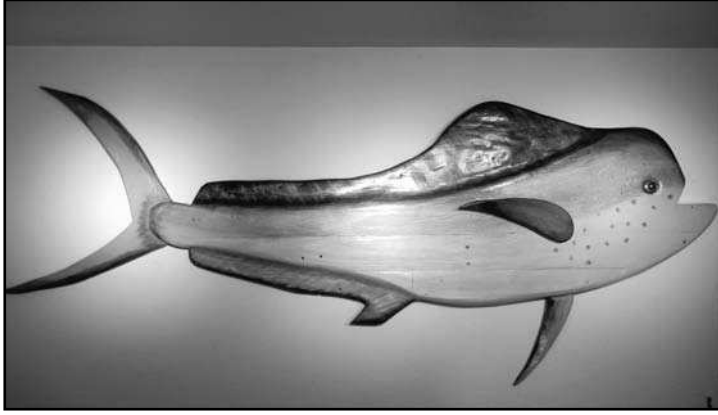


Kennedy, Ricketts art featured at River Gallery

The River Gallery will host a reception for local artists Greg Kennedy and Terry Ricketts during the Second Saturday Gallery Tour, today, July 9, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Kennedy began working with clay while apprenticing with Mike McCollum at the University of Las Vegas in the early 1970s. McCollum, a student of Peter Voukos, instilled in Kennedy a deep appreciation of Japanese Momoyam Era ceramics, inspiring him to visit the seven ancient kiln sites of Japan.

For 38 years, Kennedy has continuously worked to develop his clay aesthetic. Since moving to Deadwood Creek in the coast range of Oregon in 2004, the focus of Kennedy's work has been on Raku and



COURTESY PHOTOS

Artwork by Terry Ricketts (left) and Greg Kennedy

sagger firing practices. Ricketts creates spectacular stained glass window panels and beautiful hand-carved fish wall hangings. He and his wife have been coming to the Florence area for more than 20 years and moved to Florence

permanently in 2014. Whether through photography, wood working or stained glass, Ricketts has a passion for nature and the landscape and uses this as his creative inspiration. The River Gallery is on the

corner of Bay and Laurel streets in Old Town. Stop by during the Second Saturday Gallery Tour and meet Kennedy and Ricketts, check out their artwork and enjoy some champagne and chocolate.

Summer Fun at Sandpines

We are hosting a **Micro Beer Tasting** Friday, July 22, 6-8ish Only \$40 per person

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Wednesday, July 27th @ 1:30
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Thursday, August 4th @ 3:00
Come Enjoy Folk Music with Hal & Friends.

Monday, August 8th @ 2:00
Make a Tropical Lei of your Choice.

Thursday, August 18th @ 2:00 - "Living Life to the Fullest Series"
Parkinson's What you need to know.

WORD ON THE STREET

How do you incorporate art into your everyday life?

"Sometimes when you think you have enough art on your wall, maybe a new piece or rearranging old pieces would change your whole decor and give you a lift."

—KAREN NICHOLS
BACKSTREET GALLERY, 1421 BAY ST.

"As the liaison to the Siuslaw Public Library's Art Committee, I have the opportunity to be involved in showcasing some of Florence's finest artists. On a personal level, I try and do some paper-crafting daily — it nourishes my soul!"

—MARY COLGAN-BENNETTS
SIUSLAW PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1460 NINTH ST.

"Art is incorporated into everyone's life every day through everyday items. I'm a visual person, so everything has art built into it. It's important to foster art in all the ways creative expression can be made. Make it for yourself or make it for everyone!"

—JO BEAUDREAU
BEAUXARTS, 2285-H HIGHWAY 101

Visit the locations below during today's Second Saturday Gallery Tour from 3 to 5 p.m. For a complete list of galleries, go online to 2ndSaturdayGalleryTour.com.

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Rail from 1A

In a July 6 statement, Wyden said, "Today's good news provides essential support to ensure a smooth path to get Coos Bay-area products to market. It also shows clearly how the Port of Coos Bay has a proven track record of making the most efficient and effective use of federal resources."

Merkley said, "The ability to move goods is the lifeblood of the Coos Bay economy. With this funding, the Port of Coos Bay can ensure that its rail line is safe, efficient and can continue to support much needed jobs in the region."

FASTLANE and the new Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program, both part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act that was passed into law in December 2015, were created to fund projects that will boost economic growth and support the movement of freight throughout the nation's transportation system.

DeFazio pushed for the freight program to include funding for freight projects in rural communities.

"Coos Bay's project will create good, living-wage jobs and spur needed economic development in rural communities that have struggled for decades," DeFazio said.

The funding from this grant will allow the Port of Coos Bay to improve the tunnel drainage systems including track and ditch work, structural repairs and some clearance improvements. This project is expected to cost \$18.8 million.

