

FRAA to offer 'plein air' painting classes

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will be offering a free introductory plein air painting class Wednesday, July 8, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the FRAA Art Center, 4969 Highway 101, Munsel Lake Plaza No. 4.

As instructor Andrea Ciaston explains, "Our affinity to nature is inescapable. Plein air painting is painting landscapes outdoors, literally translated: 'in the open air.'"

Learn to paint the light and atmosphere as you experience it while traveling to four sites in Florence and paint onsite.

This workshop will cover composition, how to block out a painting, color theory and mixing.

The class will also explore the spontaneous techniques of the impressionists with the goal of each artist recording their personal response to nature.

This introductory class will give students the opportunity to meet the instructor and hear

plans for plein air painting in four locations in the Florence area.

Andrea Ciaston, D.A., is a professional artist who has taught art and art history at colleges and universities for more than 20 years. She was recently awarded a faculty recognition award at Lane Community College and the 2015 John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award for community college leadership.

Future classes are scheduled as follows:

Saturdays, July 11, 18 and 25 and Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Each class will meet at a different location.

Call or email the instructor for where to meet each Saturday at aciaston@aol.com or 541-653-9500.

The fee per session is \$20 for FRAA members, \$25 nonmembers

Sign up for all four for a discounted price of \$60 for members or \$75 for nonmembers.

Beat summer heat at annual Van Fans Ice Cream Social

The Van Fans' annual Ice Cream Social fundraiser on Saturday, July 18, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, will bring Florence residents and Van Fan members together for an afternoon of ice cream, pie and other treats while supporting this special service to the community. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door.

There will be a la mode homemade pie and cake, along with hot and cold beverages and homemade candies and breads for sale.

The Friends of Florence Van Fans, a nonpolitical volunteer organization, is sponsoring this event.

All proceeds support the vans, which transport cancer patients daily to Eugene and Springfield for radiation treatment.

Vans run five days a week free of charge, and all workers are volunteers.

Come spend a relaxing afternoon enjoying ice cream and music while doing something that will help a neighbor or friend.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Friends of Florence program transports cancer patients free of charge to and from the Eugene area for treatments.

Annual Habitat Beachwalk set for September

Florence Habitat for Humanity's annual community event, the 2015 Beach Walk, will take place Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The beach walk starts at the North Jetty, goes to Driftwood Shores and back to the North Jetty.

Part of the fun will include snacks and refreshments for people and dogs, entertainment, and a sand sculpture contest with awards.

In addition, any walker raising \$100 or more will be given a Habitat T-shirt.

All are welcome, including leashed dogs, to join the walk and celebrate Habitat for Humanity's mission to eliminate poverty housing in the world. Come have a great time and make a difference.

Dog bandanas and Rhododendron walking sticks will be available for an additional donation.

Every dollar raised goes to purchase materials and supplies for building houses in Florence.

Habitat works with carefully selected families to give them a hand up, not a hand out.

A family receiving a Habitat house is required to participate in the building process by giving 300 to 500 hours of sweat equity work plus agreeing to enter into a 30-year, zero-interest mortgage before they can

receive a new house.

Florence Habitat seeks passionate individuals and organizations to join in the fight against substandard housing.

Anyone who would like to volunteer or donate can pick up a brochure form and donation envelope for the 2015 Habitat Beach Walk at the Florence Habitat for Humanity office, 2004 Highway 101 in Florence.

For more information, call 541-902-9227.

'Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?' continues today through Sunday

"Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?," written and directed by Mike Jacobson, kicks off a promising summer season for Florence Playhouse.

The show concludes with three shows this weekend.

Show times are July 3 and 4, at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, July 5.

"Who's Gonna Fill Their

Shoes?" features the talents of Marty Adams, Doug Bushwar, Denise Dee, Jacobson and Nancy Pearson singing and playing the memorable music of country music greats.

For tickets, call the Florence Playhouse at 541-997-1675, or visit www.florenceplayhouse.com.



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