

# Community News



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

October was proclaimed "Arts and Humanities Appreciation Month" by Mayor Joe Henry, which begins this weekend with the Dancing With Sea Lions dinner and auction at the Florence Events Center (top) and the demARTS event at the Siuslaw Public Library (above), along with recognition of local photographers (right), painters (above) and more through the rest of October.

## CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN FLORENCE

This Saturday, a month-long focus on art appreciation in Florence kicks off with two major events.

The Siuslaw Public Library will host the third annual demARTS event in partnership with the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), the Siuslaw Fiber Arts

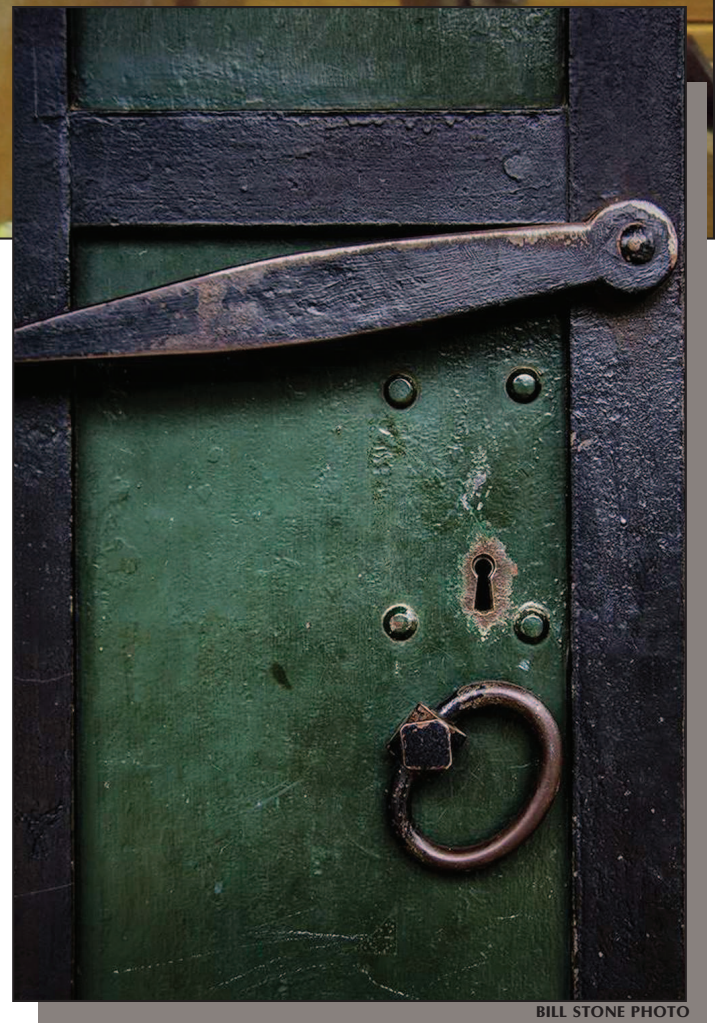
Guild, the Central Coast Miniature Club of Florence, Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library, Florence Area Beaders and Beaux Arts-Fine Art Materials.

This fun and talent-laden event is the library's premier celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month.

Named demARTS for the demonstration of creativity and art, this event includes something for anyone and everyone who enjoys art, creates art or yearns to create art.

More than twenty artists will demonstrate techniques in painting

See **ARTS 4B**



BILL STONE PHOTO

## Coast Guard named Grand Marshal for Rhody Festival

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has named the U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River in Florence as Grand Marshal for the 110th Rhododendron Festival Parade on May 21, 2017.

"This is the Station's 100th anniversary of service to our area," said Bettina Hannigan, executive director for the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. "They are such an important and vital part of our community. We want to honor the men and women assigned to Florence and their many contributions to the community. That's why we want to recognize

them with one of the highest honors the Chamber can give — making them the Grand Marshal and the centerpiece of our celebration."

And as such, the festival is integrating the Coast Guard's official motto "Semper Paratus," or "Always Ready," into the festival's theme, which will be "Always Ready to Rhody!"

The Station's area of responsibility spans 25 miles of coastline, from Cape Perpetua to the Siltcoos River. The station's primary mission is to provide search and rescue to commercial mariners, recreational boaters and surfers.

The station also escorts fishing vessels across the Siuslaw River bar, provides marine environmental protection, fisheries conservation and boating safety regulations enforcement, and emergency towing of vessels.

The station averages about 175 cases a year.

"This year there will be a special emphasis on displaying rhodies on all parade entries, especially on the floats — even if entrants have to use artificial rhodies or make them from tissue or fabric," said festival coordinator Nancy Pearson. "We really want them to rock the rhodies for our

grand floral parade as was the tradition in past decades."

"It's such a 'go-getter' sounding theme," added Hannigan. "During the three-day Rhododendron Festival, we're always ready for a party."

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a contest to design this year's Rhododendron Festival logo for use on ads, posters, lapel pins, T-shirts and more.

Details on how to enter the contest are at [www.FlorenceChamber.com](http://www.FlorenceChamber.com).