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Auditions open for new Poison Pen holiday comedy

Poison Pen Players, a Florence based comedy murder mystery troupe has announced open auditions for "Dead in the Sled: Ho, Ho, Ho...Oh No!"

In this year's tale, the Chamber of Commerce hosts a community caroling concert, and awards the coveted yard signs to those displaying "The Best Holiday Cheer" at this event. This "friendly" competition each year has just about driven the locals mad with jealousy, conspiracy theories and alliances "to the death" sworn over back fences all over town.

Auditions will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Florence Playhouse (208 Laurel St. in Old Town).

Public performances are planned throughout mid-November and December in Florence, Eugene, Coos Bay, Elkton and other potential locations. There will be a performance on New Year's Eve at the Eugene Hilton.

Poison Pen Players is seeking two males and three females, ages 18 and older,

who can portray a wide range of wacky characters.

The characters include:
• "Nicholas Kringleman," owner of Christmas Valley's only restaurant, "Kringleman's Deli," has closed his business, and will be out of town, as usual.

Nicholas never competes for prizes and always leaves home, only returning on the 26th.

• The "Dimmer" twins, "Shimmer" and "Glimmer," are up to their typical nasty tricks as the highly anticipated event approaches. When they aren't busy tearing up the town, they are fighting tooth and nail with each other. Glimmer has the most cunning and criminal intelligence, but she is insanely jealous of Shimmer, "the pretty one."

• "Walter Winterberry" (played by same actor as Nicholas Kringleman) hates Christmas and is the Postmaster of Christmas Valley and, as such, is responsible for hand-canceling all the cards sent to the town for re-mailing by obsessed Christmas nuts living in non-festive

places with names like Death Valley.

Ebenezer Scrooge would be proud to call him a friend.

• "Wanda Winterberry," Walter's sister, a driving force behind all of the Christmas mania, is in full steamroller mode as usual. What she lacks in money and taste, she makes up in boundless enthusiasm.

Wanda loves everything about Christmas, and spends the entire year scrounging around for junk she can use to create her "holiday masterpieces".

• "Holly Garland," the Police Chief of Christmas Valley, has a few problems of her own. She has reluctantly agreed to head up the judging committee this year, against her better judgment. Her own home isn't decorated yet because she's been too busy, and she has been spending most of her time riding herd on the Dimmer twins.

Actors should bring a headshot and resume if possible. During the process of the audition, actors will cold read sides from the script.

Poison Pen Players' shows



COURTESY PHOTO

Poison Pen Players cast members rehearse during last year's annual Christmas production.

are fully scripted and require a great deal of high-energy physical comedy and audience interaction.

Improvisation skills are a plus.

No previous acting experience is required to audition, but actors should think "over the top" silly comedy, ala Mel Brooks movie.

Poison Pen Players' rehears-

al process is very brief, so actors are expected to do their "homework" and to be able to learn lines quickly.

Actors are paid for each performance, but there is no rehearsal pay.

For more information, call director Melanie Heard at 541-999-8641, email poisonpenplayers@yahoo.com, or visit www.poisonpenplayers.com.

IN BRIEF

Share, see British cars today

The Central Oregon Coast British Car Club will hold its monthly breakfast meeting, rain or shine, Saturday, Aug. 29, starting at 9 a.m., at Kozy Kitchen Restaurant, 820 Highway 101 in Florence.

Anyone who has an interest in British vehicles is welcome to attend.

This will be the final summer gathering.

For more information, call 541-997-7354.

Firefighters fire up the BBQ today

Siuslaw Valley Firefighters Association (SVFA) is having its annual hamburger fundraiser in the True Value parking lot, 1750 Highway 126, on Saturday, Aug. 29, starting at 11 a.m., and ending when the meals are sold out.

You can purchase a hamburger meal with soda or water and chips for \$5 or a hot-dog meal for \$3.

All the proceeds from this fundraiser goes to the SVFA.

Flukes play Sunday

The Flukes, Florence's ukulele club, meets on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 3 to 4 p.m., for a song circle in the Bromley Room at Florence Public Library, 1460 Ninth St.

Meetings are open to ukulele players of all levels and anyone interested in learning more about the club, as well as anyone who just wants to listen and/or sing along.

Beginners meet first from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

For more information, email janetwellington@charter.net.

Van Fans have lunch Wednesday

The next monthly meeting and luncheon for the Florence Van Fans will be Wednesday, Sept. 2, at The Shorewood on Spruce Street at 11:45 a.m.

For more information, call Karen Lee at 541-997-9669.

Florence Dems will meet again Sept. 5

Florence Area Democratic Club will meet Saturday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m., in the Port of Siuslaw meeting room, 100 Harbor St., in Old Town Florence.

Mayor Joe Henry will speak about goals and plans for the City of Florence.

Everyone is welcome.

Learn about bridge protection Sept. 9

The Oregon Department of Transportation is protecting,

restoring and improving the safety of the historic Siuslaw River Bridge on Highway 101 in Florence.

The community is invited to an open house Wednesday,

Sept. 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101.

At the meeting, ODOT will explain September's major construction on the bridge.

SHS Class of 1970 reunion Sept. 11-13

The Class of 1970 will be having its 45th class reunion Sept. 11, 12 and 13, starting

with a Friday, Sept. 11, social at 6 p.m. at the Woahink Meeting Hall.

Contact Debbie Peterson by email at deb52_3@yahoo.com for details.

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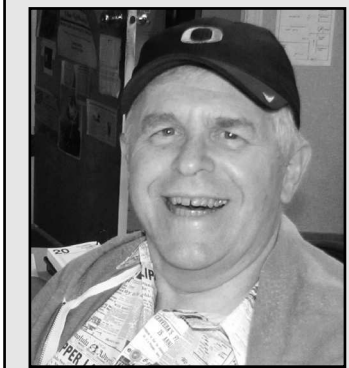
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WORD ON THE STREET

What was your favorite part of this summer?

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed above are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Siuslaw News or its advertisers.



"It's been a really good year. My favorite memory will probably be attending my godson's wedding this past weekend. It was a really hot gathering."
—STAN PUSIESKI, 65 FLORENCE



"Camping with my kids, who are 9 and 11 years old. We go up the North Fork. We do a bunch of swimming, hanging out and spending time together."
—ANGIE MORIL, 44 FLORENCE



"I ran a lot of Oregon trails this summer. It was a really fun way to stay fit."
—LISA UTZ, 52 FLORENCE



"Coming here (to Florence) and enjoying the sights and the weather — and the food! It's all good."
—JAN POPE, 70 TWIN FALLS, IDAHO



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