"This grant will help ensure the tunnels are structurally sound for years to come," Burns said. "This funding will help ensure the vitality of the rail line for the next 100 years."

The port will celebrate the rail line's 100th year in August during its Railroad Centennial Celebration.

Safety conditions caused the rail line to halt operations in September 2007. The port purchased Coos Bay Rail Line in March 2009 with \$8 million in federal funds and support from DeFazio, and reopened the line in 2011.

"I congratulate the Port of Coos Bay and look forward to continuing our work to improve this critical transportation link and economic engine for the south coast," said DeFazio.

Water from 1A

Siuslaw Valley drivers to get more experience and continue upkeep on the water tenders.

At the time the two agencies began working together, estimates suggested that the curtailment could last as long as June.

"It was a good example of multiple agencies partnering for the greater good of the community," Langborg said. "We were happy to help."

Kennedy said, "I had no idea it really would last this long, but with negotiations and the construction, it did. I'm glad that we get to restore water now."

Survey from 1A

"It is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers," Trent said. "They can ask for help if they don't understand the question being asked, but that is the only interaction that the staff is allowed to have with the kids."

According to Trent, Teen Center members used a private, secure, online program to complete the survey. Each teen had a unique identifier and no

names were on the documents. "The results are compiled by a national organization that reviews all the information," Trent said. "They 'scrub' the data, using a formula to see that the answers are accurate."

Trent sees the survey as a tool to gauge how well the club is doing through the eyes of its members.

"Our goal at the Boys and Girls Club is to build ladders of opportunity so that kids can climb as high as they want to go," Trent said.

"Everything we do is based on targeted results. We want the kids to have a great time, but we want to make sure that those ladders of opportunity are in place," he added.

Survey results found that 100 percent of Teen Center members and 93 percent of elementary members reported they plan to graduate high school.

"The things I am most proud of are our accomplishments in the academic part of this report. When you look at our results in this particular area, we way over-achieved," Trent said.

The question on grades showed that 88 percent of club members had grades of "mostly A's" and "mostly B's," with no "mostly D's" or "mostly F's" reported. The state and national percentages were both 80 percent.

Trent said he is confident that the self-reported grades are accurate, because he gets to see the test results and grade cards

of members because of the Club Bucks incentive program the club initiated earlier in the 2015-16 school year.

"The kids get Club Bucks for every piece of homework they turn in, every 'A' they get on a test and every 'A' or 'B' that they get on a grade card," Trent said. "Every time these kids get a grade card or they get a test score, they bring them in to get Club Bucks."

In addition to graduation expectations and academic achievements, 88 percent of club members rated the perceived importance of school as "Very Important" or "Important." None rated it "Not that Important," or "Not Important at All."

Most of the non-academic survey questions had three options, "Doing Great," "Doing Fine" and "Needs Improvement." In almost all of these categories elementary and Teen Center members rated the club significantly higher than state and national percentages.

In "Overall Experience," 69 percent of BGCWLC members ranked the club as "Doing Great;" nationally, clubs averaged 37 percent, and statewide, clubs averaged 29 percent.

In the category of "Overall Safety," the BGCWLC scored 80 percent "Doing Great" or "Doing Fine;" nationally, the score was 62 percent, and statewide it was 55 percent.

BGCWLC members rated "Staff Expectations" at 100 percent "Doing Great," compared to 69 percent nationally and 62 percent statewide.

Sixty-nine percent of mem-

bers rated the club as "Doing Great" in the "Fun" category. This compares to 49 percent nationally and 42 percent statewide.

"When you look at the results we have in the 'Fun' category it is significant to see that while we are excelling in our academics, the kids are having fun and they are learning," Trent said. "That's the best of all worlds. The results demonstrate that we are doing the right things. The kids want to come and the parents want their kids to come."

The Teen Center closed December 2014 due to financial difficulties. After reorganizing, remodeling and re-staffing, the center reopened in September 2015 with nine members. It currently has more than 30 members.

"When we reopened the Teen Center last fall after it was closed for almost 10 months, we had nine teens that initially started," Trent said. "Seven of the nine were failing math. Currently every one of those teens has either an 'A' or 'B' in math."

Trent said the club does not solicit exceptional students, but welcomes everyone.

"The survey results demonstrate that we are doing the right things," Trent said. "The kids want to come and the parents want their kids to come. The Boys and Girls Club is open to every child, especially those that need us most. In our summer program, roughly 36 percent of the elementary kids are on full or partial financial scholarships."

...need a friend?

Meet Merlin

Greetings muggle. My name is Merlin! Okay okay, so I'm not a real wizard -- but I would certainly make for a great companion! I am a very sweet boy! I get along very well with both people and I play nice with other cats as well! I have a shy and gentle nature and can be a tiny bit timid at first. Also did I mention how soft and handsome I am? Who would want an owl or a toad when they could have me?

If you would like to meet Merlin any of his friends, please visit us at:

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