

Drivers needed for Senior Connections Program

FRAA spotlighting two artists for November

Drive your own vehicle to take Florence Senior Citizens who otherwise have no transportation to their medical appointments in Florence, Eugene, Springfield and the Coos Bay/North Bend Areas.

Mileage is reimbursed at .405 cents per mile. This reimbursement is not taxable and does not interfere with OHP or Food Stamp determination.

The hours are typically weekdays and drivers decide which days or hours they are willing to help; accept or decline rides any time. Drivers will not be asked to drive during dangerous road conditions.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Kristine Sirmans of Florence Senior Connections at 541-902-9430 ext. 7830.

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will share the work of two artists during the month of November. One is featured Youth Artist Kinga Bugajska, an exchange student born in Poland but who has spent most of her life in Norway. Bugajska came to America in August and is a junior at Siuslaw High School.

"I have always been into photography, and I love to capture my experiences in photos, as they make great memories," she said of her photographs, which depict scenery from different countries, as well as animals. "I am always trying to see new places and try new things. I love experiencing, exploring, and

Featured Youth Artist Kinga Bugajska

traveling, and I capture as much of it as I can in pictures."

Also featured in November is artist Denise Tarvin. After retiring from a career as a social worker in California, she and her husband moved to Florence with their three "fur babies." Tarvin began designing jewelry about six years ago "to express my creative side," owning and operating Lydee Lynn Designs. Her work with new and old materials such as pearls, leather, natu-



ral stones and precious metals is one-of-a-kind. After attending

a metalsmithing retreat in 2017 at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, she said she "fell in love with working with metals — copper specifically."

As Tarvin states "The colors produced by a torch are as beautiful as the nature I live in."

The community is invited to come and meet these two talented artists during the 2nd Saturday Gallery Tour on Saturday, Nov. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. FRAA is located at 120 Maple Street in Old Town.

Many of Florence's galleries take place in the 2nd Saturday Gallery Tour. For more information, visit 2ndSaturdayGalleryTour.com.

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Kiwanis supports Food Backpack for Kids



This fall, Florence Kiwanis donated to Food Backpack 4 Kids to support its mission to provide food to area kids.

In September of this year, Kiwanis Club of Florence President Dick Shores presented Food Backpack for Kids a check for \$5,543. According to the international website, "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time." This compliments the mission of Food Backpack for Kids.

The Kiwanis donation will cover the cost of one year's milk and fruit.

"This was a no brainer," says Kiwanis President Dick Shores. "Florence Kiwanis has supported this organization over the years, but felt milk and fruit was too important to not supply."

Kiwanis Club of Florence meets every Wednesday at noon and on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., at the Ocean Dunes Golf Links. There is also a monthly meeting for 3-2-1, or people who cannot make the other meetings. For more information, visit www.florencekiwanis.org.

Rhiannon Griffiths joins Backstreet Gallery

Backstreet Gallery welcomes new jewelry artist, Rhiannon Griffiths. Her work brings a new dimension to Backstreet's fine assortment of jewelry. Her work extends beyond beading into the creation of her own beads through a process called lampwork.

"This creative process unfolds as the alchemy of flame, glass and the artist bring amazing results," Griffiths said.

Even with a definite design in mind, she may still be surprised at her results.

"Beauty, creativity and the play between color and light have always been part of who I am," she said.

As Griffiths works with glass and flame in lampworking, she feels a joy and the spirit of becoming one with her bead creation. She also enjoys working with silver glass to see how it reacts to the flame.

After the formation of her one-of-a-kind beads, she then designs the finished piece of jewelry. With elegance, beauty and a bit of whimsy, her jewelry can transform an article of apparel from ordinary to extraordinary.

Griffiths' beautiful and unique jewelry is now at Backstreet Gallery, located at 1421 Bay St. The gallery is open daily on winter hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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