

Watershed meeting to discuss truffles, SNF harvesting

MAPLETON — The Siuslaw Watershed Council's general meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the Mapleton Grange, 10880 E. Mapleton Road.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the meeting getting underway at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting agenda includes a presentation on native Oregon truffles by local resident John Getz. The Forest Service will also discuss non-timber special forest products harvesting in the Siuslaw National Forest, including types of permits, quantities and harvest sea-

son. Dan Carpenter, the SWC's executive director, will provide updates on current SWC projects and efforts.

The SWC supports sound economic, social and environmental uses of natural and human resources in the Siuslaw River Basin.

The Council encourages cooperation among public and private entities to promote awareness and understanding of watershed functions by adopting and implementing a total watershed approach to natural resource management and production.

Take a 'Fantastique' ballet trip tonight at FEC

The adventurous in Florence will want to journey to the Florence Events Center tonight for Ballet Fantastique's performance of Dragon and the Night Queen: Celtic Stories.

"Ballet Fantastique is fresh and bold. They take ballet out of the box, have a lot of fun, and build new audiences for dance in the process," says Karen Smales, SEAcost board member and producer for this event. "They're based in the fiercest Russian traditions of classical dance, but are forging new stories, a new dance vocabulary and a new brand of contemporary narrative dance theater.

"This will be one of the most exciting ballets we've ever brought to Florence. Colorful, lively, and the costumes are absolutely fabulous. They have great taste in music and we are proud to present their 100-percent original work this season — especially with the live music."



GREG BURNS PHOTO

Dancers Hannah Bontrager and Fabio Simoes of Ballet Fantastique perform "Dragon and the Night Queen."

The Eugene troupe has proven a Florence favorite and is sure to thrill again with a bold, defiant new telling of ancient Irish and Celtic legends — a vivid exploration of new borders, filled with elemental powers and riotous

spirit.

The performance includes live music from Gerry Rempel Ensemble and internationally renowned Irish musician Eliot Grasso; and a pre-concert talk at 6:15 p.m. given by Rempel and producers/choreographers

Donna and Hannah Bontrager.

Dragon and the Night Queen: Celtic Stories takes the audience to ancient Ireland, a mesmerizing world haunted by elemental powers and dragons, gatekeepers to other worlds, and guardians of universal treasures.

The Bontragers forge a new telling of ancient Irish legends with dynamic live music by and Grasso.

New choreography, drama, and live songcraft capture the rich myths of Morgan le Fay (sea goddess of the legends of Avalon), the Night Queen Rhiannon, the Morrigan, and the Dragon King.

In this story, medieval faerieworlds collide through fantastical sets, costumes, and evocative, contemporary ballet choreography.

"This performance will make for a great date night; but Donna and Hannah always make it tasteful and compelling theater for younger audiences," says Smales.

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Urban Renewal invites all to highway design open house

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) is hosting an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Florence Events Center,

715 Quince St. The open house will provide an opportunity for guests to see the design concepts for the Highway 101 Streetscape,

economic strategies and opportunities for other catalytic zones.

A presentation at 6 p.m. will show some of the current resources and plans for economic development along Highway 101, especially in the Urban Renewal zone from the Siuslaw River Bridge to Highway 126.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will be paving Highway 101 in the summer months of 2017.

This is a significant infrastructure investment by the state, so the City of Florence is proactively seizing this opportunity to potentially provide street improvements including street lights, sidewalks and landscaping to be built with the paving project.

The project will improve the appearance of the area and encourage investment on adjacent private property.

Leland Consulting has scheduled meetings with the individual property owners of the catalytic sites during their time in Florence.

The public is invited to share ideas and provide input on the improvements.

Representatives from Leland and FURA's other consulting groups will be present, along with architecture professionals from the Mhyre Group to sketch out ideas that guests may have.

After the open house, FURA will hold a meeting the following night, Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m., to discuss results and additional ideas.

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Coming soon
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Friday, Sat & Sun

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KCST and KCFM & The Siuslaw News

Saturday is
FREE!
Between 4 and 6pm!

American Rhododendron Society (Siuslaw Chapter) is giving away a FREE Rhododendron every hour of the show.

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