

SEAc coast to host music of New Hot Club



On Friday, May 13, at 7 p.m., you'll be in luck when The New Hot Club of America comes to "wow" Florence. This dazzling ensemble is comprised of some of today's top gypsy jazz artists in North America. You'll want to tango in your seat as they recapture the sound, style, and spirit of the 1930's-era Hot Club of France.

Tickets, artist profiles, show times, video clips, and more information are available at SEAc coastEA.org. Tickets are \$30, or \$10 for those under 18. Tickets may also be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; or by phone at 541-997-1994 or online at www.eventcenter.org.



'Dancing Sea Lions' celebration makes big splash

More than 750 people were in attendance for the official "Splash Off" of the FEC's Dancing With Sea Lions reveal, which is part of the center's 20th anniversary celebration. The project is a public art program featuring 20 hand-decorated fiberglass sea lions on display from Reedsport to Newport and locations throughout Florence.

On April 8, the FEC held an artist reception for the Dancing with Sea Lions artists, committee members, sponsors, underwriters and the Friends of the FEC

before the free public Splash Off! event April 9.

Jennifer Connor, FEC marketing specialist and project coordinator, said she loved that the project makes art accessible.

"I keep going back to our original theme, that the arts have a ripple effect on the community. Art reaches out to all ages, and this project will reach out to all ages too," Connor said.

FEC Director Kevin Rhodes opened the artist reception, where all 20 full-sized sea



lions filled the flat floor of the events center. Rhodes said the FEC continues to host local and regional events. By the end of this year, the tally will total 8,000 events.

"Although the celebration continues throughout the year, Dancing with Sea Lions is certainly the pinnacle event. Jennifer and the whole committee has done a fantastic job," Rhodes said.

Each Dancing with Sea Lions sculpture was sponsored by an area business or organization. The project was underwritten by Sea Lion Caves, Florence Urban Renewal Agency and Three Rivers Casino Resort.

City Councilor Joshua Greene, who is also active in the Public Arts Committee and Florence Urban Renewal Agency, said, "When you think about the FEC and all that Jennifer and her team have done to get this done and get it out there from Newport to Reedsport, this is really terrific. You come in here and you see this unbelievable expression of creativity, fun and excitement, and all by these artists in our community."

City of Florence Public Works has installed the sea lions at their locations around Florence. For a full map, information on the artists and more pictures, visit www.dancingwithsealions.com.