

Mason exhibit on display in FEC's Gallery One

FEC Gallery One hosts a one-man exhibit of original oil paintings by local artist Earl Mason. Various forms of art and design have been a part of Mason's life as far back as he can remember. As a practical application for his creative nature, he became an architect and practiced in Redondo Beach, Calif., for many years. After retiring, he traveled with his wife in an RV seeing most of the country and taking pictures. However, he was drawn to the Oregon coast, where he settled in 1994. It was there that he was inspired by the natural beauty to begin painting, resulting in a collection of landscapes, seascapes and "people pictures."

"I try to present strong, balanced compositions and to delineate them accurately," said Mason, "sometimes conveying a message, and always attempting to please the eye."

The public is invited to an artist's reception for Mason, to be held in Galleries One and Five on Saturday, June 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Gallery Five is featuring the work of Florence Regional Arts Alliance members Karen Nichols, John Leasure, Claudia Ignatieff, Ron Hildenbrand and photographer Mary Nulty.

IF SHE WERE MAYOR

Seventh-grader Kyllie Annin proposes education reform, home safety, gardens

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence honored Siuslaw Middle School student Kyllie Annin the award for the "If I Were Mayor" contest.

Annin, a seventh-grader in Hilary Roach's language arts class, wrote a 560-word essay about increasing high school graduation rates, supporting the local population with a community garden and home fire safety.

"Her letter covered three main topics. They were all good, but I was really impressed with the first one," said Florence Mayor Joe Henry.

Annin wrote, "Did you know that in 2014, only 68 percent of students from Siuslaw High School graduated on time? If you think about it, it is not that great compared to other schools."

She discussed the importance of electives, such as art, for students.

"If there is nothing that (students) like to do in school, why stay?" she asked.

Annin also thought a swim-



PHOTO BY MEGAN MESSMER

Florence Mayor Joe Henry shakes hands with Siuslaw Middle School student Kyllie Annin, as her family stands by. Annin won the city's "If I Were Mayor" contest.

ming team would give students another option to "keep healthy and fit."

"I was really impressed with the point that she made about the graduating success at Siuslaw High," Henry said. "It's one of the things that we talked about as a council to improve our relationships with schools and other entities to see if we can help support their efforts."

Annin hopes that a community garden will help local

families and transient people "who don't have any food and need some extra help at life."

"It is one way to make a happy and healthy community," she said.

She also thinks every home should have a fire escape plan and a packed bag for emergencies.

"Those are just a few of my ideas to start a happy, healthy and safe community," Annin said.

Her mother, Patricia Annin,

grandmother and best friend supported her as she received her award at the Florence City Council meeting on May 18. She also received a gift card.

Entries for the "If I Were Mayor" contest needed to include creativity, sincerity, proper use of grammar and relevancy.

Annin's submission will be sent on to the statewide competition, where she will be judged by a panel of Oregon mayors.

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Port from 1A

"If a Google or a Microsoft, or a Pacific Rim company wants to run high-speed fiber from off shore to the I-5 corridor,"

Forsythe explained, "they can come right up onto our land and we could start getting them to the corridor. Because of our interagency connections, we could get them to the I-5 corridor probably a whole lot quick-

er and easier than what they could without the port's help. The business aspect is that the port takes a percentage of profit. Very minor to them, huge to us."

Forsythe said the legislation would help any port on the

Oregon coast do the same thing.

"While we have no immediate need, the potential this addition to ORS 777 brings to all rural ports may be huge in coming years," Forsythe said.

Bee from 1A

"She's a very sarcastic, jaded vice principal and has never been able to make it to the grade of principal ... she comes in very frustrated from the very beginning," she said.

The bright moment in the vice principal's life is the character of Rona Lisa Peretti, played by Hilary Roach.

Roach's character has many "favorite moments of the bee."

She loves the words, definitions and every part of the atmosphere that picks this year's winner.

Some of those winners include Jesse Reeves as last year's spelling bee champion Chip Tolentino, Elizabeth Rose as youngest contestant Logainne Schwartzandgruenierre, Erin Reinke as "all business" Marcy Park and Tamara Cole as Olive Ostrovsky, who has a very large dictionary.

"It's my first big role and first solo," said Cole. "I'm extremely excited to be in the show. The cast is all so funny. They help everybody, which is great for me not having ever done this before."

One of the recurring themes in "Putnam" is that the best speller doesn't always win. A lot depends on the word — and how the character feels when they get to the podium.

"You can see how much fun we have," Reinke said. "We laugh through the show, and I think it goes pretty fluidly that way."

Director David Lauria and assistant director Rosemary Lauria guide an all-star crew as well, with a production team including Paula Burnette, Linda Reeves, Dave Hansen, Karen Mechek and LuAnna Moore, musical accompaniment by Johanna and Derek Bonisteel and sound by Jared Anderson.

"This is one of the best spring/summer shows I've seen LRP do since I've been here in Florence, and I'm not just saying that because I'm in it," Wood said. "I love, love, love 'Putnam', and I think it's time to educate Florence. It's a lot of fun."

Rose said, "Theater in Florence continues to grow. It's so impressive because it's not mediocre. Everything that I've seen is just phenomenal and really impressive for such a small town."

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will be playing Fridays and Saturdays, June 12, 13, 19 and 20, at 7 p.m., with matinee showings on two Sundays, June 14 and 21, at 2 p.m., at the Florence Events Center.

Tickets are available at www.eventcenter.org, by phone at 541-997-1994, or at the FEC box office, 715 Quince St.

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ing at either branch to receive a free book bag and materials listing all the events.

For more information, contact Siuslaw Public Library at www.siuslawlibrary.org, at the Florence location, 1460 Ninth St., or at the Mapleton branch at 88148 Riverview Ave.

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