

Tips to prevent underage drinking around the holidays

The holidays are a busy and fun time, but they are also a time of risk for young people. Whatever your plans this season, it is important not to forget about keeping our children and young people safe. Alcohol is the most widely used substance among underage youth in the Siuslaw region. Here are some tips to help keep our youth and community safe this holiday season.

Parents, guardians, and family members

Youth often access alcohol from their own home or a

friend’s home. If you have alcohol in your house, monitor the supply you have and ensure it is locked away or not accessible to youth.

Understand Oregon’s underage drinking laws. There is no legal way for adults to host an underage drinking party for minors. Under Oregon law (ORS 471.410-3), those who knowingly allow minors, other than their own child, to drink on or off their property or private real property (hotel rooms, camp sites, other rented/leased space) can receive criminal citations and fines.

Talk to youth about underage drinking. Be clear about your expectations and listen to their concerns. Make sure your child knows where you stand on underage drinking so they can trust you and call you if they find themselves feeling unsafe at a holiday party or gathering.

Get to know your kids’ friends and their parents. Ask other parents about their rules around alcohol and ensure your child isn’t entering spaces where they will be served alcohol.

Community members

If you work at a business

that sells or serves alcohol, make sure everyone is properly checking IDs and not selling to minors around the busy holiday season.

If you’re at a holiday function where there’s alcohol and young people, make sure that the adults know the dangers of underage drinking and are not serving to minors. Have alcohol served in designated places, inaccessible to young people.

Get involved in local groups working to prevent the harmful effects of underage drinking by reducing use among youth.

Healthy Directions is a community-based coalition formed through Lane County Public Health, and works toward bringing awareness of, and attempting to lower, underage alcohol use in the Siuslaw region. Local businesses, schools, government, prevention organizations, and law enforcement have all jumped on board to support Siuslaw youth, reduce underage drinking, and promote healthy lives.

For more information about the Florence Healthy Directions Coalition, visit the coalition’s Facebook page.



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Spirituali-Tea to host Burning Bowl ceremony

On Monday, Dec. 31, Spirituali-Tea will host a Burning Bowl and White Stone Ceremony at 875 Seventh St., beginning at 6:30 p.m.

In a guided meditation, attendees will reflect on the past year and consider the thoughts, emotions and behaviors that did not and do not serve their highest good. Participants will then release them by writing them down on paper and cer-

emoniously “burning” them in an appropriate receptacle.

Next, attendees will set a new intention for the coming year, which they write on a small white stone that serves as a reminder. This is an adaptation of two ancient practices that have become widely used in many New Thought churches.

The evening will be led by New Thought minister Eleanor Ross.

Lose the resolutions and empower the New Year with Burning Bowl ceremony

On Sunday, Dec. 30, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Katherine Hemmens will lead a Burning Bowl Ceremony.

Hemmens asks, “Do you ever wonder why our New Year’s resolutions lose momentum so quickly? Perhaps it’s because we don’t take the time to release what no longer works for us before adding another expectation for ourselves. Rituals have lost

their meaning in our modern lives, or may carry unwelcome baggage from early religious influences. However, rituals are just a mental construct to signify a passage in life or further a vision of our next endeavor. We choose the significance, the interpretation. This is where the empowerment lies.”

Paper and pencils will be provided, and attendees may want to contemplate the aspects of

their life that no longer work for them in anticipation of releasing them with a blessing.

The fellowship, located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, is wheelchair accessible. Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org.

Siuslaw Vision Workshop to explore board roles, responsibilities Jan. 26

Registration is open for “Training for Your Nonprofit Board,” a workshop that will explore the legal duties, rights and responsibilities of board members in Oregon on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Florence Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood St.

Sponsored by Siuslaw Vision, the training is ideal for new and veteran board members, and is also for those considering board service in the future.

Topics will include safeguarding charitable assets; handling restricted funds;

understanding financial information; oversight of nonprofits by the attorney general; and how to protect tax exempt status by adhering to IRS regulations.

The Vision is partnering with Nonprofit Board Training and Resources, an organization focused on strengthening the technical skills of nonprofit board members and staff.

“Board members rarely receive training for their crucial roles in governing nonprofit organizations, yet much is expected of them,” said Katherine

DeYoung, a certified public accountant who will present the session on financial information. “This event is a training opportunity to learn about the ins and outs of board roles and a chance to have any pressing questions answered.”

In addition to DeYoung, the workshop will feature Kirk Harvey, retired chief investigator for the Oregon Department of Justice Charitable Activities Section, and Joe Kroll, with the Internal Revenue Service Tax Exempt Division.

The half-day workshop includes all

three sessions, printed resource material, snacks and a networking lunch. Cost is \$15 per person, or \$10 per person for organizations who register four or more of their members.

Scholarships are available by contacting coordinator@siuslawvision.org.

Registration deadline is Jan. 19 at 5 p.m. For more information about the training and to register, visit RiverCal.org/training, or call 541-590-2425.

For more information on the Siuslaw Vision, visit www.SiuslawVision.org.

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FLORENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16)

1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)

Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.

www.churchofchristflorence.org

FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

12th and Nopal –997-9020

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays, Mens’ Breakfast @ 8 a.m.

Online Worship Service@ www.florencenaz.com

FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) – 997-3951

Worship on Saturday 10:30 A.M.

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RUAAUU? All are welcome to explore the answer.

Sunday Worship Service ~ 10:00 a.m.

www.FlorenceUUF.org - (541) 997.2840

To be included in this directory contact the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.

Cindy Wobbe

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It has been a sincere privilege to have served the Florence community in 2018. On behalf of our entire team, thank you!

May your New Year be filled with promise and possibility!

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