

Ring in the New Year with Curtis Salgado at FEC



Award-winning blues man Curtis Salgado (above left) will perform with the Hank Shreve Band on Dec. 31.

New Year's Eve will be a mix of ringing in the new year as well as turning back the clock when blues man Curtis Salgado teams up with fellow Northwesterner Hank Shreve.

For Salgado, it's a trip to the past on a stage that he was the first performer on at the FEC some 20 years ago.

The Hank Shreve Band will open the evening concert at 9 p.m., followed by Salgado in an evening that will bring Salgado full-circle as the FEC celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Salgado began his career leading The Nighthawks, a Eugene-based band before joining forces with Robert Cray, singing and playing harmonica with the band for six years — including singing on Cray's debut album, released in

1980.

Over his renowned blues career, Salgado has performed with Steve Miller, Carlos Santana and was the inspiration behind John Belushi's creation of the Blues Brothers characters in the late 1970s.

Salgado was nominated for four of the Blues Foundation's 2009 Blues Music Awards, including Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year and Soul Blues Album of the year for his album, "Clean Getaway."

In 2010, Salgado won the Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year award, which he won again in 2012.

In 2013, he won the Blues Music Award for the B.B. King Entertainer Of The Year, Soul Blues Male Artist and Soul Shot won Soul Blues Album Of

The Year.

Hank Shreve began playing harmonica at the age of 8 and has established himself as a major harmonica talent on the blues scene in the Pacific Northwest.

He won the Northwest Harmonica Championship in 2006 and the Muddy Award for Best Harmonica player in 2009.

Shreve was a featured artist in the Harmonica Blow-off at the 2009 Waterfront Blues Festival along with Rick Estrin and Randy Chortkoff.

While playing with the Ty Curtis Band in 2009, the band took second place in Memphis at the International Blues Challenge.

In addition to many music luminaries, he has shared the

stage with Honeyboy Edwards, Merle Haggard, Norton Buffalo, Gregg Rolie, Sista Monica Parker, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Curtis Salgado, Paul DeLay and many others.

The Hank Shreve Blues Showcase, now in its second year at Whiskey River Ranch in Springfield, is where Hank fronts an all-star line up with Skip Jones on keyboards, Tim Donahue on drums, Bill Shreve on bass and Stan Welsh on guitar; sharing the stage with guest performers such as Karen Lovely, Bob Ruggiero, Lisa Mann, Henry Cooper and Salgado.

Tickets are available by calling the FEC box office at 541-997-1994 or visit www.events-center.org.

Santa to visit police dept.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Florence Police Auxiliary will be helping Santa give toys to local children when he visits the Florence Justice Center, Ninth and Kingwood streets, on Saturday, Dec. 17. Santa will hand out gifts to children between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are being collected at the Justice Center until Friday, Dec. 16.

Enroll for healthcare by tomorrow to be insured by Jan. 1

Affordable Care Act enrollment is on the rise as 40,290 Oregonians have already selected health plans for 2017.

Those who haven't enrolled yet have a week left to make sure they have health insurance coverage on New Year's Day.

Expert help and financial assistance are available as the deadline looms. Last year, 35,704 Oregonians selected plans in the first four weeks of open enrollment.

While open enrollment lasts through Jan. 31, 2017, Oregonians need to apply by Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, to ensure they have coverage on Jan. 1, 2017.

Staying enrolled in health insurance is important to protect people from unexpected costs or problems getting the health care they need. Oregonians can sign up, renew, or change their health insurance plans at HealthCare.gov.

Most consumers who already have insurance through Health Care.gov or directly through an

insurance company will be re-enrolled in their same plan if they do not act by that date.

Even Oregonians with existing health plans should log into their HealthCare.gov accounts to make sure their applications are up-to-date and that their plans are still right for them. After all, plans and prices — and people's health needs and incomes — can change from year to year.

"While we are pleased with the increase in enrollment so far, we know there are still Oregonians who do not have coverage and others who have coverage but are not taking advantage of subsidies available to them through HealthCare.gov," said Patrick Allen, director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), which houses the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.

"Financial help can go a long way in making coverage more affordable," he said.

Of the nearly 132,000

Oregonians enrolled in individual coverage on the marketplace in 2016, about 95,000 of those consumers received financial help.

