

Seasons of life



Seniors living at Regency Florence Rehabilitation Center, 1951 E. 21st St. in Florence, interacted with a group of staff members' children yesterday as part of a monthly project to bring fun events to the center. Adults and children made Halloween crafts, ate snacks and did other activities together.



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

FRAA to host official grand opening Oct. 23

The public is invited to the grand opening celebration of the Florence Regional Arts Alliance's (FRAA) new art center and gallery, at 120 Maple St. in Old Town.

The grand opening will take place Friday, Oct. 23, from 4 to 7 p.m., beginning with a ribbon cutting by the Florence Area

Chamber of Commerce. There will be brief remarks by Harlen Springer, president of the FRAA; Brian Rogers, executive director of the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust; Catherine Rickbone, executive director of the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts; and Jay

Bozievich, Lane County Commissioner.

Music will be provided by guitarist Denny Weaver, and a wide variety of refreshments will be served.

There will be door prizes donated by FRAA artists, including a \$25 gift certificate for merchandise or classes

offered at the FRAA Center. The annual members' meeting for FRAA will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20, from 3 to 4 p.m., at the new art center.

Key accomplishments of this past year will be reviewed, and board members will be elected.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Author, columnist Bob Welch to speak at library

Bob Welch, popular columnist, prolific author, inspirational speaker and adjunct professor at the University of Oregon, will be at the Siuslaw Public Library on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 1 p.m., to speak about his newly published books, "52 Little Lessons From A Christmas Carol" and "My Oregon III."

He will also share a video clip of his show "Bob Welch and Friends: My Oregon," a sold out event scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Florence Events Center.

The award-winning author and columnist has written more than 20 books, including his "Cascade Summer: My Adventure on Oregon's Pacific Crest Trail," his first children's story, "The Keyboard Kitten: An Oregon Children's Story," "American Nightingale," an Oregon Book Award finalist, his most recent collection of Register-Guard columns, and his latest "lessons" book.

Along with being an Oregon Book Award finalist, Welch has received numerous awards for the nearly 2,000 columns he has written, including the National Society of Newspaper Columnists annual award — a prestigious award he has received twice.

In his third "life lessons" book, "52 Little Lessons from a Christmas Carol," Welch offers a year's worth of weekly inspiration from the story of the Cratchits and Scrooge. He says that what he found intriguing about Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was "that, first, while the spirits have a bit of a hard edge to them, it's really 'tough love.' They believe the man [Scrooge] is redeemable. Why else would they invest the effort in getting him to find his old self?"

A couple of the "little lessons" included in this work are "Attitude is everything" and "You make the chains that shackle you."

Welch will also discuss his last collection of Register-Guard columns "My Oregon III," in which he highlights the power of the human spirit in columns published from 2009 to 2015.

This appearance by Welch is certain to be inspiring and guaranteed to warm your heart, make you laugh and, perhaps, to cry.

The program is part of Siuslaw Public Library's celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month and is free and open to the general public.

For more information about the program, visit the library, call 541-997-3132, or visit the



COURTESY PHOTO

Bob Welch is an Oregon author, columnist and inspirational speaker.

library's website at www.siuslawlibrary.org.

Ride with a City Councilor Oct. 14

The Florence City Council has started the "Ride with a Councilor" program so that community members can share their ideas.

Each month, a city councilor or Mayor Joe Henry will ride the Rhody Express to answer questions and hear suggestions from the community.

Hop aboard and talk to Councilor Susy Lacer on Ride with a Councilor Day, Oct. 14, from 3:20 to 5:20 p.m. on the Rhody Express.

Councilor Lacer has challenged all members of the pub-

lic who have not yet ridden the Rhody Express and may be interested to come aboard and experience the service as well as have the opportunity to speak with her. Fares will be free during this event.

For more information about the program, call the City Manager's Department at 541-997-3437.

For a detailed bus schedule, or for more information, go to the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center, Florence City Hall, or www.ltd.org/rhody or call Rhody Express at 541-902-2067.

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