

## Registration begins for 11th annual Nativity Festival

Do you have a cherished nativity scene that you put up each year in December to begin your Christmas season?

Would you be willing to share it for a few days to help others catch the true meaning of Christmas and bring joy into their lives?

The Florence Nativity Festival Committee is seeking community and coastal members who would like to participate in this year's festival, held Dec. 2, 3 and 4, from 1 to 6 p.m. each day.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nativity scenes like these will be on display for three days in December. The public is invited to share their own.

Displayers from past years are invited to return, and all nativity sets, large or small, are welcome.

The festival takes place at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' building, 2705 Munsel Lake Road.

It is open to the public and is free of charge.

Contact Vickie Kennedy at 541-997-7404 or by e-mail at vkennedy54@gmail.com for registration information or if you have other questions about the festival.

## Parent group offers support for families with disability

Surfing through the Waves of the Uniquely Gifted, a new community group for parents living in Florence and Mapleton, offers support for parents raising a child with a disability. Its next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Early Childhood CARES/Head Start classroom at 2325 Oak St.

Childcare and dinner will be provided. Parents must RSVP for childcare by Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Come connect with other parents who are raising a child with special needs. The group will share in the joys and special challenges of raising a child with a diagnosis.

To RSVP or for more information about this group, email Kerri Lockhart at kerrilockhart1225@gmail.com or call 541-232-4659.

Surfing Through the Waves is a collaboration with The Arc Families Connected of Lane County.

## State Fire Marshal urges public to test smoke alarms

Sunday marks the end of daylight savings time and serves as a good reminder for Oregonians to test their smoke alarms.

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is urging residents to test their smoke alarms before automatically changing the batteries.

"Smoke alarm technology has advanced and many now come with 10-year batteries and some are tamper-resistant," said State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. "So, I encourage residents to test their alarms before changing the battery."

Oregon law requires ionization-only smoke alarms that are solely battery powered to come equipped with a hush feature and a 10-year battery. Because of this technology, the national slogan "Change your clock, Change your battery" may not apply to Oregon residents who have these ionization-only smoke alarms.

Other types of alarms are also being sold with either a 10-year battery or a standard-life battery.

"Ensuring you have working smoke alarms in your home is the single most important step you can take to increase your family's safety from a home fire," added Walker. "Also, be sure to replace any smoke alarm that is 10 years old or older."

To test your alarm properly:

- 1) Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.
- 2) When replacing batteries, follow the manufacturer's instructions for the correct battery type to use.
- 3) Always retest alarms after installing new batteries.
- 4) Replace any alarm that fails to operate after installing a new battery.
- 5) Inspect your alarms to determine if they are 10 years old or older, and replace any smoke alarm 10 years old or

older. Look for a date on the back of the alarm. If there is no date, your alarm is more than 10 years old and should be replaced.

6) Follow the manufacturer's instructions for regularly cleaning your alarms of dust and cobwebs. Working smoke alarms provide a critical early

warning to a fire, allowing you vital minutes to escape, which increase your chances of survival.

People should also install smoke alarms on every level of the home, in each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

For more information, visit [oregon.gov](http://oregon.gov).

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