

COMMUNITY NEWS

Award-winning 'Salt In Our Blood' author to speak at library

Local Oregon Coast author and attorney, Michele Longo Eder, originally from the East Coast, moved to Oregon in the 1970s to attend law school after reading "Sometimes a Great Notion."

She never looked back. Her award-winning book, "Salt in Our Blood: The Memoir of a Fisherman's Wife" is a memoir about Eder's experiences balancing her law career, family

and life as a commercial fisherman's wife and partner.

Against the backdrop of this bustling life, Eder writes about her family's devotion to each other, the harshness of commercial fishing and the tragic loss at sea of their oldest son, Ben.

Eder will be in Florence at the Siuslaw Public Library to talk about her touching memoir on Tuesday, April 21, at 2 p.m.

in the library's Bromley Room.

Michele Longo and commercial fisherman Bob Eder began dating shortly after the two met. Their courtship was short and Eder once told her secretary, "This fishing life is crazy. No matter what I do or say, don't ever let me marry this guy."

In six months they were married. Together they have raised two sons, all sharing in the

unpredictable and dangerous life of commercial fishing.

In 2001, one of their fishing vessels, F/V Nesika, capsized off the Newport coast, tragically taking the life of the four crewmembers including their oldest son, Ben.

In "Salt in Our Blood," Eder describes the triumphs and despairs of her commercial fishing family's experiences in clear and poignant language.

This stirring memoir won the 2009 WILLA Literary Award in the creative nonfiction category.

Given to women writing about the West, the WILLA Award recognized the book as a testament to the Eder family's

strength and resilience against both the elements of nature and personal grief and loss.

Michele Longo Eder is currently a member of the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of Oregon State University.

She and her husband Bob Eder co-own the F/V Timmy Boy, a 60-foot steel vessel. Based out of Newport, Ore., Bob and his crew fish primarily for Dungeness crab and sablefish (a groundfish found in deep water).

Their vessel also engages in collaborative scientific ocean research with state and federal

agencies and universities.

This book talk is free and open to the general public and co-sponsored by Siuslaw Public Library and Book Ends, a local book club.

Join in this opportunity to hear the author's firsthand account about the triumphs and tragedies of an Oregon Coast commercial fishing family.

Copies of this moving memoir will be available for purchase after the program.

For more information about the program, visit the Siuslaw Public Library in person, call 541-997-3132, or visit the library's website at www.siuslawlibrary.org.

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Health Fair to host 5K Fun Run

The annual Community Health Fair 5K Fun Run and Walk will take place Sunday, April 19. It starts and ends at the Florence Events Center, following a familiar route through Old Town, out Rhododendron Drive and back.

Day-of-race registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K starts at 9 a.m. However, participants can pre-register by email at florenceorhealthfair@gmail.com.

Entry forms are also available at Coastal Fitness. The \$20 entry fee helps benefit the Friends of Florence cancer van.

Each registrant receives a commemorative t-shirt, ribbon and refreshments after the event.

In addition, businesses and civic groups are encouraged to enter.

The largest group registered together under the same organizational name will receive a plaque recognizing their achievement and appreciation for their contribution in advertising and publicity.

The annual Community Health Fair takes place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 17, 18 and 19, at the Florence Events Center.

The annual Community Health Fair is presented by the Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church and underwritten by Korando Dental Group.

For more information, call 541-999-2052.

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