

FLORENCE CELEBRATES 3 DAYS OF BLUEGRASS, FOLK, AMERICANA, GOSPEL & ARTS

Warm up your winter with some hot bluegrass, heart-warming new and traditional folk, vibrant Americana and rafter-raising gospel sounds this weekend at the 17th annual Florence Winter Music Festival. Eleven high-caliber groups will deliver the goods Friday to Sunday, Jan. 25 to 27, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

The 2019 festival headliner is John McEuen, founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, who will be presenting his “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” tour with The String Wizards.

On Jan. 7, Florence Mayor Joe Henry issued a proclamation deeming Jan. 25 to 27 a “landmark weekend for the region and its arts and music communities” with an invitation for all to participate in Florence’s Winter Music Festival.

Winter Music Festival weekend starts with a twang as the up-and-coming North Country Bluegrass Band (7 p.m.) and the amazing Chris Jones & The Night Drivers (8:30 p.m.) take the stage on Bluegrass Friday. North Country, a premier traditional bluegrass band from the Northwest, is touring the US and Canada to rave reviews. Jones is a quadruple

threat as a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and radio host on SiriusXM 62 Bluegrass Junction.

Saturday is Americana Day. The afternoon session begins with the foot-stomping, crowd-pleasing music of Katie Jane Lubiens with Adam Easley (11:30 a.m.) followed by True North (12:45 p.m.), Eli West (2 p.m.), and Cabin Fever NW (3:15 p.m.). Saturday evening features headliners Chris Kokesh and LJ Booth at 7 p.m. opening for John McEuen and The String Wizards.

Sunday’s heart- and soul-warming Gospel Gathering features Laura Merz’s Community Gospel Choir, Marty Adams’ Rolling River Quartet and Andiel Brown leading the award-winning University of Oregon Gospel Choir.

The music continues with nighttime jam sessions at the ICM Restau-



John McEuen, founding member of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, headlines the 2019 Winter Music Festival at the Florence Events Center this weekend. Tickets and info are available at WinterMusicFestival.org.

rant, 1498 Bay St. in Historic Old Town Florence, which kick off at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Community members, along with musicians, are welcome to join with festival artists for these nightly song circles. Food and beverages will be available for purchase through 11:30 p.m.

In addition, Katie Jane Lubiens and Adam Easley will be playing a free community concert at Oregon Pacific Bank, 1355 Highway 101, at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Coffee and cookies will be available throughout

the hour-long show.

Winter Music Festival 2019 offers much more than top-drawer music by nationally-touring musicians. In sync with the music weekend is the free Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) Winter Arts Festival. The Winter Arts Festival will be Saturday, Jan. 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the 8,000 sq. ft. FEC gallery.

FRAA has assembled renowned local and regional artists and craftspeople to fill more than 30 booths with everything from two- and three-dimensional art in stone, wood, glass, ceramic, fabric, wire, and gold to garden art, personal care items, edibles, and adult potables. In addition to selling their works, over the course of the weekend select artists will demonstrate how their art

or craft is created.

The new and extremely buzzworthy Eatwell Organic Noodle food truck will be on site on Saturday and Sunday. Ninkasi Brewing and River’s Edge Winery are the exclusive beer and wine dispensers. The annual Ladies of Elks Pie Sale returns as another folksy festival favorite.

The 450-seat, state-of-the-art Florence Events Center still has a few excellent seats available for each show. Tickets are available at the Events Center Box Office or online at EventCenter.org. A three-day pass is \$95 and a two-day pass is \$80. Tickets for Friday Night Bluegrass are \$28, Saturday afternoon general admission Americana, \$19, Saturday night headliners \$40, and Sunday’s Gospel Gathering, \$16. Doors open one hour before each show time.

A full event rundown with performer profiles is at www.WinterMusicFestival.org.

The Florence Winter Music Festival is produced by the 501 (c) (3) nonprofit Friends of the Florence Events Center, a volunteer organization that helps fund capital improvements and performance grants at the venue.

Siuslaw Watershed Council to award ‘Spirit of Siuslaw,’ hear about ocean issues

At Siuslaw Watershed Council’s Spirit of Siuslaw Awards Night, Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library, the community is invited to learn more about ocean acidification and hypoxia as well as celebrate this year’s recipient of the Spirit of Siuslaw Award, Paul Burns. In addition, new members of our SWC Board will be elected.

Fran Recht will be giving a talk about ocean acidification and hypoxia, which has consequences for the health of the ocean and ocean-going fish in the Siuslaw River. She will discuss how Oregon’s nearshore is consid-

ered ground zero for many of the impacts from ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) because it is already experiencing environmental extremes that other coastal areas won’t see for decades.

Ocean acidification, sometimes called the “other carbon problem,” occurs when carbon dioxide is absorbed into the ocean, lowering the ocean’s pH levels. As seawater becomes more acidic, many marine organisms including shellfish (altered shell formation) and finfish (disruption in sensing prey) can be directly affected. Fragile shells and changes in predator feeding patterns can harm these organisms, with carryover

affects throughout the food web.

A related regional issue is hypoxia, which occurs seasonally as low oxygen waters on the ocean bottom upwells along the coast. In recent years, hypoxic events have resulted in increased occurrence of dead crabs along shorelines and changes in fish distributions as they move to avoid the low oxygen waters.

To combat the effects of OAH, legislation was passed in August 2017 to form the Oregon Coordinating Council on OAH. The council, made up of scientists and state agency representatives, as well as fishing, shellfishing and

conservation interests, is in the process of drafting an OAH Action Plan and will be taking public input so as to deliver a final action plan in 2019.

Recht, as a member of the Coordinating Council, will review the OAH issue and describe the priorities the group has drafted. These include actions related to research, reducing the causes of OAH, promoting adaptation and resilience, raising awareness of impacts and solutions, and assuring funding is available to address the issue.

Siuslaw Watershed Council will also honor Burns.

The Siuslaw Public Library is located at 1460

Ninth St. in Florence. The Siuslaw Watershed Council will also have updates on happenings within the wa-

tershed and library resources related to our oceans will be made available.

Doors open at 6 p.m.

Indoor Yard Sale returns to FEC in February

The Indoor Yard Sale is coming to the Florence Events Center on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Starting Jan. 22 at 9 a.m., applications to be part of the Friends of the Florence Events Center’s annual indoor sale will be available for non-profit groups and individuals who wish to rent a booth space to display their goods.

For those who do not have a garage, adequate parking or hard to find locations, this is a perfect solution to be part of this huge sale.

Single booths and double spaces are available for a fee from \$35 to \$90 and there are discounts for non-profit groups. Space will be available until Thursday, Feb. 22, at 5

p.m. for any group or individual to participate in the sale.

Sign up soon as spaces go quickly.

For more information on

purchasing a booth, come in to the Florence Events Center office at 715 Quince St. or contact the FEC at 541-997-1994.



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Volunteer for Friends of Florence

The nonprofit Friends of Florence, which provides free bus transportation for cancer patients, is seeking volunteer drivers. A commercial driver’s license is not required.

For more info, call 541-997-8663.

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Weekly leaders in each category (male & female) will be pictured in the Saturday edition of the Siuslaw News and online at thesiuslawnews.com.

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CONTEST INFORMATION LINE: 541.997.3441

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FREE CONTEST PARTICIPATION • REGISTRATION FORM

Registration is **FREE**. Contestants must be a minimum of 18 years old or with parental consent and sign a waiver form to participate.

Your registration form must be received at the Siuslaw News, by 5pm January 22nd.

148 Maple Street,
Mail: PO Box 10, Florence, OR 97439
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