

Claim your share of 662 million in Florence

Jan. 30 is National Plan Your Vacation Day, and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce is ready to help. The event is promoted by Project Time Off, which encourages everyone to take 30 minutes on Jan. 30 to plan a vacation.

Nationally, more than 660 million vacation days go unused.

"It is proven that those who take vacation time are happier, healthier and more productive," says Bettina Hannigan, executive director of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. "Vacation is essential to strengthen personal relationships, inspire creative thinking, improve professional performance and promote better health — and Florence should be at the top of your list of vacation destinations for many reasons."

Florence is home to internationally-known destinations such as the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Sea Lion Caves and Sand Master Park.

"Our visitors, and locals too, enjoy the dunes for ATVs, sand

rails, sandboarding and hiking. They love that we have more than a dozen lakes within a dozen miles of town, as well as the Siuslaw River and the ocean," boasts Hannigan. "There's fishing, crabbing and clamming and about 20 miles of uncrowded beaches for sandcastles, kite flying, beachcombing, horseback riding and romantic sunset strolls. We also have museums, art galleries, quaint-but-not commercial shops, world-class entertainment at two venues, and about three dozen restaurants."

The town was rated the number-two best small town in the Northwest by USA Today,

lots and lots of ideas for how you can spend those precious vacation days."

The Florence-area visitor's guide has information on all the great places to shop, eat, stay and play. The chamber will mail it free to anyone who can't

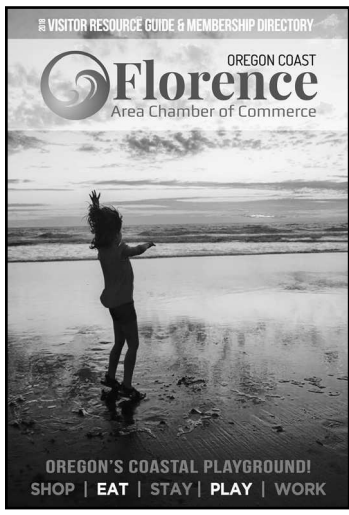
stop by the office, and people are welcome to visit FlorenceChamber.com for more ideas.

In 2016 more than half of American workers left a total of 662 million vacation days unused. Individuals who plan are more likely to use all of their time off, take more vacation days at once, and report greater levels of happiness in every category of life measured.

"The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating national Plan for Vacation Day because it's time for people to reclaim their hard-earned share of those 662 million unused vacation days. By planning, we can all reap the benefits of taking a break while giving ourselves something to look forward to," says Hannigan.

To learn more about what the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has to offer, visit FlorenceChamber.com, stop by the office at 290 Highway 101 or call 541-997-3128.

Her work may be found in over 55 public collections including the Houghton Library and Harvard University,



The 2018 Visitor Resource Guide and Membership Directory will be available this week at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center.

APRIL FLORENCEFEST EXTENDS CALL TO ARTISTS

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is very excited to invite all artists to participate in the second annual FlorenceFest to be held at the Florence Events Center on April 27 and 28, 2018.

Last year's event was a huge success as over 700 people attended. FRAA sold almost 40 percent of the art selected. This year's event, which will feature two days of jazz, art and wine, will be highlighted by talented jazz musicians and outstanding wine from some of the best wineries throughout the state.

Selection for the exhibit will be made by Margaret Prentice, who is an accomplished painter and printmaker and has curated numerous exhibitions throughout the Northwest. She is currently Professor Emeritus in the Art Department at the University of Oregon, where she taught drawing, intaglio, and relief printmaking, papermaking and artist's books for 26 years.

Her work may be found in over 55 public collections including the Houghton Library and Harvard University,



Dartmouth University, Northwestern University, the National Library of New Zealand and the Getty Museum Collection, among others. Her paintings are currently represented by White Lotus Gallery in Eugene.

This year, FRAA will be expanding the awards. The selection committee will select three overall winners with cash prizes:

First place = \$1,000
Second place = \$500
Third place = \$250

In addition, three separate cash awards of \$250 each will be given for outstanding work in 2D, 3D and photography. There will also be a "People's Choice" selection, which will be awarded based on votes of those in attendance.

Selected artists can also continue to exhibit their work at the events center in Galleries 1 and 5 through the end of May.

For additional details and to submit an entry, go to Café, www.callforentry.org. This is a well-respected and professional site for managing entries. It is easy to register and there is no charge for artists to use Café.

