

Writers on the River workshops start Jan. 16

Get ready for another year of exciting literary events at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) with Writers on the River.

The monthly creative writing program will feature inspiring workshops for writers of all levels and genres Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 19, at 120 Maple St. in Old Town.

The fun begins on Saturday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, with the "2016 Writing Boot Camp." This experiential immersion into the craft and discipline of creative writing, the workshop will help writers:

- Define their writing goals and projects for the New Year
- Remove the wall blocking the writer within
- Invigorate their prose with tools to fuel their creativity
- Get back in the flow and stay there
- Turbo-charge their words with simple revision tips

Workshops fill up quickly, so pre-registration is suggested. Cost is \$20 for FRAA members or \$25 for nonmembers, payable at the door.

Writers on the River also

provides an ongoing group open to all writers seeking the time, space and support for their writing.

Register by calling 541-708-2120 or email CJReditor@gmail.com.

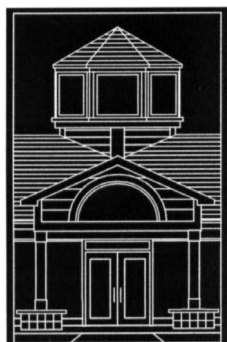
Classes will be taught by award-winning writer, editor, journalist and columnist Catherine J. Rourke, who brings more than 30 years' staff experience at daily newspapers, national magazines and major publishers.

Educated at the City University of New York, Oxford University and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, she has served as a contractual book editor and jacket cover copywriter for Amazon and Random House, in both print and digital formats.

The former New Yorker now resides in Florence where she is writing a memoir about her adventures as an investigative reporter titled "And Forgive Us Our Press Passes."

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

Library Tidings



News about the Siuslaw Public Library

Library Tidings, a regular feature of the Siuslaw News, features news about upcoming Siuslaw Public Library programs for adults and children, new books and videos, and other library news of interest to the community. Library Tidings by Kevin Mitige

News of the World

By Paulette Jiles

Book review by Susie Voth
Regular library patrons know about the Advanced Reader Copies (ARCs) that have been on display and are available to library users. I picked up "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles because it is historical fiction, one of my favorite genres.

The book is not scheduled for publication until March.

In the wake of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd makes his living traveling about northern Texas reading newspapers to paying audiences. He reads the news from Europe, the East Coast, Chicago and any other distant place for which he can acquire a newspaper. He reads the stories that take the audience away from their typical lives and transports them to different worlds.

He likes his solitary, transient life.

Until an acquaintance offers him a \$50 gold piece to return a young girl to her relatives. Ten-year-old Johanna was captured by Kiowa raiders four years earlier. When it became apparent that white captives were troublesome, she was sold to a govern-

ment agent for fifteen blankets and a set of silver dinnerware.

Johanna has no memory of her life prior to her capture. She cannot speak English and she is resistant to acting "civilized."

The journey to return her to her relatives is over 400 miles — miles that pass slowly but not without excitement, adventure and danger. Over the course of the trip, "Kep-den" and "Chohenna" begin to trust each other and forge a bond.

"News of the World" is not a fast-paced book. It meanders slowly as Captain Kidd and Johanna cross the bleak Texan landscape fording rivers, traversing desolate terrain, all the while building a relationship.

Strategic planning closure

The Siuslaw Public Library will be closed at its Florence and Mapleton branches on Saturday, Jan. 9, all day. There will be a strategic planning retreat at the library that day with a wide variety of community members all coming together to help plan the library's future.

Do you like soup?

The library is pleased to present Maggie Stuckey, author of

"Soup Night," discussing her book and presenting soups for sampling made by Friends of the Library volunteers, on Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. in Florence, and at noon the following day, Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Mapleton branch.

Come learn about "soup nights," where neighbors build a real sense of community through the age-old idea of getting together for a simple meal (in this case, a soup supper) on a regular basis.

In her cookbook "Soup Night," Stuckey presents the story of gathering communities together through mouth-watering recipes and inspiring anecdotes from pre-existing soup night groups.

Stuckey has found and documented in this cookbook that the humble idea of gathering friends and neighbors on a regular basis for a casual night of soup and sides has an extraordinarily positive ripple effect on children, senior citizens, families and communities at large.

With simple ideas for gathering neighbors and friends together, readers will be looking for any opportunity to make "Soup Night" a part of their lives.

FAHS receives special 'Bark Boxes' as gift

This month, each of the dogs living at Florence Area Humane Society (FAHS) while they wait for a home received a special donation from a generous benefactor called "Bark Box."

