

Local photog Rodger Bennett featured at Chamber

The work of local photographer Rodger Bennett is featured in the monthly art exhibit at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's Visitor Center in November. The Chamber features a different local art exhibit each month.

Bennett's exhibit includes nine of his photos, self-framed, on high-gloss metal with sharp-as-a-tack detail and brilliant color. The pieces vary in size from medium-sized accent photos to larger murals.

There is also one of his photos printed on canvas with a floating frame. All are available to purchase after the exhibit ends in December.

"This year's theme is largely wildlife that I enjoy photographing and displaying," Bennett said. "Most are North American but there are a couple of African creatures mixed in. It is pretty

typical of my studio in Old Town, although there are no portraits on display. I really enjoy making portraits that people like. The studio is full of more photos, and many stories.

"There are a couple of familiar local scenes on display as well; although the images are not the more often seen views of the sights we call our own."

Bennett has many years of shooting and processing still photos and remains obsessed with the fundamentals that make a great photograph: light, shadows, composition and emotion. But to the question of his certificates or honors, he'll only admit to "a few prizes and ribbons and lots of ooohs and aaaahhs."

Bennett's work generally includes what he enjoys most — Oregon landscapes, wildlife, art, action photography, individual and family portraits and business/com-

mercial photography.

Regarding Florence's burgeoning art scene, Bennett thinks it is on a very positive trajectory.

"It seems that the quality of art in Florence has been pretty remarkable, but the display and marketing of local work has taken a giant step up," said Bennett. "The local galleries just seem to get better and better. It's an honor to have been chosen by the Chamber to hang my work in the Visitor Center, and I'm thankful that the Chamber appears to see the commercial, as well as the aesthetic and cultural values, of local people's creative abilities.

"The Chamber's support is certainly meaningful and appreciated. It's flattering to have one's work included with all the attractive displays that are shown throughout the year."

Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan said, "We are delighted to have Rodger's work on display this month at the Chamber's visitor center. The Chamber is listed in the local art tour listings because of our monthly displays of photography, paintings, or three-dimensional art by local artists and galleries."

Bennett's studio is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 228-A Harbor Street in Florence. For more information, call 541-991-0777 or visit PhotoByRodger.com.

In November, the Chamber's Visitors Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, and how to join or volunteer, visit FlorenceChamber.com or call 541-997-3128.

PeaceHealth preparing for 23rd annual 'Light Up a Life' event

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, and PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center is gearing up for its 23rd annual Light Up A Life ceremony, which raises funds for these vital services.

This year's ceremony will be on Dec. 8, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

The Light Up A Life ceremony offers local residents an opportunity to remember and recognize their loved ones. Stars may be purchased to honor a loved one who has died or someone special. The names will be attached to the stars, which are hung on a holiday tree. Stars of David are placed on a menorah table.

Recognition is also given during the "reading of the names" segment of the ceremony.

Peace Harbor's Hospice and Palliative Care programs are overseen by Medical Director Stephen Kerner, DO. Although the hospital has provided hospice services for many years, the palliative care program is just two years old.

Dr. Kerner, who joined Peace Harbor 13 years ago, is a passionate promoter of palliative care and hospice. His patients who did not qualify for home health services and were not yet ready for hospice.

The program has greatly improved access to care for the most vulnerable patients, thereby reducing emergency department visits, boosting home health and hospice referrals and improving end-of-life care across the care continuum.

Dr. Kerner attends all Hospice Advisory Board meetings, collaborating on ideas for providing hospice in rural, remote locations.

He also helps with fundraisers — in fact, he's in the process of compiling a memorial video for the Light Up A Life ceremony.

For more information about Peace Health Peace Harbor Hospice or the annual Light Up A Life celebration, call 541-997-3418.

The Light Up A Life ceremony offers local residents an opportunity to remember and recognize loved ones.

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