

COAST LIFE SENIOR NEWS

WEDNESDAY

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Valentine's events offer variety

Local restaurants and more add entertainment and romance



BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

PHOTO BY DEBBIE MEYER

Mon Ami's Valentine's High Tea will have seatings at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Reservations required.

February is a time for heartfelt events and the celebration of love. Below, find some of the Valentine concerts, showings, parties and events going on today, Feb. 11, through Sunday, Feb. 15.

All week

Kiwanis will sell candy every day through Valentine's Day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Sears Showroom, Sixth Street and Highway 101.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St., will show "The Princess Bride" at noon.

The Friends of Poetry meet from 3 to 5 p.m., in the activity room at Shorewood Retirement Center, 1451 Spruce St.

Thursday, Feb. 12

Smilin' Dave Craddock plays at the Kenneth B Gallery, 1458 First St., from 7 to 10 p.m. There will be a bar with desserts and food. Free admission.

Friday, Feb. 13

Coast Radio is holding a radio auction beginning at 9:15 a.m. Tune in to KCST 106.9 FM for more details or go to www.kcfmradio.com.

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will host a Speakeasy from 4 to 6 p.m. at the FRAA Art Center, 4969 Highway 101. This will be a night of poetry, where guests are invited to listen to poems written by local poets, or they are invited to bring and read poetry they have written. There will be refreshments and admission is free.

Local musician Marty Adams performs at Shorewood Retirement Residences at 5 p.m.

Florence Area Humane Society will celebrate February holidays on Friday, Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m., with a dinner, raffle and dancing at the Ocean Dunes Golf Links Clubhouse, 3345 Munsel Lake Rd. Tickets are \$10.

Seacoast Entertainment features Mexican brass band Metales M5 at 7 p.m. at Florence Events Center (FEC), 715 Quince St. Tickets are available at www.eventcenter.org.

Share Your Heart, put on by Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) at the FEC at 7 p.m., will show performances by local vocalists and CROW students. There also will be an auction, hors d'oeuvres and wine (adults only). Single tickets are \$39 for adults and \$25 for youth 12 and under. A full table of eight also can be purchased for \$285. Reservations are requested.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Coast Radio is holding a radio auction, beginning at 9:05 a.m. Tune in to KCST 106.9 FM for more details or go to www.kcfmradio.com.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium allows visitors ages 8 and up to kiss seals and sea lions for the special price of \$30 plus admission. Kisses must be booked in advance by calling 541-867-3474, extension 5401, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Mon Ami Gourmet Deli and Antiques will hold its 17th Annual Valentine's Day High Tea. Reservations are required for the two seatings, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$18.95 per person.

Siuslaw Public Library will host Literary Trivia at noon.

The Second Saturday Gallery Tour, from 3 to 5 p.m., offers refreshments at Backstreet Gallery, Florence Events Center, FRAA Art Center, Kenneth B Gallery, Old Town Coffee and Gallery, Pacific Frameworks, River Gallery, the Gallery Above the Silver Lining Boutique and the Siuslaw Public Library. The gallery tour is free to the public.

Backstreet Gallery Heart exhibition highlights more than 20 artists who poured their hearts into their media. There will be a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. at 1421 Bay St. The Just for Fun quartet will provide accompaniment.

Valentine's Day Dinner and Swing Dance, at the FEC, showcases Johnny Martin. "The Red and White Ballroom" runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Premium seating is \$55 per person and general admission is \$49.

Legends in Concert's Ray Anthony will perform as Ritchie Valens at 7 p.m. at Three Rivers Casino and Hotel. Tickets range from \$15 to \$20.

Jerry's Place, 88274 Rhododendron Drive, will feature the band Two Fathoms Deep at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 15

The Oregon Coast Aquarium allows visitors ages 8 and up to kiss seals and sea lions for the special price of \$30 plus admission. Kisses must be booked in advance by calling 541-867-3474, extension 5401, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Filled with LOVE



Little Log Church celebrates renewal of love

Valentine's vow renewal ceremony commemorates 20 years in Yachats

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Roses wilt and chocolates melt but a ceremony of renewal and commitment create memories that last a lifetime.

For the 20th year, independent minister Mary Crook will preside over the annual ceremony of renewal and commitment on Valentine's Day, Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Little Log Church, 328 W. Third St., Yachats.

Two ceremonies will be held this year, one at noon and the second at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited to 25 couples for each service.

Violinist Ruth Mock will provide music for the noon ceremony and Celtic harpist Khlo Brateng will be featured at the 5:30 p.m. ceremony.

Crook got the idea for the renewal ceremony shortly after becoming a licensed minister in 1995. The first ceremony of renewal and commitment was held on Valentine's Day in 1996. Nine couples attended.

Last year Crook had to turn some couples away because there was no more room in the small church.

"This is the first year that we



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/ SIUSLAW NEWS

Independent minister Mary Crook has held vow renewal ceremonies in The Little Log Church since 1996.

have had two services," Crook said. "Since we were full last year and this is our 20th year, I thought it would be a nice idea to hold two ceremonies, especially with Valentine's Day falling on a Saturday."

The nondenominational ceremony is open to married couples and unmarried couples in committed relationships. The theme of this year's event is "Life is Precious."

Because space is limited, reservations are required. Call 541-547-4547 to reserve.

"What is special to me every

year is that space in the sanctuary is filled with loving couples who are there because they want to make a commitment on this very special day," Crook said. "There is an energy that is present in that space that is palpable."

"I get such a boost from it personally. It's just a very good feeling. People are so gracious and filled with appreciation afterward. I give each couple a certificate as a memento of the occasion."

There is no charge, but a donation of \$10 per couple to

the Little Log Church is suggested.

"All donations go directly back to the Little Log Church," Crook said. "My compensation is to be filled with love."

After becoming a minister in 1995, Crook opened up a wedding business called Weddings by the Sea.

In the past 20 years, she has performed more than 1,400 marriages, many in the Little Log Church.

One stands out in her memory.

"This couple drove up from Ashland to be married here in the church. It was just the couple, the two witnesses and myself. They told me that one of their favorite pieces of music was 'Moon River' from the movie 'Breakfast at Tiffany's.' I recorded it on an old cassette tape from the original vinyl record I had at home.

"After the ceremony, I punched the button and they waltzed all around the sanctuary to the music. What made this so special is that the groom was 79 and the bride was 90. They were such a lovely couple. They came back for a couple of years to renew their vows."