

New local driving school aimed at teen drivers

A new driving school has opened in Florence. Rob's Driver Ed LLC aims to educate novice drivers to be low risk drivers by teaching the 10 Good Habits of Low Risk Drivers.

The program, developed and overseen by Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), is intended to not just teach teens the mechanics of driving, but to develop good driving habits that will benefit them for a lifetime of driving.

This is not "the easy school of driving." The program for teens, age 15 to 17, is a minimum of 47 hours long, including classroom, in-car and home practice, and takes 10 to 12 weeks to complete.

A teen program is currently being scheduled for students at Siuslaw High School.

At this time, Rob's Driver Ed LLC also offers individual instruction to novice drivers 18 and older, through private les-

sons. These lessons are modified from the teen program to be conducted in-car.

The school also offers private lessons to any licensed driver who wants to tune up their driving.

The school is owned by Rob Griffes, its only current instructor.

Several years ago, Griffes began teaching his oldest son to drive, and got frustrated with the lack of local driver education.

Last March, he decided to do something about it by taking a rigorous ODOT course in Eugene to become an ODOT-approved instructor.

To open a private school he also had to be certified by DMV as a school, and as an instructor in his school. Griffes is certified to instruct anyone age 15 and older who has a current learner's permit or driver's license.

For more information, contact Griffes at 541-999-9179.

Box Social art challenge offered at Backstreet

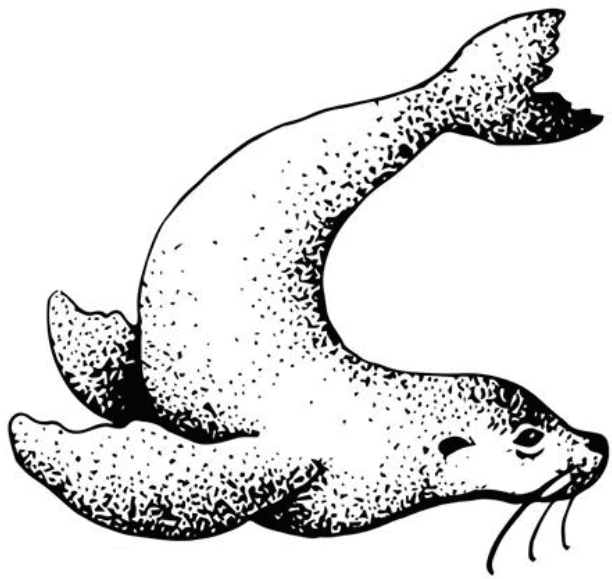
This year's Backstreet Gallery's Community Challenge will be the Summer Box Social, offering everyone the opportunity to take Backstreet's annual art challenge.

The finished pieces will be exhibited at the Gallery during July in the "Summer Box Social Celebrating the American Spirit" to commem-

orate Independence Day.

One catch: the boxes are round. Entrants will be given a choice of sizes and be allowed to choose more than one. The entrance fee of \$10 includes one box. Boxes, entry forms and rules are available at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St.

The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Dancing with Sea Lions

Celebrating 20 years with the Florence Events Center

Splash Off!

April 9th
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Everyone is invited to the Splash Off event, where all 20 painted Dancing Sea Lions and their little pup, Rhody, are ready to meet their fans!

Florence Events Center
715 Quince Street
www.DancingWithSeaLions.com

[Facebook.com/DancingWithSeaLions](https://www.facebook.com/DancingWithSeaLions)