The average premium tax credit they received was \$250 per month. Help with out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays and deductibles, is also available on some silver-level plans for those who qualify.

Having insurance coverage also helps you avoid a potential penalty on your 2017 taxes.

Oregon has a network of insurance agents and community organizations ready to help people enroll.

You can find an agent or community partner in your area by going to www.OregonHealthCare.gov or by calling the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace at 1-855-268-3767 (toll-free).

DCBS also provided grants to 35 agents to create drop-in enrollment centers during open enrollment.

These centers will be ready to

help during the entire open enrollment period during normal business hours, with some extended hours.

To start shopping for plans, visit HealthCare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 (toll-free) (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).

Open enrollment is under way as more Oregonians than ever have insurance coverage, thanks to expansion of the Oregon Health

Plan and subsidies to help pay for commercial health plans. Oregon's uninsured rate stands at 5 percent. The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, go to www.dcbcs.oregon.gov.

Port Hole Books to host holiday readings

The public is invited to a special annual holiday event at Port Hole Books and Publishing, 179 Laurel St. in Old Town Florence, when a group of local authors will be reading holiday-themed selections.

Come listen or bring your own favorite holiday selection to read, by a favorite author or an original composition.

Among the authors who will be reading:

- Karen Nichols (The Moral

of the Story: On the Road of Life, The Unexpected Gift, Second Chance Heart, Thornton House)

- Carol Gunderson (The Morning Porch, Gramma's Guided Tour of the World's Greatest Library)

- Ned Hickson (Nationally syndicated columnist, Siuslaw News editor, author of Humor at the Speed of Life, Pearls of Writing Wisdom)

- Ellen Traylor (author of 20 books, will read from Gabriel -

the War in Heaven, and Something Like Scales)

- Carolyn Nordahl (Grandma's Window Shade — Memories and Recipes from a Northwest Childhood)

- Burney Garelick (Also Selected Short Stories)

The event begins at 7 p.m., and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call 541-999-5725.

Recycle gifts, wrapping

Lane County Master Recyclers invite community members to reduce, reuse and recycling waste that is typically generated at the holidays.

The Waste-Free Holidays Campaign highlights several fun, low-cost and simple waste prevention strategies families can use through New Year's Day.

Visit www.lanecounty.org/lessisbest to view tips and resources to help create a truly enjoyable season.

For more information on becoming a Master Recycler, call Kelli Bell at 541-682-2059.



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SANTA

Spruce Point invites the Community And their families to visit with Santa
Friday, December 16th
1:00 – 3:00 pm

We will be giving out Goodie Bags and serving refreshments (while supply lasts)

Please contact Lisa or Annette for more information
541-997-6111

Spruce Point
an assisted living and memory care community
www.spruce-point.com

375 9th St
Florence, OR 97439

Going Out Of Business SALE

We are closing our doors on December 24th and passing the savings on to you!

DECEMBER 13-17 40% OFF
(almost the entire store)

DECEMBER 20-24 50% OFF
(almost the entire store)

Shop early for the best selections!

Silver Sand Dollar 1499 Bay Street
Gallery Jewelry and Gifts (Old Port Building)

On-Site Parking **541-997-0111**

ARE YOU A THREE RIVERS CASINO RESORT COMMUNITY CASH WINNER?

THIS WEEK'S LUCKY WINNERS:

Tuesday 12/06	Dixie Buss Carole Jensen	Florence Florence	Safeway/Florence Safeway/Florence
Wednesday 12/07	Rod Stowe Les Hamilton	Florence Florence	Safeway/Florence Grocery Outlet
Thursday 12/08	Don Jordan Kurt Medlock	Florence Florence	Safeway/Florence Safeway/Florence
Friday 12/09	Dave Guesz Brenda McDaniel	Florence Westlake	Safeway/Florence Grocery Outlet
Saturday 12/10	Peggy McHale Laura Magnuson	Florence Veneta	Florence Liquor Agency Three Rivers Casino Resort
Sunday 12/11	Ray Bray Betty Carruthers	Florence Florence	Carpe Diem Pizza Safeway/Florence
Monday 12/12	Chuck Waide John O'Malley	Florence Florence	Safeway/Florence Safeway/Florence

Each winner receives \$50.00 in Community Cash!
Winners have 7 days from the date drawn to claim their prize.

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