



# FEC’s ‘Spirit of Summer’ awards area artists

**Left, Jo Beaudreau holds her first place People’s Choice Award-winning encaustic “Heceta Head Sunset.” Below, Nina Toepfer holds her Second Place People’s Choice Award-winning watercolor “Spring.” The third-place winner was college student Ben Cahoon.**



Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) and the Friends of Florence Events Center are pleased to announce the People’s Choice Winners for the two-month Spirit of Summer Exhibit.

Over 90 ballots were cast, and monetary gifts were awarded to the winners for their achievements.

The results were:

- First place: Jo Beaudreau for her encaustic “Heceta Head Lighthouse”
- Second place: Nina Toepfer for her watercolor “Spring”
- Third place: Ben Cahoon for his paper sculpture “August In Abandon.”

Beaudreau has a bachelor’s of fine arts, and is owner of BeauxArts Fine Art Materials in Florence. She is an active supporter of the local art community, serving on such committees as the City of Florence Public Art Committee; Suislaw Vision 2025 Vision Keepers and FEC Gallery Committee. She is also the coordinator of the 2nd Saturday Gallery Tour and promotes the Florence Passport to the Arts.

Toepfer is a member of the Yaquina Art Association and a founding member of the Yachats Art Guild. A copy of her award-winning seascape “The Smelt Fishermen” hangs at the Newport Museum.

Cahoon has been an active member of the arts community during his Siuslaw High School years, exhibiting in local venues, representing youth artists on the Friends of the FEC committee, teaching classes at Alissa Clark Clayworks on Laurel Street, and teaching and aiding at The Studios at Jayne Smoley Designs. He now attends George Fox University, where he is double-majoring in studio art and art administration.

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“The future looked fairly grim,” Lloyd said.

On the recommendation of a friend, he applied for Habitat housing. The selection of his family overwhelmed him with gratitude.

“I can’t wait to start building on somebody else’s house,” he said.

The groundbreaking marks the first Habitat construction project in two and a half years, though in that time the non-profit has recycled two of its already-built houses by placing new families in them.

The Lloyd family’s property on Seventh Street was purchased by Florence Habitat earlier this year and is slated to be finished by next March, seeing a project that will include property bought, constructed and occupied by a family in less than a year.

Several particulars to this project have set it apart from previous Habitat housing. Among them are an enclosed garage and a full second bathroom, giving the house a less

spartan quality than other construction projects. While slightly increasing the house’s cost to an estimated \$156,000, it is expected to increase value in the long run.

Habitat’s Family Services Manager Debbie Grigsby also believes the unit’s look will bring an aesthetic appeal to the area.

“It will blend in the neighborhood very nicely,” she said.

Habitat Executive Director Janell Morgan affirmed that integrating with a neighborhood’s aesthetic standard is one of Habitat’s goals.

“We don’t want people to drive down the street and say, ‘That’s a Habitat house,’” she said.

The project has also seen a unique synthesis of local support and donation.

Ray Wells of the excavation company Ray Wells, Inc. has donated site prep work, Dan Lofy of Lofy Construction has joined as Habitat’s contractor

and entities such as the U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw and Three Rivers Casino Resort have expressed interest in volunteering, seeming to give the home’s March deadline a clear run.

While appreciative of the influx of professional support on this project, Habitat is always encouraging community members to help in other ways.

“If you don’t want to build, there are additional ways that you can be involved,” said Mor-

gan. “You can bring lunch ... or you can help in gathering donations.”

Habitat also accepts help in the Habitat ReStore, 2004 Highway 101 in Florence, as well as donations of materials.

Additionally, Habitat will implement a new fundraiser for the first few weeks of October called “Walls of Hope” in which people can purchase a 2x4 in the ReStore for \$10 and write a message of hope on it for a family. The lumber will then be used in construction of the home.

This weekend, Habitat for Humanity invites the community to participate in its annual Beachwalk fundraiser today, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The walk will extend between the North Jetty and Driftwood Shores Resort and include live music, festivities and refreshments.

For more information, call 541-902-9227 or contact [florencehabitat@gmail.com](mailto:florencehabitat@gmail.com).

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## Florence Habitat for Humanity®

Florence Habitat for Humanity ReStore is a place to put your talents to work. From customer service to furniture repair, we offer volunteer opportunities geared toward individual interests and skills. By giving your time, you help Florence Habitat ReStore do more to support building projects that benefit families in our community.

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