for

on

from

4:30 to 5:20 p.m.

Students will par-

ticipate in warm-

ups and isolation

body exercises, fol-

lowed by complicated and cre-

ative musical theatre choreogra-

phy from a variety of styles and

For all classes, proper dance

Heard has been teaching kids

attire and jazz or ballet shoes are

Broadway shows.

required.

### FRAA offers writing classes

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is continuing its exciting literary arts program this spring with "Writers on the River" workshops designed for all writing levels J. Rourke will share professionand genres.

These classes will present different topics to inspire writers and enhance their skills on the following Saturdays: April 16, May 14 and June 11.

Steps to Improve Your Writing," is on Saturday, April 16, from 9 to 11 a.m., at 120 Maple St. in Old Town.

This fun, hands-on work-

shop will show writers how to streamline their words and make them jump off the page with easy steps.

Writing instructor Catherine al revision and editing techniques from working at major publishing houses, national magazines and daily newspapers over the past 30 years.

Cost is \$20 for FRAA mem-The next workshop, "Simple bers or \$25 for nonmembers, payable at the door on the day of each workshop.

> Call 541-708-2120 or email CJReditor@gmail.com to register.

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## Heard to teach dance classes at LO

If you are the proud parent of arm and foot posia young dancer, then there's great news. Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshop (CROW) artistic director Melanie Heard will once again be offering youth dance classes this spring, April 21 through June 9, at Lane Community College Florence Center.

"Creative Movement" will be held Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon, and is for ages  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  to 5.

Children will explore rhythm, musical genres, floor patterns, animal movements, levels and tempo, as well as learn the basic

tions and some basic steps from ballet. This class is focused on imagination and fun.

Participants must be potty trained unless parent/guardian is willing to stay and assist. "Jazz/Lyrical"

is for ages 6 and older, and will be held Thursdays,

from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m. Students will participate in warm-ups and isolation body exercises set to contemporary music, followed by a variety of jazz and lyrical combination work both in the center and across the floor.

This class will be fast paced and fun, with focus on technique how to dance for more than 20

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COURTESY PHOTO Melanie Heard

well versed in tap, jazz, characalthough ter, swing, salsa, lyrical/modern, Heard will take and many other forms of dance. "Dance is a great way for kids as young as 8 young men and ladies of all ages This class will be

to learn about their bodies and to expand their creativity," says Heard, who stresses that she is purposely offering classes for various ages, including teens that might be interested.

years. She studied professional

ballet with the Houston, Joffrey

and Kirov Ballet Schools, and is

She also particularly encourages young men and boys to sign up.

"Dance is an incredibly athletic activity" says Heard. "It's not just for girls. Some of the most amazing athletes, including many professional football players, have studied dance to improve their stamina and agility."

The classes will be custom tailored to the ages and abilities of the kids who sign up.

"Come give it a try. You might surprise yourself," says Heard.

Class sessions are \$56, which breaks down to only \$7 per class. Limited financial need based scholarships may be available, through a partnership with Siuslaw School District's Twilight Program (for Jazz/Lyrical and Dance For Musical Theatre classes only).

For more information, or to enroll your child, contact Melanie Heard at 541-999-8641 or visit www.crowkids.com for a downloadable application. Space is limited, and preenrollment is strongly recom-

mended.

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