

Spoken poetry contest May 7

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) Poetry Committee has announced that Poetry Slam master Jorah LaFleur, from Eugene, will emcee the upcoming Spoken Word Poetry Contest, Saturday, May 7, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

LaFleur has been the organizer and emcee of the Eugene Poetry Slam for the past nine years. In addition, she is a writer/performer, spoken word artist, actor, workshop facilitator and ceremonial officiant. She has served as an emcee at a variety of events throughout Oregon, including the Oregon Country Fair, Earthdance, Bhaktifest, Lane County's Got Talent and many others.

LaFleur has facilitated Spoken Word Poetry Workshops in schools from elementary to community college. "I believe that spoken word poetry can be a powerful tool for young people and want to encourage and empower young people to explore this art form," said LaFleur, who has authored her own book of poetry called, "I Can Promise You a Rose Garden."

Bettie Egerton, chairwoman of the Big Wave Poetry Fest said, "I am thrilled that Jorah agreed to be our 'Mistress of Ceremony.' She absolutely knows how to run a Poetry Contest ... plus she is funny and engages the audience to be a participant in the event, not just a listener."

Rust speaks at library Wednesday

Local author and former Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust will be at the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St., in the Bromley Room, on Wednesday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m., to discuss and read from his latest book, "The Shandong Question."

Shandong is a province in Eastern China where the author spends part of each year teaching English.

Rust is a fifth generation Oregonian born in Prairie City in 1943. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Oregon and subsequently joined the Peace Corps. When Rust returned to Oregon in the 1970s he helped form the Hoedads, a tree planting cooperative, in response to clear cutting of forests in Lane County.

In 1980 he began five terms of service as a Lane County Commissioner.

The former commissioner, now living in Mapleton with his wife and other family members, spends part of the year in Shandong, China, teaching English.

Shandong is a province of once disputed territory due to concessions made to Germany in the late 1800s and then Japan during World War I. The disposition of the area was a subject addressed in the Versailles Treaty.

The treaty's award of certain interests in the peninsula to Japan was denounced by many Chinese citizens, who protested in a large demonstration on May 4, 1919, the beginning of a revolution now referred to as the May Fourth Movement.

On this May 4, join fellow history buffs to hear Rust share his first-hand experiences and fascinating history of the Shandong peninsula, as well as read from his recently published novel, "The Shandong Question."

Rust has also written two other books.

The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. For more information about the program, visit the Siuslaw Public Library, call 541-997-3132 or go to www.siuslawlibrary.info.



COURTESY PHOTO

Poetry Slam master Jorah LaFleur will emcee the upcoming FRAA Spoken Word Poetry Slam in Florence.

Egerton said that so far, 16 poets from around the state have signed up for the Spoken Word Contest.

"Nearly every poet who has won one of the contests held in Florence is going to compete in this one," said Egerton. "You are going to hear some amazing poetry. For those who have

never been to a spoken word poetry event, this is the one to attend."

Tickets can be purchased at the door, or at the FRAA Art Center on Maple Street, for \$10.

For more information, visit www.fraaoregon.org/poetryfest.html.

Auxiliary awards Cordone, Leskin

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52 gathered at Station Siuslaw River for its monthly meeting and to give out awards in mid-April.

Port of Siuslaw Manager Steven Leskin was presented with a certificate of appreciation for "outstanding cooperation and assistance in furthering the purposes and principles of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary."

Florence resident Deborah Heldt Cordone was officially sworn in as a member of the Auxiliary by Norm Hoffman, Flotilla Commander.

Cordone, a retired law enforcement officer, has been working public affairs for the Coast Guard for the past few months.

During the meeting, she also took an Oath of Office, administered by Station Siuslaw River Senior Chief Tregoning, as the recently appointed Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs.

Cordone's guest Mayor Joe Henry gave a short speech, congratulating Cordone and briefly discussing her proposal for Florence to become a designated Coast Guard City USA or Coast Guard Community.

Preliminary plans are in the



PHOTOS BY ROBERT STEELE

New U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Affairs Deborah Heldt Cordone (above, center) stands with friends after she is sworn in by U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River Senior Chief Tim Tregoning (far right).



works for submitting an application for such.

The Auxiliary is a group of volunteer members who assist the active-duty Coast Guard in various ways, offering unique opportunities to give to the country and back to the community. It is assigned under the Department of Homeland Security and is under authority

of Coast Guard leadership. The cornerstones of the Auxiliary include safe boating education, operations, fellowship and recruitment.

For more information about joining the USCG Auxiliary, visit www.cgaux.org. If you would like a free vessel inspection, contact the station at 541-997-2486, option 3.

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PO Box 1296 • 1339 Rhododendron Dr., Florence, OR 97439
Call 541-997-5057 to Volunteer

Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60
Meals on Wheels are available to people over the age of 60 who cannot get out much due to illness or advanced age and who are not eating properly, regardless of income. Cafe 60 is available for those who prefer to make new friends in a dining room setting.
1570 Kingwood
PO Box 2313, Florence
541-997-5673
lanesenior meals.org

Peace Harbor Volunteers
Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers, you will find an area of interest in a caring organization.
400 9th Street, Florence
541-997-8412 ext. 209

Siuslaw Outreach Services
SOS is looking for a few great volunteers!
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541-997-6626
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