

Bahá'i to celebrate start of Ridvan Festival this weekend

In the Bahá'í faith, April 21 begins a 12-day Ridvan Festival, which is a very special and sacred time of year throughout the Baha'i world. On Sunday, April 22, the Florence Bahá'í community will host a program, "Declarations for Change," a spring gathering featuring both young and old with music, poetry, dance and storytelling.

The celebration will take place at the Florence Playhouse, 208 Laurel St. from 2 to 4 p.m. There will also be a brief introduction and a short video introducing the group's Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment program, which is set to begin in May. All are welcome to attend.

Vision Quest program to focus on birds Saturday

After a successful and well-attended initial launch of its innovative educational series aimed at both locals and visitors, Vision Quest: Live, Learn, Explore has announced the follow-up to its previous "Get Wild" weekend series on whales.

"The ABCs of Birds" turns attention to the winged inhabitants of the Siuslaw region. The Cascade Raptor Center will "Bring the Wild Alive" beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, at the Siuslaw Public Library.

Then, on Sunday, April 22, the program will present "Birdwatching for Beginners" with Ranger Vicki Penwell at the Siltcoos Recreation Area, beginning at 10 a.m. The Eugene-based Cascades



PHOTO BY JAY SPRING

Raptors will be the subject of this Saturday's free Vision Quest program.

Raptor Center has one of the largest collections of native raptor species in the Pacific Northwest with nearly 50 birds of prey in large outdoor aviaries. Through wildlife rehabilitation and public edu-

cation, the Cascades Raptor Center fosters a connection between people and birds of prey.

Beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, the center will offer an informational presentation all about its birds of prey. This educational presentation will be followed immediately by a chance to get up close and personal with one of the center's raptors at 10:45 a.m.

Younger children will especially enjoy this later session.

The April 21 event is free and open to the public.

Penwell is the Lead Ranger at Siuslaw National Forest, Central Coast Ranger District. She will lead participants on a fun and interactive hike through the Lagoon Loop Trail on April 22, beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday's program will provide tips and tricks for successful birdwatching and iden-

tification.

The Siltcoos Beach Access Road is located about 7 miles south of the Siuslaw Bridge. The level, half-mile trail is near Waxmyrtle Campground and rated as "accessible."

Bring binoculars if possible, though a few extras will be on hand to share for those without binoculars.

This event is appropriate for all ages.

Both events are free and open to the public, but for the Sunday event at the Lagoon Loop Trail, a Northwest Forest Pass, Oregon Coast Passport, federal recreation pass or \$5 day-use fee is required for each vehicle.

For more information about passes or parking, contact the Siltcoos Recreation Area staff at 541-271-3611.

Vision Quest is an initiative of the Siuslaw Vision focusing on the people within the Siuslaw Region of Dunes City, Florence, Mapleton, Swisshome, Deadwood and all parts in between.

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\$295,000 BH7642 ML#18632132

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 3 Bdrm + office, 2 1/2 Ba 2314 sq ft
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