



Jorah LeFlour (second from right) will return as emcee for this year’s poetry slam, hosted by FRAA.

Fourth annual ‘Big Wave Poetry Slam’ returns this month

Florence’s 4th annual Big Wave Poetry Slam will take place Friday, May 24, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Event Center, 715 Quince St. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for registration, or register online.

Over the past three years, the contest has included poets who travel to Florence from all over Oregon and beyond.

Slam poet Jorah LeFleur from Eugene will return as emcee. LeFleur is well known as the Slam Maven, administrator and host of the Tsunami Poetry Slam in Eugene since 2006. This year’s Slam

contest is limited to 20 participants with a \$15 entry fee. First prize is \$250, second prize \$100 and third prize \$50. An Open Mic will precede the Slam contest at 6:30 p.m., with a three-minute time limit per poet.

Admission is \$10 general, \$5 for LCC students and free to those age 18 and under.

Slam Poetry is a type of competition where people read their poems without props, costumes or music. After performing, they receive scores (0-10) from five randomly selected judges from our audience.

The judges can be anyone:

they don’t even need to be poets. Scores are awarded based on how much each judge likes a poem.

The rules vary from slam to slam, but the basic rules are: Each poem must be of the poet’s own construction; Each poet gets three minutes (plus a 10-second grace period) to read one poem. If the poet goes over time, points will be deducted from the total score. There will be three appointed time keepers.

Florence Big Wave Spoken Word is a group of poetry lovers dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of Poetry in Florence.

The group is part of by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) and hosts First Tuesday Open Mic plus three competitive events per year: Love Gone Wrong in February, Spooky Word in October both of which take place at FRAA, 120 Maple Street in Old Town Florence, and the Annual Poetry Slam in May at the Florence Event Center.

Come out to support poets and enjoy an entertaining night of Spoken Word poetry.

Tickets and pre-registration available at FRAA or online at www.bigwavespookenword.org.

CROW ‘grows up’ with acting class geared toward adults

The Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) is excited to announce a six-week adult acting session this summer.

Classes will be held from July 24 to Aug. 28, from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m., held at the CROW Center for the Performing Arts, located at 3120 Highway 101.

During this fun and enriching course, students will explore characterization, motivation, diction, stage presence, dealing with stage fright and how to audition like a professional.

They will also uncover individual strengths as an actor while also discovering how to overcome habits and

weaknesses.

Through the use of games and activities, participants will be exposed to a wide range of theatre terminology and tips, tricks and traps for actors. According to instructor, Melanie Heard, “Acting is very liberating, and great for building your self-confidence,” CROW Executive Director Melanie Heard said. “I have enjoyed working with Florence’s adult actors in past class sessions, and I can’t wait to do it again.

“We laugh a lot, learn a lot, and it’s a great place to push yourself in a safe and supportive environment.”

The class will be custom

tailored to each level of participant.

“Even if you have no desire to be an actor, this class can still be very helpful,” Heard said. “Many of the skills you will learn can help you in your day to day life, such as interpersonal communication and job seeking skills. Come play with us!”

Melanie Heard is a director/choreographer, actress, and credentialed teacher with over 25 years of experience in the professional theatre world. She is the Artistic Director of C.R.O.W. - Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops, and recently directed “The Wiz.”

Originally from Los An-

geles, Heard has studied acting with the well-known South Coast Repertory Professional Conservatory, has performed in over 50 plays and musicals, holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Cal State Fullerton, and an MA in Education.

The cost of the full course is \$60, and those age 18 to 180 are urged to enroll.

Registration can be found at www.crowkids.com/classes.

Space is limited and no experience is required.

For more information or questions, email Heard at crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com.

Florence-area bank employee recognized as ‘Banner Bank’s Best’

A Florence Banner Bank employee has been selected to receive the Banner’s Best award.

This award represents the highest level of recognition within the company and the recipients are truly Banner’s best.

Sherry Dutcher, Client Services Manager II, received the Banner’s Best award for surpassing her individual professional goals in 2018, as well as providing exceptional customer service to the bank’s clients and their fellow colleagues.

“Banner’s Best recipients exemplify our value proposition — connected, knowledgeable, responsive — yet what truly sets them apart is how they constantly strive for a higher standard in all that they do,” said Mark Grescovich, Banner Bank President and CEO. “It is thanks to our many outstanding employees that Banner was recently selected by Money Magazine as the Best Bank in the Pacific Region of the U.S.”

Less than four percent of all Banner employees receive this award. Recipients are selected by members of executive leadership.

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