

## SOUTH COAST FOLK SOCIETY OFFERS DANCE

The South Coast Folk Society will host a free traditional dance class every Monday for two hours starting at 7 p.m. at the North Bend Housing Authority, 1700 Monroe St.

The public is welcome. This is a beginner's level class, and a friendly social gathering. No previous dance experience is required. All ages and abilities can enjoy dancing to the live music provided by area musicians. The dances will be taught, and no partner is needed.

The emphasis will be on easy tradition dances from America and around the world. These include squares and circles, line dances and set dances, folk dances and ballroom. Many of the dances will be accompanied by live music, and musicians are invited to come and join in.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, email southcoastfolksociety@gmail.com or call Paul at 541-404-8267.

## 12th annual Nativity Festival comes to Florence

Hundreds of manger scenes will be on display for the 12th annual Nativity Festival in Florence Dec. 1 to 3 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Attendees will have a chance to explore the crèche tradition in the folk art of many cultures.

Francis of Assisi, an Italian saint, invented the crèche tradition in the 13th century. According to legend, the Nativity custom dates back to a December night in 1224 when he was traveling to the Italian village of Greccio. The sight of shepherds sleeping in the moonlit fields evoked images of the first Christmas. Inspired by the midnight scene, St. Francis beckoned villagers to light the sky with candles, bring their animals and re-enact the Nativity.

Florence's event takes place at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on the corner of North Fork and Munsel Lake Roads and is free of charge.

The festival has grown from a one-day event displaying 119 nativity scenes to a three-day festival with almost 400 crèches, tapestries and other art forms depicting the birth of Christ.

The festival is open to people of all faiths and beliefs. Children are welcome.

The festival is sponsored by the woman's auxiliary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and is open to all people and all faiths.

Contact Vickie Kennedy at 541-997-7404 or vdkenney54@gmail.com for more information.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The woman's auxiliary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Florence annually plans the Florence Nativity Festival. The December event is open to all people and all faiths.



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