

## Committee hosts Public Art Forum Aug. 14

Florence Public Art Committee (PAC) is hosting "Bringing Art to the Streets: A Community Forum" on Monday, Aug. 14, at 6:30 p.m. at City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101.

PAC would like to share information about upcoming projects and the history of public art in Florence, as well as begin the process for including public input into the entire process.

PAC Vice Chair Susan Tive, who also co-owns City Lights Cinemas, said, "We want arts to have an impact on everyone who lives in Florence and the community. It's as essential as the roads being safe and the water being good to drink. We want people to know it's for them. Public art is for Florence, not just the people who are visiting."

Members of the volunteer committee include artists, gallery owners, art profession-

als and community members who want to bring the "wow factor" to Florence through increased visibility of murals, sculptures and other artwork.

The committee's tagline is, "Experience Florence — where every day is a celebration of the arts."

PAC is funded through the Florence Urban Renewal Area, which budgeted \$250,000 for PAC, so most of its efforts are centered around Historic Old Town Florence and the Highway 101 corridor from the Siuslaw River Bridge to Highway 126.

Several of PAC's projects will coincide with the City of Florence ReVision Project, a long-term partnership with Oregon Department of Transportation, Urban Renewal, private landowners and the city.

Florence City Recorder Kelli Weese, an ex-officio member of PAC, said the arts are very

much a part of the city's fabric.

"It ties into the city's objectives of livability and quality of life and economic development," she said. "It's one of the reasons people want to stay in a community. Recreation, parks and the arts are a big part of what makes people want to stay and move here."

PAC volunteers have spent the past two years gathering data from successful art destination cities in Oregon, researching mural codes and creating five action items.

These include beautifying utilities such as trash receptacles and bus shelters; installing a mural on the Central Lincoln PUD building at the corner of Highways 101 and 126; updating the steps connecting Highway 101 and Old Town; placing five art pieces on Bay Street for Art Exposed; and creating places and a process for donated art.

The five projects' one to

two-year processes will allow for a comparatively quick completion.

"These are our definitive projects that are being worked on," PAC Chairman Harlen Springer said. "Now it's time to engage the public into that dialogue."

Besides the forum, community involvement will be necessary as PAC sends out calls to artists, creates selection committees, writes grants and begins projects.

"We don't want to do this in a vacuum," Weese said. "We want to get input from the public and stakeholders, people who have businesses or homes nearby, for each of these projects."

For more information on PAC and the "Bringing Art to the Streets" Public Forum, visit [c i . f l o r e n c e . o r . u s / b c - p a c](http://ciflorence.org/bc-pac) or contact Weese at 541-997-3437.

## Jason Wood 'untucks' for new show Friday

Florence vocal coach, actor and singer Jason Wood steps out of his "Fanny Ruggburn" high heels and onto the stage at Class Act Theatre, 509 Kingwood St., for "Jason Wood: Untucked" on Friday, Aug. 11.

This 8 p.m. show will be for mature audiences only.

The price is \$10 and reservations are encouraged, as seating is limited. Buy now at [catproductions.org](http://catproductions.org).

"It's an evening of stories and songs about me growing up 'sissy,'" Wood said.

Wood will again give a unique performance of funny anecdotes and serious stories as he tells the story of his life. Follow him from a small town in Southern California and all the way to Florence, Ore.

Then, on Saturday, Aug. 26, Wood as Fanny Ruggburn, will



Jason Wood

host four other drag queens in a traditional drag at 8 p.m. at Class Act Theatre.

This show will feature Florence's Ana Khonda and Eugene's Faye Kit Knightly, Facisha Farce and Cookie Glaciers.

Tickets are required, and this show will be for mature audiences.

For more information, visit [catproductions.org](http://catproductions.org).

## 'Words on the Coast' writers conference set for Sept 29, 30 in Old Town Florence

"Making Your Writing the Best it can Be" is the theme of a new writers' conference, Words on the Coast, to be held the weekend of the Florence Festival of Books, Sept. 29 and 30.