The deadline for entries is March 18, 2018.

For more information, contact FRAAFlorenceFest@gmail.com.

Siuslaw Watershed Council discusses education Jan. 31

At the Siuslaw Watershed Council's general meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m., people will hear about "Youth Natural Resources Education — The Siuslaw Salmon and Watershed Stream Teams Program."

The meeting will be held at the council's office conference room located at Mapleton School District Campus, 10868 East Mapleton Road. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the meeting gets underway at 6:30.

Watershed Science Studies Project Manager Jim Grano, with Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team Teacher

McKenzie Perry, will present a pictorial overview of the outdoor stewardship experiences taking place for local students and the many partners who support the program with their time, knowledge and enthusiasm.

There will also be 2018 Leadership Body and Executive Leadership elections.

All in the Siuslaw region are encouraged to come out and support their watershed and leadership body representatives.

For more information, visit www.siuslaw.org or call 541-268-3044.

Florence Garden Club seeks scholarship applicants

The Florence Garden Club invites local Siuslaw and Mapleton High School seniors to apply for the Garden Club scholarship for the 2017-2018 school year.

Applicants must be planning a post high school career in horticulture or a related field such as forestry or environmental science.

Awards are typically \$1,000 or more. Applications are available through your high school counseling department.

Deadline for applying is April 1.

Since the first scholarship was awarded in 1994, over

\$56,000 has been distributed to local students.

The Club raises funds throughout the year from donations, raffles and the spring community plant sale.

Florence and Mapleton area merchants have contributed merchandise and services for raffles as well as monetary donations to the club for scholarship fund raising.

The Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101 in Florence.

For more information, call 541-902-9343.

Siuslaw News **Garage Sale Guide**

MOVING SALE!
Fri-Sat 1/26-1/27,
9am-5pm,
4020 Munsel Creek Dr.,
China hutch, W/D, 70" TV w/Stand,
fountains, refrigerator, arts & craft
supplies, & paintings by
Carol Hillsbery.

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THIS WEEK ON THE COAST

A WEEKLY LISTING OF COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE FLORENCE AREA

SUBMIT ALL EVENTS INFORMATION VIA EMAIL TO PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

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| <p>Jan. 27</p> <p>Sip and Paint Class with Karyl Lynn Keppol
5:30 p.m.
\$40 for class — RSVP required
Mindpower Gallery
417 Fir Ave., Reedsport</p> | <p>Feb. 1</p> <p>Business After Hours and Ribbon Cutting
Florence Antiques & Coast Jewelers
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Open to public
1220 Bay St. Suite 100</p> | <p>Feb. 2</p> <p>High School Homeschoolers Meeting
11:30 a.m.
Open to high school homeschoolers who would like to join other students for field trips, classes or social opportunities
Old Town Coffee</p> | <p>Feb. 5</p> <p>Paint and Sip at The Studios
With Tamara Kine
1 to 3:30 p.m.
Tickets required
The Studios at Jayne Smoley Design
jaynesmoleydesign.com</p> | <p>Feb. 5</p> <p>Florence City Council Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center</p> | <p>Feb. 6</p> <p>Florence Big Wave First Tuesday Open Mic Night
6:30 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Regional Arts Alliance</p> | <p>Feb. 7</p> | <p>Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Siuslaw Awards
5:30 p.m.
Tickets required
Florence Events Center</p> | <p>Siuslaw Public Library</p> <p>Native Plant Distribution
10 a.m. to noon
Siuslaw Watershed Council will provide free native plants for waterside planting in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes Area
www.siuslaw.org/native-plant-distribution/</p> | <p>Feb. 9</p> <p>Become a Senior Companion
1 to 2 p.m.
Open to volunteers 55+
Senior and Disability Services Office
3180 Highway 101</p> | <p>Feb. 10</p> <p>"Dolores" Film and DACA Fundraiser
2 to 5 p.m.
Tickets required for film
Donations accepted
Food provided by Rosa's Restaurant, Ixtapa, Los Compadres and Traveler's Cove
City Lights Cinemas</p> | <p>Feb. 10</p> <p>"For the Love of Animals" Art Reception
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Open to public
Florence Events Center</p> | <p>Friends of the Library Book Sale
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Open to public - cash and checks only</p> | <p>Live music: Sol Seed
9 p.m. to midnight
\$10 cover
Bay Street Grille</p> |
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