

Third-annual Festival of Trees to shine Nov. 28 and 29



Love the shimmer and scent of decorated Christmas trees? Then come enjoy dozens of trees decorated by local businesses and organizations at the third annual Festival of Trees on Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Nov. 29.

The festival is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Holiday entertainment, cookies and refreshments will be offered. The event is free to attend, with a suggested donation of \$3. All money raised will benefit the Oregon Coast Military Museum.

From 4 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 29, a “Trees of Giving” gala with champagne and hors d’oeuvres will kick off the live auction of the festive trees adorned with gifts. There will be more than a dozen large trees, as well

as tabletop trees available for bid or for a “buy it now” price. Sponsors decorate the trees, as well as provide gifts to go under each tree. Gifts under the tree go to the charity of the buyer’s choice, and the tree can be kept by the buyer or given to the charity. Teams of buyer: are welcome to join forces to purchase one of the trees

Each tree is underwritten by one of the event’s major sponsors, which include Beachcomber Pub and Grill, KCST Coast Radio, TR Hunter Real Estate, State Farm Insurance and the Florence Rotary Club.

Tickets for the Trees of Giving Gala are available at the Gilday State Farm Insurance office or TR Hunter Real Estate office.

More information is available at sue.gilday.jxfj@statefarm.com

FRAA artists offering holiday show, gift-buying

The Holiday Arts Festival is the perfect place to shop for unique gifts for the coming Holiday Season. The Holiday Arts Festival show will be presented by Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) and opens Friday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 7:30 p.m., and continues Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local crafters and artists will display their unique works of art in many genres including wood, stained glass, pottery, fused glass, paintings, photography, cards, fiber designs, bead weaving, a variety of jeweled treasures, home décor and more.

Come meet the artists who will be showing their latest creations: Annette Bignami, Tami Platisha, Maria Cruz, Karen Souza, Debbie Kiturkes, Guy Lundy, Ralph and Vicki Martin, Claudia Ignatieff, Ron Hildenbrand, Bonnie Wilson, Julie Ellington, Vicki Sieber-Benson, Cindi Covert, Norma Burkett, Karen Sculley, Heather Burnem, Tina Shoys, Peggy Goodrow, Francine Derus, Sylvia Christmas, Charlee Hendricksen, Claudia Brown and Paula Becker.

Artisans exhibiting in the Holiday Arts Festival will be donating 10 percent of their sales to the new Florence Art Center. Admission is free.

Empty Bowls celebrates 20 years of helping the hungry

Buy an empty, handmade ceramic bowl created by local artists and, in the process, help someone who may otherwise go hungry for the holidays. That’s been the idea behind the Empty Bowls event, now celebrating its 20th year. This year’s event will offer more than 700 handmade ceramic bowls to the public with the purchase price of \$10 each, with smaller bowls available at \$5 each. Bowls will be accompanied by a coupon redeemable for one cup of the soup of the day at a participating restaurant during the month of December

Along with local Florence artists from throughout the area, more than 75 Siuslaw High School students will be involved in the production of handmade ceramic bowls. Through the Empty Bowls event, ceramics students are not only learning how to create handcrafted ceramic bowls, they are also learning how to give back to their community in a unique way. This project has helped raise their awareness of the needs of others and how they might assist in meeting those needs.

A silent auction is also available for attendants to participate in.



The 20th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser will be held Dec. 4, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Dec. 6, from noon to 3 p.m., with all proceeds benefitting Florence Food Share. Admission is free.

For the second year, the Siuslaw High School Culinary Class will join forces with Empty Bowls., with culinary students providing refreshments for the Artists Reception and the Empty Bowls Fundraiser.

Under the direction of instructor Kyle Lewis, students will be creating delicious snacks for Empty Bowls attendees.

So come purchase a one-of-a-kind piece of art that is beautiful to look at, functional and will help the needy.



Monkey Bugs discount children’s apparel to ‘pop up’ at FEC

Monkey Bugs is a family owned children’s resale “pop up” with the goal of helping families in communities across Oregon by providing quality children’s clothing (newborn-18) at affordable prices. In addition to its store locations, Monkey Bugs also travels to locations around Oregon, bringing with it a wide selection of quality used clothing. At Monkey Bugs, you don’t have to search for sizes or have to worry about checking for stains or holes. Monkey Bugs selects only the best items and always offers a wide variety of items to choose from. In addition, its inventory is always changing, so those who attend a Monkey Bugs pop up event one time will find different items the next time. Monkey Bugs pop up shops are clean and organized, with spacious aisles for strollers, along with activities for kids.

Monkey Bugs will pop up at the FEC on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.