

# Community News

## Builders Create 'Upcycled' Habitat

The Florence affiliate of Habitat for Humanity recently invited local residents to build a different kind of home: birdhouses.

Burney Moore, manager of the Habitat ReStore, and his wife, Simone, a skilled designer, displayed more than 35 imaginative and whimsical "habitat" entries for the community's feathered friends.

While some birdhouses were yard art, others were functional.

Vera Blas, age 10, and her brother Takla, age 7, built the winning entry. When asked about the inspiration for their birdhouse design, Takla said,

"It looked good when I planned it in my mind."

The Blas birdhouse was built with scrap lumber, moss, plastic bottles and containers, a coat hanger, clay and additional household items.

Local artists, designers and DIYers are invited to visit the ReStore in the Grocery Outlet shopping center.

Materials for more birdhouses are in great supply, along with the tools needed for backyard construction projects. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Kindergarteners, parents invited to SES meet & greet

The Siuslaw Elementary School spring kindergarten pre-registration and meet and greet will be Monday, April 23, from 6 to 7 p.m. Parents and 2018-19 kindergarten students are invited to visit the classrooms and meet the teachers. Packets are available at Siuslaw Elementary School, 2221 Oak St., and must be returned by Monday, May 7.

Full registration for kindergarten and all students will take place Aug. 15 to 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Siuslaw Elementary School.

A student must be five years old on or before Sept. 1 in order to start kindergarten. Oregon law also requires that students starting school be up-to-date on all age appropriate immunizations.

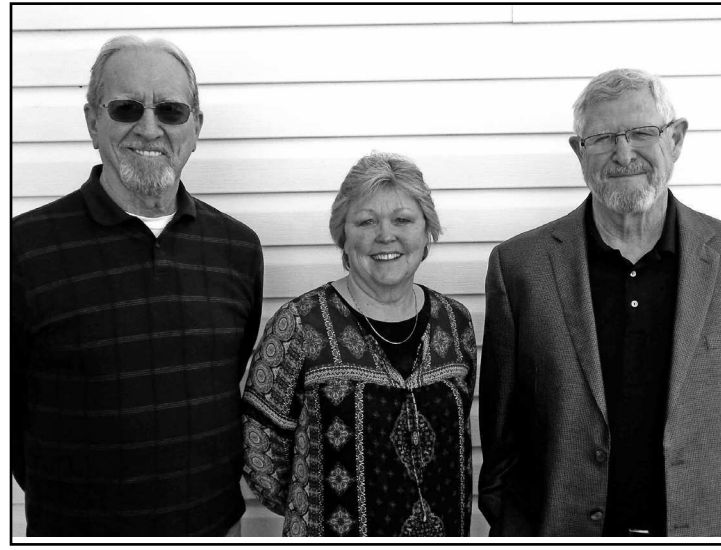
## NEW ARTISTS JOIN BACKSTREET GALLERY

The terrific threesome of Phyllis Laird, Tom Lederle and Don Mathis are now showing their memorable artwork at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St. in Florence.

Laird learned to create pottery in a studio in Santa Monica, Calif. She continued developing her skill and eventually taught classes at Mohave Community College. After vacationing in Florence, she and her husband moved here in 2013.

Always one-of-a-kind, Laird's pieces are wheel-thrown, often sculptural with expressively beautiful paintings inside or outside the piece. The decorative paintings range from bold color to earthy tones to soft, ethereal tints. Watch for a variety of plates, bowls, vases and tiles.

Since the 1980s Lederle has



COURTESY PHOTO

**From left, Don Mathis, Phyllis Laird and Tom Lederle join Florence's Backstreet Gallery, offering works in mixed media, pottery and digital surrealism.**

been creating art. Early on, he became a member of an artists' co-op in Seattle. In various media, his artwork has been

shown in several other Northwest galleries.

It isn't surprising that a career IT specialist in system

consulting and data visualization would experiment and create Digital Surrealism. This is where he manipulates his photographs and images on his computer into a final, imaginative, abstract one-of-a-kind print.

As with many artists, Mathis enjoys many media. Self-taught, his work shown in Backstreet Gallery may be abstract, linear, realistic or experimental. He works mainly in oils and acrylics but also enjoys colored pencil, leather-work and wire-wrapped jewelry.

Mathis refers to himself as a mixed-media artist. Expect a wide variety of subject matter in his unique work.

Mathis is originally from San Francisco, but having been in Florence for 40 years, he's almost a native.

## Florence Farmer's Market to open in Old Town

The New Florence Farmer's Market will officially open Tuesday, May 15, from 3 to 7 p.m. The market will be located next to the Veteran's Memorial Park in Old Town, at Bay and Kingwood streets.

The Market will be open rain or shine every Tuesday through October.

Florence is joining markets up and down the Oregon coast in providing locally grown and processed foods to fill the need

for food security locally and in surrounding areas. Committed responses from 10 area vendors will provide greater access to a variety of organic and sustainably grown farm products, both fresh and processed.

And as part of the market's mission to support the community, the SNAP program will be accessible to its participants at the market.

The market is an initiative of the Siuslaw Vision program

and is sponsored by the Florence Area Community Coalition.

A market team, coordinated and assembled by Mary Shaw, worked this year to make the market a reality.

"Community response for the market has been tremendously supportive," said Shaw. "Many residents helped to fund the market through its gofundme page."

On May 1, at 5 p.m., two

weeks prior to the market's official opening, the community is invited to a special ribbon cutting ceremony, and the chance to visit the market site, meet its vendors and the market team.

Following the ribbon cutting, the group will meet at River Roasters Coffee House for a potluck celebration beginning at 5:45 p.m.

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## Military Heritage Day honors Vietnam vets today

The Oregon Coast Military Museum is hosting its Military Heritage Day today, April 21, starting at 2 p.m., at the Florence Municipal Airport, 2001 Airport Lane, in Sam Spayd's hangar. The event will honor Vietnam veterans.

Southern Oregon Veterans Benefit Member at Large, Russ McBride, himself a Vietnam vet, will share information about a permanent Vietnam Memorial Wall in Medford. The memorial will be national in focus, built to 80 percent scale, measuring 360 feet in length and bearing the names of 58,479 Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

It will sit on 2.1 acres within the Medford parks system.

McBride will be joined by the President Steve Bates of the Salem-sponsored Vietnam War Memorial Fund, who will make a presentation on a planned state memorial in Salem.

This memorial will not only be an Oregon state focus, but will contain emphasis on multiple components of the veterans' experiences, such as MIA/POW, nurses, Agent Orange and other aspects.

The \$1.5 million project is to be located on the grounds of the State Capitol in Salem and is targeted for completion on Veteran's Day 2020.

Oregon Coast Military Museum is located at 2145 Kingwood St. in Florence.

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