Each box contained healthy USA-made dog treats, a toy and pet-related Swiffer cleaning product. Each dog that is adopted will take home a Bark Box as long as supplies last.

Bark Box is a commercially available subscription service that includes monthly home delivery of a treat box containing a USA-made pet toy and healthy treats. FAHS qualified for a one-time special gift of a Bark Box for each of its FAHS dogs, at no cost to the shelter.

"A heartfelt thank you to Bark Box from all of the shel-



COURTESY PHOTO

FAHS shelter dog Dodger with donations from Bark Box

ter staff at Florence Area Humane Society for the 16 fabulous 'welcome home' treat boxes for our shelter dogs," said shelter manager Tanya Garrett. "Our dogs were so happy with their gifts and our staff was so impressed with the quality of the treats and toys."

Pictured is Dodger, who was the first of the shelter dogs to receive his own Bark Box.

Dodger is eight years old and a healthy, friendly male Terrier American Staffordshire mix. He has passed his Canine Good Citizen test and is good-natured and always ready for an adventure.

For adoption information on Dodger or the other dogs and cats, contact the shelter office at 2840 Rhododendron Drive or call 541-997-4277.

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OUR TOWN
A News Magazine for Florence

Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp Murder in Lane County

Sponsored by:
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The Archives, Photo Restoration Specialists
Siuslaw Public Library

Winter Music Festival
Featuring: Marv Ross, Sandra Kuhlman and Rachel Pearson

Soup Night
Portland Author Maggie Stuckey

RAIN Economic Development Efforts
Caroline Cummings and Erin Reynolds

And featuring: A "New Old" Sound
Another live morning show in Florence
Harley Youngblood and Calista Cates
7-10 AM on KCFM



With Host Bob Sneddon

Wednesday, January 6th
4-6 PM on KCST, 106.9 and Thursday, January 7th
10 - Noon on KCFM
AM1250/FM 104.1

Community input sought for region's future

Two opportunities for area residents to have a voice in the creation of a 10-year vision for the Siuslaw Region will be held in late January.

The meetings are the culmination of nearly a year of exploration and conversations, led by the Vision Action Team from the Siuslaw Pathways Program.

The first meeting is set for Thursday, Jan. 21, at Mapleton

High School, 10878 E. Mapleton Rd. The second meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Both meetings will be held from 5 to 8 p.m., with an open house format from 5 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. There will be a formal presentation of the findings and an opportunity for full group conversation from 6 to 7 p.m.

Light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Anyone residing in Dunes City, Florence and priver communities from Mapleton to Deadwood is invited and encouraged to attend and lend a voice to the creation of a vision as the region moves forward in economic and community vitality work.

"We are structuring the meetings this way so that more people can attend," said Becky Goehring, a team member and Fellow with The Ford Family Foundation.

Those who would rather come early to explore the displays and offer input will be able to do that and still be home by 7:15 p.m. Those who are working or have late afternoon commitments can arrive for the formal presentation and tour and make inputs at the display stations afterwards.

"This is an opportunity for anyone who would like to share their vision for the future of our region to participate," Goehring added. "This is really about community working together as we move forward in the next 10 years. Every voice matters and we

hope to have many people turn out at the meetings and be involved in this very important community feedback."

The Siuslaw Visioning team has held 10 Focus Group meetings, inviting between 10 to 20 individuals to each meeting.

The 2025 Siuslaw Vision is the culmination of the work being done by the Siuslaw Region Visioning Project, supported by Rotary of Florence, The Siuslaw Public Library, the City of Florence and The Ford Family Foundation.

The work has grown out of the Pathways program, which was offered to the region by The Ford Family Foundation. For more information, visit the Siuslaw Pathways website at www.siuslawpathways.com.

Spruce Point Assisted Living and Memory Care Community

Living, Loving, & Thriving
Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or other memory related illnesses can be very overwhelming. We're here to help.

We are offering these FREE informative events to provide support and education.

Senior Gems Video Presentation Explains the Different Stages of Alzheimer's Disease
Wednesday, January 13th, 2pm

Learn the 'Best Friends' Approach to Caring for a Loved One with Dementia
Wednesday, February 10th, 2pm

Managing the Challenging Behaviors of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related Dementias
Wednesday, March 9th, 2pm

Space is limited for these FREE educational events. For MORE information and to reserve your seat please call (541) 997-6111, or visit us today!

Spruce Point
an assisted living and memory care community

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