

Sea Life exhibit continues at FEC

While the “Dancing Sea Lions” have migrated to their new temporary homes in Florence and beyond, the Sea Life exhibit will stay at the Florence Events Center, in Galleries One and Five through May. Stunning paintings, photography and sculptures are on display and available for purchase.

Art medias including oil painting, watercolor, acrylic, colored pencil and mixed media are represented by artists Ron Hildenbrand, Kat Cunningham, John Leasure, Dan Leasure, Katie Miller, Paul Kingsbury, Eileen Hearne, Tracy Webster, Colleen Goodwin Chronister, and Claudia Ignatieff.

Photographers displaying their works are Kevin Liebel, Michael MacDuffee and Bob



Local artist Paul Kingsbury, with his acrylic painting “Majestic Coast”

MacDuffee. Additionally, the glass exhibit case is filled with myrtle wood sculptures by artist Terry Woodall.

The galleries are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on weekends during special events.

Library features jazz ensemble

The Siuslaw Public Library will host an outreach performance by The New Hot Club of America, a recently formed seven-member gypsy jazz ensemble.

The performance will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 13, in the Bromley Room located in the main library in Florence.

The New Hot Club of America is made up of seven talented gypsy jazz musicians from throughout North America: a bass player, a clarinet player, two guitarists and three violinists.

Vocals are provided by Leah Zeger, one of the three violinists, who has a mellow, pleasing voice. Guitarist Gonzalo Bergara modeled this ensemble after the Hot Club of France as a tribute to Django Reinhardt.

Reinhardt is considered the father of the fusion of jazz and swing, also known as “gypsy jazz.”

The group performs the works of Reinhardt as well as

those of another gypsy jazz great, violinist Stephane Grappelli.

Reinhardt and Grappelli’s work included much collaboration with a variety of musical artists both in the United States and Europe. In keeping with the spirit of the original gypsy jazz ensemble, The New Hot Club of America pieces will feature different soloists and collaborations in celebration and honor of Django’s original style.

This jazz style dates back to the 1930s, when Django, a Romani guitarist, played with a group of fellow Romani guitar players in and around Paris. Their style, the gypsy jazz — or jazz manouche as it is known in France — is both dark and lively.

In a recent interview, Zeger said she likes gypsy jazz because it is “one style that really makes the violin cool.”

Get a flavor of this cool sound at the outreach program.

This special preview is made possible through the support of Seacoast Entertainment Association, which is bringing this multi-talented group to Florence for a full concert on that same Friday evening, May 13, at the Florence Events Center.

Thanks to the hard work of the association, The New Hot Club of America’s unique tribute to Django Reinhardt and the Hot Club of France will be highlighted for all local residents.

This ensemble’s lively compositions will appeal to all music lovers and have the audience tapping its toes from one piece to the next.

There is no charge to attend the event and this music concert is open to the public.

For more information about this performance, visit the Siuslaw Public Library on Ninth Street, call 541-997-3132 or visit www.siuslawlibrary.info.

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LCC to host open houses for ‘Ventures’

Lane Community College Florence Center’s Continuing Education program, “Outward Ventures,” will offer a sneak peek at upcoming courses and Outward Ventures trips during open house sessions planned for May 23 at 6 p.m., and May 24 at 10:30 a.m.

“This is a chance for resi-

dents to ‘save the date’ for “Outward Ventures” excursions that may interest them and learn about fun and unique opportunities they may want to share with their family and friends who’ll visit Florence this summer,” said Marsha Sills, LCC Florence Center Continuing Education program

coordinator.

“Outward Ventures” is a program that provides cultural and educational trips to sites in the region. Special trips already confirmed for the fall will also be shared during both open house dates and attendees will have a chance to win free Continuing Education registration, up to \$50, that can be used in either the summer or fall.

Attendees will also get to vote on an upcoming “Outward Ventures” locale.

During the open house events, community members also can learn more about how to get involved as a partner in providing lifelong learning opportunities in Florence.

Sills said she is still planning the fall semester and seeking instructors interested in sharing their hobbies and skills.

While all course suggestions are welcome, Sills said she is specifically seeking instructors with expertise in the following areas: baking, cooking, basic fermentation, basic preserving and canning, medicinal herbs, painting, fiber arts, conversational foreign language, gardening, music, creative writing, self-improvement and local history.

“This community possesses a wealth of expertise and talent. I invite anyone interested in partnering with us in expanding lifelong learning opportunities in Florence to drop by on one of the open house dates to learn more about our program,” Sills said.

For more information, contact Sills at 541-997-8444, ext. 4825.

FRAA to hold annual arts festival for Rhody Days

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will host an art show by local and coastal artists and craftsman at the Florence Events Center during Rhody Days, May 21 and 22.

In the tradition of the FRAA Arts Festival, visitors will experience the artistry while having a chance to meet the artists.

Some of the art on display will include woodturning, fused glass, stained glass, bead weaving, photography, metal work, garden décor, raku ceramics, obsidian knives, rocktopography, hand painted pottery, watercolors, lampwork beads as well as a variety of unique jewelry treasures.

The show’s artists will be donating 10 percent of their sales to support the Florence Regional Arts Center at its new location, 120 Maple St. Admission is free.






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