

'Dearly Beloved' to premiere July 24

The comedy "Dearly Beloved" opens next Friday, July 24, and runs weekends to Aug. 2 at the Florence Playhouse.

The Futrelle sisters, "Frankie" (played by Mary Jeanne Kuhar), "Honey Raye" (played by Tres Eberhard) and "Twink" (played by Paula Burnette) are throwing a wedding, officiated by the fear-driven substitute preacher, "Justin Waverly" (played by Grant Harmond).

Frankie has almost made herself sick with the elaborate preparations for her daughter "Tina Jo's" (played by Courtney Ricketts) antebellum-inspired wedding. The rumor mill in their small town of Fayo, Texas, is working overtime.

No surprise there — the Futrelle sisters have never been strangers to gossip. After all, they did survive the scandalous breakup of the almost-famous gospel singing trio, The Sermonettes!

Throw in a local psychic (played by Sue Sweatt), an uppity mother (played by Carole Blaylock), a cantankerous wedding coordinator (played by Sally Wantz), and many other wild characters, and you have set the stage for a wacky comedy sure to delight audiences of all ages!

Director Mary Tuck is mak-



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of "Dearly Beloved"

ing her Florence Playhouse directorial debut with this production, but is no stranger to the world of professional theatre, having performed in more than 40 productions throughout California, Colorado and Nevada. In addition, Tuck has directed six plays.

Tuck moved to Florence in 2014 from Crested Butte, Colo., and her professional stage experience began at the age of 12, when she performed with the Long Beach Civic Light Opera.

"These writers, who I am personal friends with, have tapped into our funny bones. If you saw 'The Dixie Swim Club' last summer, and you laughed, you are sure to enjoy this one too," Tuck said of "Dearly Beloved," which is the first play in the trilogy about the Futrelle sisters.

The play was written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten.

It also stars James Bonisteel as "Wiley Hicks," a longtime boyfriend, Paul Friend as highway patrolman, "John

Curtis Buntner," and Jamison Smith as "Frankie's" husband "Dub Duberly."

For tickets and information, call 541-997-1675 or visit www.florenceplayhouse.com.

Tickets are \$13 per person and can be purchased at the door (when available) 30 minutes prior to showtime, or at Best for Hearing or On Your Feet With A Splash.

Showtimes are July 24, 25 and 31 and Aug. 1, at 7 p.m.,

There will also be matinees July 26 and Aug. 2 at 2 p.m.

Learn creative writing tips at FRAA workshop

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) continues its exciting new program of monthly literary arts workshops for all writers of all levels.

On Saturday, July 25, it will present "The Art of Memoir — Your Life Stories," from 1 to 3 p.m., with a Q and A session at Munsel Lake Plaza, 4969 Highway 101, just north of Fred Meyer.

Everyone has a unique story to share. Life contains invaluable lessons, profound wisdom, amazing courage and rich humor. This fun, inspiring "playshop" will teach how to:

- Capture your memories and experiences on paper, easily and naturally
- Turn life lessons and anecdotes into compelling stories
- Inspire, uplift and entertain your readers
- Leave a legacy of courage,



COURTESY PHOTO

Catherine J. Rourke

strength and love for families and friends.

Designed to burst open the well of creativity that lies in everyone, these classes will take participants on a literary journey with experiential writing prompts that serve as navi-

gator and tour guide.

You don't have to be an experienced writer to join in the fun. Grab your pen and get inspired.

Cost is \$20 for FRAA members or \$25 for non-members, payable at the door.

The instructor also offers a free admission for someone in need.

Win a free prize drawing at every workshop. Space is limited so register now.

For more information or to preregister, call 541-708-2120 or email CJ.Reditor@gmail.com.

Classes will be taught by award-winning writer, editor and journalist Catherine J. Rourke, who brings 30 years' experience as a staff editor-writer for newspapers, magazines and publishers to the workshops.

Educated in English and journalism at the City University of New York,

Oxford University and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, Rourke has served as a book editor and jacket cover copywriter for major publishing houses, including Amazon and Random House, in both print and digital formats.

The former New Yorker has received more than two dozen industry awards and now resides in Florence, where she is penning a memoir about her experiences as an investigative reporter.

Next month's workshop, "Jump Start Your Book," is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 22.

For more info about FRAA, visit www.fraaoregon.org or call 541-999-0859.

McDougal photos on exhibit at Shorewood

The Shorewood Retirement Residence is featuring local artist Ken McDougal as July's artist of the month.

His photography will be on display during the month in The Shorewood dining room and entry. All pieces are for sale.


McDougal has been a professional photographer for more than 18 years. He studied communication and broadcasting for three years at Lyndon State College in Vermont and then moved on to The New York Institute of Photography

(NYI) for another two years until he graduated from there in June 1990.

In 2005, McDougal and his wife, Kim, moved 3,000 miles from Florida to Florence, where he now works on his photography full time.

McDougal will be at The Shorewood, 1451 Spruce St., for an artist reception Friday, July 24, at 10 a.m., where he will be available to answer questions about himself and his art.

Refreshments will be served.



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Florence Got Talent!

Auditions opened to ALL ages and Talents

Registration/Auditions dates
Friday, July 24 6pm & Sunday, July 26 2pm
 At Three Rivers Casino Resort
 Enter through South Entrance of Three Rivers Event Center

Final Competition at

Relay for Life on August 8, 2015

Great prizes to be awarded!!!!

Acts will be allotted no more than Four (4) MINUTES to perform.
 Participants may only perform ONE time during the show.
 NO profanity or vulgar lyrics in any vocal performance or dance music. This is a family show!!!
 Keep attire at a respectable and tasteful level.
 NO alcohol, tobacco, or drug advertisements are to be shown on any clothing.
 NO pyrotechnics, open flames or any other dangerous additions.
 Sound system and microphones) will be provided.
 You must provide your own CD music, instruments and props
 All contestants under 18 years of age must complete the minors authorization form.
 Minors must have an adult supervise them and must be identified to Florence Got Talent
 Questions? Please email ereinke@threeriverscasino.com




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