Sponsored by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), Florence Festival of Books, Port Hole Publishing and Lane Arts Council, the conference will feature several regional authors who will lecture on the theme.

Bob Keefer, arts editor for Eugene Weekly and longtime arts reporter for the Eugene Register-Guard, will teach "Making Your Writing Sing," a presentation designed to assist writer's in polishing their work.

Bestselling author and publisher Ellen Traylor will teach aspiring writers, "How to be Your Own Editor," a discussion on perfecting prose and following modern style.

Ned Hickson, Siuslaw News editor and syndicated humor writer, will teach "Getting organized: Eight steps to mapping out your novel or memoir."

Karen Nichols, novelist and leader of a local writing group, will teach "Jump Starting Your Writing," generating ideas and motivation to tackle writing projects.

Patricia Marshall, publisher at Luminaire Press, will teach the "Who, What, When, Where and Why" approach to receiving and giving writing feed-

back.

In addition, Barbara Giles, writing instructor at Lane Community College, will teach a class on developing characters in your writing.

"We appreciate the support from local arts groups in getting this conference off the ground," said Traylor. "If this event is a success, we hope to make in an annual event."

Words on the Coast workshops will be held at the FRAA Gallery and at Porthole Books, schedule to be determined.

Details on cost and schedule will be announced soon, but anyone interested in reserving a place at the conference may contact Ellen Traylor at 541-999-5725 or [porthole@centurytel.net](mailto:porthole@centurytel.net).

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In addition to the classes, the [WLEOG.ORG](http://WLEOG.ORG) website has extremely useful information on NATURAL HAZARDS and EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.

Each of these has videos on various topics that explain the hazards the Pacific Northwest faces, and how to prepare for them.

For more information, visit these websites:

- AMERICAN RED CROSS — [WWW.REDCROSS.ORG](http://WWW.REDCROSS.ORG)
- CITY OF FLORENCE — [WWW.CI.FLORENCE.OR.US](http://WWW.CI.FLORENCE.OR.US)
- FEMA — [WWW.READY.GOV](http://WWW.READY.GOV)
- LANE COUNTY — [WWW.LANECOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.LANECOUNTY.ORG)
- SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE — [WWW.SVFR.ORG](http://WWW.SVFR.ORG)
- WLEOG — [WWW.WLEOG.ORG](http://WWW.WLEOG.ORG)

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## Dealing with Disaster

We often consider the physical dangers of emergencies – injuries from flying debris or car crashes, for example – but can overlook the mental impact associated with such incidents.

Crisis situations can result in loss of loved ones, debilitating injuries or traumatic stress that can change lives forever. And because these events are few and far between, they can be hard to deal with when they occur. Experts urge people of all ages who may be experiencing psychological distress as a result of natural disaster or incident of mass violence to seek the help of trained and caring professionals.

### THE SIGNS

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) identifies the following physical and emotional reactions as being warning signs for seeking professional assistance.

- Irregular sleeping patterns.
- Painful stomachaches or headaches.
- Anger or edgy attitudes.
- Overwhelming sadness.
- Increased worry or guilt.
- Lack of energy or always feeling tired.

- Drinking alcohol, smoking or using tobacco more than usual.
- Using illegal drugs.
- Eating too much or too little.
- Not connecting with others.
- Rejecting of help.

### HOTLINE HELP

SAMHSA has set up a free hotline to assist United States citizens dealing with a traumatic event in their lives. The hotline is staffed by trained counselors from a network of crisis call centers located across the U.S. They are trained to provide crisis counseling for those who are in emotional distress caused by any natural or human-caused disaster, information on how to recognize distress and its effects on individuals and families, and tips for healthy coping.



The hotline's counselors can also provide referrals to local crisis call centers.

The confidential and multilingual hotline is available via telephone (1-800-985-5990) and SMS (Text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746).

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