

'Tsunami of Haiku' washing through Florence during FRAA event

More than 100 Haiku written by Florence residents have started appearing at establishments all over town. The project marks the kickoff of the Big Wave Poetry Festival. The haiku, decorated by local artist Kat Cunningham, adorn restaurants, shops, art galleries and community spaces, such as the library, city hall, and the Florence Chamber of Commerce.

"Residents and visitors alike

can wander the shops and cafes of Old Town and see these short poems inspired by the charm of Florence and the beauty of our environment," said festival Co-chair Judy Plumery.

Mayor Joe Henry, several City Councilors and many of Florence's leading citizens wrote original haiku for the project.

The festival, sponsored by

Tickets to each night's event are \$10 and are available at the door or in advance at FRAA, 120 Maple St.

the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), gets started

at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 12, at the Florence Events Center with the Spoken Word Poetry Contest.

Up to 30 poets will perform original, 3-minute poems in categories such as "nature," "humor," "personal reflection" and "social commentary."

"Last year's poets had the audience in tears one minute and howling with laughter the next," said

Plumery.

Poets should visit www.fraa.oregon.org to sign up to perform.

Saturday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the FEC will feature the premier showing of the documentary "Perception: From Prison to Purpose," the story of Noah Schultz, former resident of Camp Florence.

His transformation from drug dealer and convicted felon to college graduate, social

activist, TedX speaker, author and award-winning poet is sure to inspire.

Schultz will attend the event to speak of his journey, and will be joined by documentary producer Jonathan Reed and by Stephen Fowler, who also transformed his life while incarcerated at Camp Florence.

Tickets to each night's event are \$10 and are available at the door or in advance at FRAA, 120 Maple St.

Teachers from 1A

local PTA have in common is the belief that a great teacher can change a student in ways that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

"Everyone had a favorite teacher growing up. Teachers leave lasting impressions on their students. FCPTA thought it would be great if our community let Siuslaw teachers and staff know that what they do matters and that they have left a

lasting impression on our community," Holdahl said.

In their declaration recognizing teachers and their importance to the American culture, Bay and Garcia said the following.

"Teachers give us so much. A boost of confidence when we really need one, extra helps when we are having trouble, and a welcoming presence when everything else seems out of control. And though we can't ever say 'thank you' enough, we can take a moment to share our appreciation for the special educators in our lives."

Holdahl wants everyone that has been positively impacted by a great teacher, either personal-

ly or through a family member, to reach out to local teachers with an expression of their appreciation.

"Whether you are a student, parent, alum or simply someone who recognizes the value of our local educators and all that they do for our community, we hope to see a note from you."

To this end there will be drop off boxes at all district schools for community members to share their letters to, or pictures of favorite educators, with teachers and school administrators.

There are also a number of smaller, more tangible tokens of appreciation that teachers can expect to receive during the

week of recognition.

And while Holdahl wants to keep some of those gifts secret, she did share details of the PTA's plan.

"Each day teachers and staff will find fun surprises in the staff lounges. I'd let you in on them, but I don't want to give away the surprise. I will say there will be food, some fun and hopefully Siuslaw teachers and staff will feel encouraged and appreciated," Holdahl said.

"We plan to treat the staff at all three schools to lunch and a local restaurant, Homegrown, will be catering. They have been so generous in donating food for the teachers."

There will also be raffles at

all the district schools, the building where buses are stored and at the district office.

Holdahl also thanked businesses in the community for their donations to teacher appreciation efforts.

"The Florence business community is so generous and many local businesses have donated gift certificates or baskets to give away to our teachers and staff members," she said.

Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grezskowiak is perhaps best placed to see on a day-to-day basis the important work that teachers do in Florence schools, and his appreciation of their work was apparent in this state-

ment regarding the week.

"Teachers provide more than just facts and figures to students. Our teachers work on a myriad of 'soft skills' that go beyond course content: critical thinking and analysis skills, social skills and interpersonal relations, while being an encouraging hand as students look to make their mark in a bigger world," Grezskowiak said. "Teachers help to open up the world to students and may inspire them to do more than they believe that could ever have done."

For more information on Teacher Appreciation Week contact FAPTA at florencecommunitypta@yahoo.com.



PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Save Coos Jobs NO on 6-162

KEEP COOS COUNTY OPEN FOR BUSINESS

MEASURE 6-162:

IS POORLY WRITTEN

TAKES AWAY OUR
PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

COSTS TAXPAYERS

HURTS COOS COUNTY'S
ECONOMY

VOTE NO ON 6-162

GET INVOLVED BEFORE THE MAY ELECTION

savecoosjobs.com

PAID FOR BY SAVE COOS JOBS

Do your part and
volunteer today
to help support
these local
non-profit
organizations in
our community!



Volunteer • Get involved • Donate

Florence Food Share

Ask us about volunteer opportunities.

2190 Spruce Street • P.O. Box 2514

Florence, Oregon 97439

(541) 997-9110

info@florencefoodshare.org

Food Backpack for Kids

Together, No Child Will Go Hungry

Your tax deductible donations helped

us feed 86 Florence/Mapleton area children in April

Mail donations to: PO Box 3347 Florence, OR 97439.

Call 541-997-2497 for more information.

Helping Hands Coalition

Assisting those in need in our Community.

Free Hot Meals Mon-Wed-Fri: 11:30 AM - 1 PM

NEW LOCATION SOON

United Methodist Church, 333 Kingwood, Florence

Call 541-997-5057 to Volunteer

Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60

Meals on Wheels are available to people over the age of 60 who cannot get out much due to illness or advanced age and who are not eating properly, regardless of income. Cafe 60 is available for those who prefer to make new friends in a dining room setting.

1570 Kingwood
PO Box 2313, Florence
541-997-5673
laneseniormeals.org

Peace Harbor Volunteers

Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers, you will find an area of interest in a caring organization.

400 9th Street, Florence
541-997-8412 ext. 209

Us Too Florence

Saving men one PSA test at a time. "Someone to talk to...who understands!"

541-997-6626
maribob@oregonfast.net
www.ustoooflorence.org

To include your organization
in this directory, please call us
@ 541-997-3441