

## Call to artists for 'Season of Caring'

The Florence Events Center (FEC) and Friends of Florence Gallery Committee are presenting a themed exhibit during the months of November and December in Gallery One called, "A Season of Caring."

On Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a reception that will benefit the local Food Share and Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) organizations.

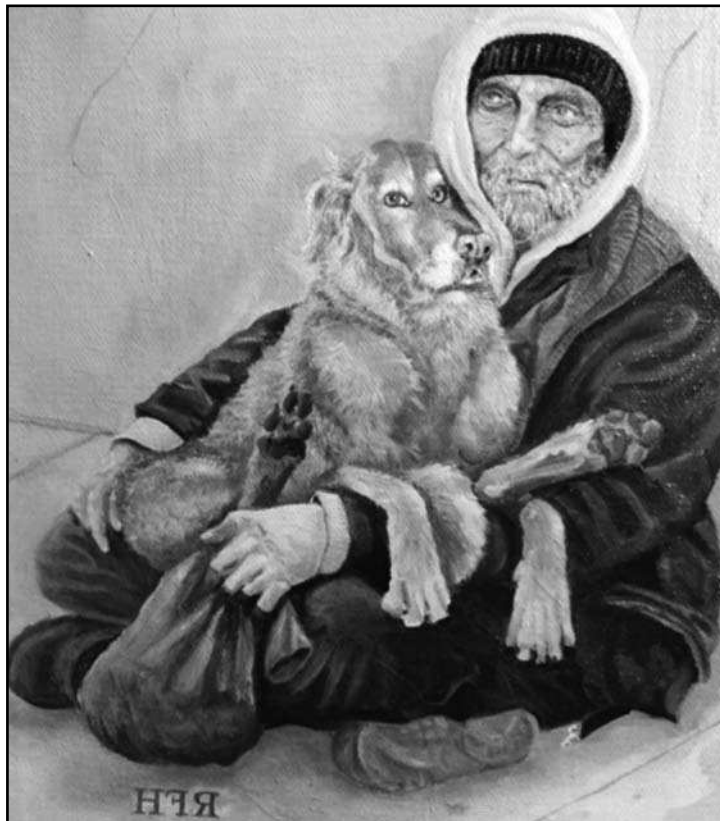
There will be a bin for food donations, and one for donations of warm coats and blankets.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a soup-kitchen style lunch offered to all visitors. For \$1, attendees will be served soup and bread, coffee and water.

There will also be an Art Raffle to benefit Florence Food Share and Siuslaw Outreach Services.

The call to artists invites artists and photographers to rent a rod for up to three paintings for \$20, or up to three items for the case.

To follow the theme, artwork can show social needs of children, the elderly or homeless, ways to care, foods of the



COURTESY PHOTO

**This painting by Gallery Committee member Ron Hildenbrand demonstrates a "Season of Caring" theme.**

harvest season or themes involving Thanksgiving, Christmas and winter holidays and family.

Get an application for the

show at the FEC office, or at [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

For more information, email [cignatieff@live.com](mailto:cignatieff@live.com) or call the FEC office at 541-997-1994.

## Mapleton, Siuslaw students can apply to Rhody Court through Oct. 8, 15

Siuslaw and Mapleton high school juniors and seniors can now apply to be on the 2016 Rhododendron Senior Court. The Rhody Court committee will accept completed applications through Thursday, Oct. 15.

Siuslaw and Mapleton elementary students may apply to be on the 2015 Junior Princess Court or the 2015 Junior Prince Court now through Thursday, Oct. 8.

The mission of the Rhododendron Court program is to provide scholarships for higher education, to promote community outreach and volunteerism, to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to outstanding young women and men in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for 109 years of Rhododendron Festival history and tradition.

The Rhododendron Festival High School Court will be comprised of five outstanding young ladies and men who are selected from Siuslaw and

Mapleton high schools.

Students from both Mapleton and Siuslaw are encouraged to apply to the Rhododendron Junior Court, which will be comprised of five elementary school girls and, new this year, five elementary school boys.

"The Rhody court scholarship committee is very excited to announce we will be adding five young men to the junior court. With the addition of the five young men on the senior court, we now have mentors to make a well rounded court with a wider representation of the students in the Florence and Mapleton area," said Rhody Court chairwoman Dee Osborne. "We are excited to offer this opportunity."

Eric Tanikawa is joining the Rhody Court committee as Junior Court co-chairman.

"I am really excited to help coordinate the Junior Prince Court and for them to be part of a Florence tradition," Tanikawa said.

The 10 students of the

Senior Court and the 10 students of the Junior Court will be selected at the end of October.

After being selected, court princes and princesses will attend after-school and evening orientation meetings.

Then, beginning in November, members of the court will visit community events, business leaders, senior living centers, youth organizations and civic groups.

Court members receive one-on-one mentorship. Each junior prince or princess will be matched with a corresponding member from the senior court.

The entire junior and senior courts will showcase their talents in the Rhododendron Showcase on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, where the Senior Court will compete for the title of Queen Rhododendra and King of the Coast and scholarship money.

If you would like to apply to for either the Senior or Junior Courts, please go online to [www.florencechamber.com](http://www.florencechamber.com) or visit the office at your school.

## Veterans need drivers

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is in desperate need of volunteer drivers who are willing to drive vets in the DAV van on day trips to Portland. Vets need to make the trip for medical appointments.

The drive is about four hours to Portland, plus four hours waiting for vets, plus four hours for the return trip, a total of about 330 miles and 12 hours.

Anyone interested in contributing time as a DAV van driver should call Jim Swant at 541-997-3695 or Tom Zahara at 541-997-1123 for more information.

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