

Siuslaw News Coast Life

SENIOR NEWS CALENDAR

INSIDE — 6B

Making a scene in Florence

*Kenneth B Gallery expands to
KB Gallery on Maple Street*



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

KB Gallery on Maple Street opened for its first event on May 2 with the monthly Spoken Word Poetry Contest.

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Kenneth B Gallery opened on First Street just more than a year ago. Now, owner SK Lindsey is opening a new gallery space with the name KB Gallery in the heart of Old Town.

"We talk a lot about wanting to get an arts district in town. What that's going to require is a deep commitment by property owners, the community and artists. What you need is a synergy of vibrant artists who are wanting to break boundaries — because you'll never establish a 'scene' if you don't have a newer vision for people to come see," said Lindsey.

Lindsey is one of the new voices instrumental to the gallery movement in Florence.

She has a fine arts degree and specializes in acrylic painting, printmaking and drawing, but it was only after an early retirement from working with the California legislature and trading stocks that her dream of owning

a gallery was realized.

She named Kenneth B Gallery after her stepfather, who has supported her in the arts.

"He's very special to me, so I chose his name for the gallery," she said.

As for choosing the second location on Maple Street, Lindsey said that the landowners made that possible.

"Without that, this would never have happened," she said.

Kenneth B Gallery, at 1458 First St., will continue to function as a gallery and event space, featuring two live shows this weekend.

Soul Vibrator will play Friday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. and Tommy Hogan will play Saturday, May 16, at 8 p.m.

A Taste of Hawaii begins serving food one hour before both events.

"Kenneth B will be a place for people to kick up their heels and dance," she said. "There is space to listen to the event, eat excellent food from A Taste of Hawaii and drink in the beer garden area," Lindsey said.

Other upcoming groups will be Soul Seed, George Mann and Petunia and the Vipers.

The new space at KB Gallery will hold local art and feature artist demonstrations, workshops, poetry readings, instrumental jam sessions, print classes and events

SK Lindsey hopes to incorporate more three-dimensional and figural art. Here, Gigi Lissan's unique handcrafted jewelry is on display.



Two-dimensional artists like Curt R. Peters are on display.

that began at Kenneth B, like the Spoken Word Poetry Contest on the first Friday of every month and Radio Theater.

"This place is designed to connect both to tourists and the local community market. I'm representing community artists and a space for people to come in and create art," she said. "I can't do anything without that. I really need that vibrancy of people creating art."

Lindsey said it will be an "arena for the talents" of local artists like Michael Woods, Stuart Henderson, Terri Warpinski and more.

Artists will get the chance to use the space to create art while guests view the gallery.

Lindsey personally hopes to create more art as well.

"I could literally sit here and manage the space and be painting with Michael Woods. That's not bad — it would be totally cool. And he would have a lot to teach me," she said.

The new versatile space is all part of a conversation to create a unique district that encourages artists and draws people to the area.

"If Florence really wants to establish a destination, it needs to bring in some very creative ideas that people will talk about," Lindsey said. "Other-wise, it's not much of a conversation."

She knows Kenneth B and KB galleries are

only part of the developing art movement. Florence Regional Arts Alliance and Backstreet Gallery both feature talented artists and useful spaces.

"Together, my two buildings can serve as an impetus for supporting local artists to come in and create, and have spaces for them to use. I'd like to open the doors to all workshops and work with FRAA to shore up resources," she said.

Now, with the addition of a Public Arts Committee in the City of Florence, the public's eyes are more open to the importance of adding to the natural beauty of the area. With the awareness, Lindsey hopes for more hands-on support.

"We need the community support because it's such a financial burden for artists to produce these things. The framing alone can be \$100 a piece," she said.

With summer traffic through the new location and her plans to have painting going on almost every day, Lindsey is hopeful that it will help artists get exposure.

"As an artist, it feels so much more energized when you're working together with others and you're being validated by the public. It's really important," she said.

Through it all, she wants to be part of making a dynamic space full of vibrant art and talented people.

She is looking for people willing to help in the gallery and be part of events; for example, painters setting up an easel for a day, musicians bringing in their instruments or people creating mono prints on her etching press.

For more information, contact SK Lindsey at 541-999-5875 and at sk@KennethBGallery.com.

To learn more about upcoming events at Kenneth B Gallery and KB Gallery, go to www.kennethbgallery.com.

What can we do?

Child Abuse Prevention Month ends with 90by30 conference

Seven members of the West Lane County 90by30 Initiative Team participated in the third annual 90by30 Conference in Eugene on April 25.

The day-long conference featured speakers, presentations and live dramatizations followed by discussions and examinations of factors that help break the child abuse cycle.

West Lane County team co-leader Jesika Kaczenski attended, along with Suzanne Mann-Heintz, Amy Tanikawa, April Dumas, Teresa LaNasa, Maggie Oldershaw, Constance Castaneda and Becky Goehring.

Rose Wilde, outreach coordi-

nator for the 90by30 Initiative, was also in attendance. More than 200 people from throughout Lane County participated in the event.

The Lane County 90by30 Initiative's goal is to reduce child abuse and neglect 90 percent by the year 2030. It is the first initiative of its kind in the United States.

"Some think this is a lofty goal," said Phyllis Barkhurst, director of 90by30 and co-founder, with Jeff Todahl, of the University of Oregon Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect. "We think it's an amazing goal and with support from residents of Lane County we think we can get

there. And even if we reduce by 80 percent, or 70 or 50 percent, what a difference that will make for our children."

West Lane team members were enthused and energized by the conference, according to Kaczenski.

"There's nothing more empowering than when you have over 200 people in the same room with the same mission," she said. "Great things can happen."

A highlight of the conference was the presentation by a three-member team from Australia, representing National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

The team shared experiences



COURTESY PHOTO

West Lane 90by30 co-chair Jesika Kaczenski, Teresa LaNasa, Becky Goehring, April Dumas and Suzanne Mann-Heintz and other area representatives attended an April 25 conference on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

and strategies used to prevent child abuse and neglect throughout Australia.

"The presenters from

Australia demonstrated how to create a "child friendly" community ... focused on listening to children, respecting children

and modeling appropriate behaviors," said Tanikawa.

See CONFERENCE 3B

BLACK
YELLOW
MAGENTA
CYAN