

Florence named among top 10 finalists for TV series

The City of Florence has been selected as one of the top 10 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 10 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.

On Jan. 3, Deluxe Corporation will send representatives to visit Florence, spending roughly two days. There will be a reception that day from 5 to 7 p.m. at Florence Events Center for interested parties and stakeholders.

After the visits to each of the Top 10 towns, Deluxe Corporation will determine which towns will be eligible for final national voting in February 2018.

"There are so many deserving towns that need this boost," Brinkman said. "Our team decided to announce 10 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 10 would make a great winner for our contest."

For more information, contact Huntingdon at ellen.huntingdon@opbc.com or call 541-902-1509.

2ND SATURDAY GALLERY TOUR EXPLORES THE ARTS

Enjoy Florence's 2nd Saturday Gallery Tour on, Saturday, Jan. 13, from 3 to 5 p.m. This self-guided tour inspires locals and visiting tourists alike and reinforces Florence as an ever-evolving arts destination. Enjoy great local art, interactions with fellow patrons and artists, receptions, refreshments, live entertainment and community.

The tour begins at any of the participating locations. For more information, visit 2ndSaturdayGalleryTour.com.

BACKSTREET GALLERY

To celebrate the New Year, Backstreet Gallery members are showing an alternate to their usual media on display. This special photography exhibit is in addition to the unique variety of art already on display at the gallery. Celebrate with these artists and enjoy their photographs at a reception on Jan. 13 from 3 to 5 p.m., at the Second Saturday Gallery Tour.

By taking up the camera, these artists will show another creative side to their talents with innovative results.

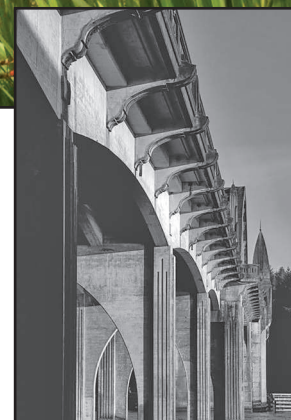
Members participating include Pattie Brooks Anderson, Kristin Anderson, Kathryn Damon-Dawson, Caroline Estill, Judy Fleagle, Claudia Ignatieff, John Leasure, Shelly Medeiros, Karen D. Nichols and Kathleen Wenzel.

Come enjoy a wide variety of interesting subject matter in vibrant color as well as dramatic black and white.

Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St. in Historic Old Town Florence, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. However, the gallery is closing from Jan. 1 to 9, for its annual cleaning and maintenance. It will reopen all refreshed and ready for the New Year.



Backstreet artists, including (clockwise from top) Shelley Medeiros, Kathleen Wenzel and Kathryn Damon Dawson, will participate in the new show.



CROW announces open auditions for April's 'Tarzan'

Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) will hold open auditions for Disney's "Tarzan the Musical" on Jan. 8 and 9 at 6:30 p.m. with invited callbacks on Jan. 10. Participants may attend either day of the auditions. It is not necessary to come to both days. Callbacks are by invitation only.

Auditions will be at the CROW Center for the Performing Arts, 3120 Highway 101 in Florence.

The show's performances will be two outreach shows on April 12 and regular shows April 13, 14 and 15.

Rehearsals begin Jan. 22 and are generally Monday to Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

However, not all kids are called to every rehearsal. Cast members receive a schedule on the first day of rehearsal, and are expected to make this show their top priority.

Participants are asked to bring:

- Short Song (16-32 Bars Sheet Music or about 1 minute with a background track). This may be on an ipod/MP3 player. Make sure the song is short and shows off your vocal range. If you sing with a track, please make sure that there are NO vocals in the background. In addition, — i.e. "Karaoke" track is OK, but do NOT sing with the artist. We prefer that you do NOT sing a capella (without any music).

- Headshot/Resume (if you have one)
- Clothes/shoes you can easily move in
- Water in a closed container with a tightly fitting lid.

Participants aged 4 to 22+ are encouraged to audition. Main cast will be for students aged 6 and up, but "telegrammers" can be 4 to 7.

There is no charge to participate in the show, and no previous experience is required to audition.

"Please don't be scared!" said CROW

Artistic Director Melanie Heard. "Come give us a try!"

Short synopsis:

Washed up on the shores of West Africa, an infant boy is taken in and raised by gorillas who name him Tarzan. Apart from striving for acceptance from his ape father, Tarzan's life is mostly monkey business until a human expedition treks into his tribe's territory, and he encounters creatures like himself for the first time. Tarzan struggles to navigate a jungle, thick with emotion, as he discovers his animal upbringing clashing with his human instincts. The musical is based on the Disney cartoon by the same name.

Characters include several lead roles and a menagerie of creatures for the cast.

CROW has a variety of audition tips on its website at crowkids.com.

For more information, email crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com or text 541-999-8641.