

SOUTH SLOUGH RESERVE DECEMBER EVENTS

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve holds many events at the Charleston Visitor Center, at 91141 Cape Arago Highway in Coos Bay.

Events may require registration at www.southslough-friends.org.

For more information on these events, call 541-888-5558 ext. 126.



WINGED WILDLIFE, HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS ON DEC. 2

On Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., The South Slough is holding an event on “Birds on the Estuary.”

Explore the shores of Charleston in search of winged wildlife. An interpreter, binoculars and spotting scopes will be provided. The cost is \$1 per birder.

Then, from 1 to 4 p.m. there is an ornament making workshop. Participants will learn various wire-wrapping techniques to make beautiful Oregon coast inspired ornaments that can be used to decorate a home or give to someone special.

Attendees will have the opportunity to complete three projects ranging from beach glass and rock ornaments to artistic pendants. All supplies are included but people are welcome to bring any of their own beach treasures to incorporate into one of the projects.

For this event, meet at the South Slough Interpretive Center, 61907 Seven Devils Road in Charleston.

Cost is \$20 per person.

Fall Mushrooms and Crab Life-Cycles and on Dec. 9

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., discover the world of mushrooms with local expert John Schaefer. Learn how to identify at least 15 local mushroom species and techniques for mushroom hunting. This workshop takes place indoors and along trails, so people are asked to dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes.

Participants should bring a basket and a knife for collecting.

Cost is \$20 per person.

Then, from 1 to 3 p.m., come learn about the amazing life cycles of crabs, their importance to the local economy and experience the various techniques for capturing this delectable Crustacean.

Dress for the weather. Cost is \$3 per person.

Hit the road with Mac's Run on Dec. 9

Mac's Run has traditionally been a fun, scenic race complete with a rifle shot start, handmade awards, and

toasty, warm cider to follow. Staged at beautiful Sunset Bay State Park, runners and walkers interested in a rolling hills road course with views of shoreline vistas through the winter fog will not be disappointed.

Join the South Coast Running Club Saturday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m.

Registration is at the Yurt near the bathrooms at the south end of the beach. Sign up via southcoastrunningclub.org/ or register in person.

Day-of-race registration is from 9 to 9:45 a.m. race day.

Participants are invited to stick around afterwards to enjoy snacks, warm beverages and engage in the South Coast Running Club Membership Meeting to learn what's coming up in 2018.

Holiday Kayak Trip on Dec. 16

On Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., experience the rich cultural and natural history of the South Slough on a trail that flows with the tide. During the five-mile paddle, experienced guides will show areas of the South Slough Reserve rarely seen by visitors.

Participants are asked to bring their own kayak or canoe, paddles, PFDs, water and lunch.

Feet and legs may get wet and muddy at launch points.

A driver and shuttle will be provided.

Call for meeting place.

Cost is \$15 per boat.

FRAA to hold its annual Holiday Arts Festival

The holiday season is here and the 2017 Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) Holiday Arts Festival is a great place to shop for unique gifts and fine craftsmanship. The festival opens Friday, Dec. 1, from 1 to 7 p.m., and continues Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

Attendees can meet local and coastal craftsmen and artisans who will be showing off their latest creative designs and unique works of art.

Artists include: Barbara Campbell, stained glass; Rich Huckins, wood creations; Kristin Anderson, fused

glass; Kim Miller, watercolors, prints and cards; Tina Shoys, mosaic art; Lori Muir, local fine art photography; Debbie Kiturkes, hand painted pottery; Maggie Bagon, homespun and hand-dyed wool hats; Beverly Apple, copper roof jewelry; Kathi Smith, hand knitted/crocheted hats, scarfs and shawls; Patti Williams, Silver art jewelry and paintings; Peggy Goodrow, stained glass; Sherry Seacrest, steampunk, altered art mobiles; Cindy Covert, crocheted and seasonal items; Janette and Kevin Square, intarsia wood art and fractal art; Ralph and Vicki Martin, scrollsaw wood

art; Foggy Bay Studios, wood items, hand-felted scarves and more; Peggy Brewster, mushroom art and encaustic paintings; Joyce McCutchen, knit items, pens, bottle stoppers and more; Kris DeNoyer, ceramic critters and ceramic ornaments; Pat Tellez, beadwork; and Claudia Brown, bead, wirework and sea glass designs.

Artisans exhibiting in the Holiday Arts Festival will be donating 10 percent of their sales to the FRAA Art Center.

Admission is free.

For more information, contact Claudia Brown 541-902-1933.

FLORENCE NAMED AMONG TOP 20 FINALISTS FOR SERIES FEATURE

The City of Florence has been selected as one of the top 20 towns nationwide to possibly be featured in Season 3 of “Small Business Revolution — Main Street.” This is an online series that focuses on transforming downtowns and is streamed online and on Hulu.

If selected, Florence would be awarded \$500,000 for a downtown makeover and be featured in an eight-part series on www.smallbusinessrevolution.org.

Chairwoman of the Downtown Revitalization Team, Ellen Huntingdon of Oregon Pacific Bank, submitted an application for the series last fall.

“I am very proud that Florence has made it to the top 20 out of thousands of applicants,” said Huntingdon.

On Sept. 28, Deluxe launched the second season of Small Business Revolution – Main Street, featuring the community of Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania and six businesses selected to receive the \$500,000 makeover.

The series, which airs on www.smallbusinessrevolution.org, Hulu and YouTube, features marketing and business expertise for small businesses in one small town. Host Amanda Brinkman, Deluxe's chief brand and communications officer, along with a host of marketing experts from Deluxe, help struggling business owners find their path to success.

Between now and Dec. 4, the Florence Downtown Revitalization Team will be working with community leaders to provide Deluxe Corporation with additional information to help them narrow down their selections.

To further narrow down the selection, Deluxe Corporation is also looking for information about local businesses and non-profits to get a better feel of the community.

“We would like to encourage any and all business owners and nonprofit organizations to contact me,” said Huntingdon.

After reviewing all the information, Deluxe Corporation will further narrow down the towns and determine the top 10 cities on Dec. 12. They will then send representatives to visit the top 10 communities chosen in early January and spend roughly two days in each town.

After the visits, they will determine which towns will be eligible for final national voting in February of 2018.

“There are so many deserving towns that need this boost,” Brinkman said. “Our team decided to announce 20 deserving communities so we can do a deeper dive into their structure and their needs before moving on to the next round.

“No matter what, each of these 20 would make a great winner for our contest.”

To submit information about your business or nonprofit organization to be included, contact Huntingdon at ellen.huntingdon@opbc.com or call 541-902-1509 to complete a short survey.