ticket is a three-course holiday meal, coffee/tea and dessert. Audience members get to help solve the murder, and there are prizes for the winning team.

Tickets are \$43.95 at the FEC per person (catered by Mon Ami) and \$40 per person at Three Rivers Casino.

For tickets for Dec. 12, call: 541-997-1994 or visit www.eventcenter.org.

For tickets for Dec. 18, call: 877-374-8377 or visit www.threeriverscasino.com/events.

Downtown from 1A

"Although we're focused on the urban renewal area, we know there are spillover benefits to the entire community," Zahas said. "There's considerable potential in the area."

The consultants identified housing in the downtown area as one area for opportunity.

Multiple land use zones in the urban renewal district mean that residential areas for single-family homes, multi-unit condominiums and two-story mixed-use buildings occupy the space, as well as retail and restaurants.

Leland and FURA both indicated that all these zones were important to the district's growth.

Zahas said, "I think you are in the pretty fortunate position that you have a lot of assets that are attractive. You have the ocean, river, lakes, an actual authentic vibrant downtown — with the restaurants and retailers as healthy as they are — and you've got the dunes. The list goes on and on of exciting things.

"If they're marketed, packaged and presented well, they would make a really compelling case why a sole proprietor business or small entrepreneur would think about Florence."

"What is it we need to be in order to attract small business-

es or people to move here and start up here?" Greene asked.

Pyszka said, "We're shifting to a more talent-based economy. What that means is we are depending on a knowledge-based economy, where ideas are driving our economy forward. The talent-based economy means the jobs are following the talent. What you need to be doing as a community is attracting the talent."

Two demographics will be targeted with a revitalized downtown: Baby Boomers, or those born between 1946 and 1964, and Millennials, those born between the mid-1980s and early 2000s.

According to Zahas, both of these groups want similar things, such as social and recreational opportunities in an urban and amenity-rich environment.

Members of both age groups are looking to start businesses. Entrepreneurship is already a focus of this fiscal year for the City of Florence as it has teamed up with Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN), the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and Lane Community College Florence Center. FURA will continue to look at ways to focus on building and retaining small businesses.

Leland proposed several specific opportunities for new investment in the urban renewal district over the short and

Storm from 1A

Even Lane Council of Governments closed its Senior and Disability Services office in Florence.

Chris Chandler, with Central Lincoln PUD, said there were no reported power outages in the Florence area. The only outage that CLPUD reported was in Toledo.

"We invest in what is best for our customers," Chandler

said. "We engineer our power lines in coastal communities to withstand wind speeds of up to 130 miles per hour."

She added that CLPUD's current construction in Florence continues to bring power lines up to this standard.

The National Weather Service predicted that the highest wind speeds the storm could reach would be around 65 miles per hour. It also said the storm would be fiercest near beaches and headlands.

medium term:

- Multifamily housing to serve Florence's ever-growing retiree population as well as to provide affordable housing options to retain and attract a younger workforce. Housing could take many forms, ranging from single-family attached townhouses to senior housing, apartments and condominiums.

- Retail and services, both in Old Town and along Highway 101, to meet the needs of a growing population.

- Open space and streetscape amenities to create a stronger sense of place that extends Old Town's character up onto Highway 101.

FURA is already working on designs for a Highway 101 Streetscaping Project with the City of Florence Public Works Department.

"There's a lot of pride and familiarity with your local assets, but it is a concern that the outside world doesn't know as much," Zahas said. "As a

Portland resident, I can definitely attest to that. I think Portlanders in general don't realize how much there is to do down here."

FURA will continue to work with the consultants at several more work sessions. Leland's final recommendations will come in March.

"You have a really important foundation and it's a very posi-

itive story," Pyszka said.

For more information or to read Leland Consulting Group's draft of the market analysis, go to www.ci.florence.or.us/urbanrenewal/fura-meeting-22.

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

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CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Make a Memory Window for Christmas
Sunday, December 13, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Instructor: Norma Burkett
Fee: Free for members, \$5 non-members
Contact FRAA or Norma for material list to bring with you.

Cross Stitch
Learn to Cross Stitch or Cross Stitch with Friends
Sundays, January 10, 17 and 24th, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Instructor: Lisa Smith
Fee/class: \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers
Call 541-999-2547 or email lisasmith63@gmail.com with questions

Make Your Own Spirit Doll
Friday, January 15, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Instructor: Norma Burkett
Fee: \$10 for members, \$15 non-members
Contact FRAA for material list to bring with you.

Intro to Abstract Painting
with acrylic, oil or watercolor
Saturday, January 30, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Instructor: Silvia Trujillo
Fee: \$39 for members, \$44 non-members
Call Silvia 541-997-1832 for questions.

WRITING EVENTS

Writer's Workshop with Catherine Rourke
Sat., January 15, 10:00am - 12:00pm
Fee: \$20/members, \$25/nonmembers
Contact: Catherine Rourke, email CJReditor@gmail.com or call 541-708-2120

Writer's SALON
Thurs., January 14, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
FREE- Bring snack
Get together with Writers of all kinds to talk and share ideas.
Contact: Leta McCurry
360-880-0050

ONGOING CLASSES:

Oil Painting with Michael Wood
Mondays, 3:00 - 6:00 pm
Contact: mwood@msn.com for details, fees, and more information

Painting with John Leasure
Saturdays, 9:00 am - noon
Contact: jleasure@hotmail.com or 541-991-2754 for details, fees, and more information

For more information or to register for these events go to:
www.fraaoregon.org

Christmas Fudge at Sea Lion Caves

Come one, come all to the Sea Lion Caves for your Fabulous Festive Fudge for Holidays. All through December we will have these flavors available;

Candy Cane
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Raspberry Cinnamon Crumble
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Ask or call about other flavors. We can make a special flavor for you - (three pound minimum). Give us a call to reserve your pound or pounds of mouthwatering fudge during December as our flavors do sell out quickly. Many tree ornaments available too. Come on up to Sea Lion Caves for the Holidays. Free coffee and cookies on the weekends during December.

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