

Florence Christian Church to host Vacation Bible School

Florence Christian Church, located at Second and Ivy streets, invites local children to ROAR Vacation Bible School.

The VBS runs Aug. 5-9, from 9 a.m. to noon daily for children four years old through grade five.

Kids will participate in memorable Bible adventures, games and hands-

on science fun.

They will also be challenged to collect canned food and pocket change to help support Florence Food Share program here in town.

To register, call the church office at 541-997-2961 or visit florencechurch.com and click on the VBS logo.

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McKnight, Nichols featured artists for August at Backstreet

Colleen McKnight, gourd artist, and Karen D. Nichols, multimedia artist, will be honored at a reception Saturday, Aug. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St.

The evening will also feature guitar music by Denny Weaver.

With no formal art training, McKnight has developed her skills decorating gourds since 2015, converting her design skills from systems design and flower design to transforming the organic shapes of gourds into works of art.

Her gourd crafting patterns emerge from the use of wood burning, cutting and carving, then finishing with inks, dyes, paints, beading, embossing, decoupage, metal leafing, glass frit and mosaic work.

After hand-selecting gourds, she thoroughly scrubs them, removing dirt and mold. McKnight works in harmony with the shape to finish a design that enhances the gourd's natural qualities — all while creating a unique work of art.

Whether looking for sculpture, a bit of whimsy, a playful animal, a useful vase, a basket or a beautiful decorative piece of art, individuals will appreciate McKnight's expertise of taking nature's gift and re-defining it as fine art.

McKnight spends spring



COURTESY PHOTO

Artwork by Karen Nichols (top) and Colleen McKnight will be featured at Backstreet Gallery during the month of August.

and summer in Florence with autumn and winter spent in Chandler, Ariz., where she is the president of a sanctioned patch of the

Spirit of the Desert, an Arizona Gourd Society.

Nichols' art includes, watercolor, acrylic and oils. However, her signature

Storyteller Chris Chandler to perform in Florence Aug. 3

Chris Chandler is set to grace Florence stage Saturday, Aug. 3, at Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Highway 101 and Heceta Beach Road.

Provocative American storyteller Chris Chandler will host a KXCR summer fundraiser as he slips back to the Northwest from an extended gig in the United Kingdom.

Chandler's performances are known as a unique entertainment experience. The late great Utah Phillips

called Chandler "the best performance poet I have ever seen."

Chandler has worked with everyone from Allen Ginsberg to Pete Seeger, and recently was a Master of Ceremonies at the nationally regarded Kerrville Folk Festival in June.

Behind Chandler's spoken word riffs on American culture is a sharp eye and a deep love of language. Striking in appearance, sporting a black bowler on his shaved head, he some-

times finds himself climbing any nearby chair to add emphasis to a story's riveting conclusion — a showman to the core.

Chandler, son of a southern preacher, left his home and instead of pursuing a career in New York theater, he trusted his instincts to hit the road to find and tell the stories of America.

As any entertainer will attest, it hasn't been easy. For the last 30 years he has traveled from gig to gig, losing his long blond hair,

but sharpening his craft.

Everywhere he and his guitar playing sidekick Sean Shanahan appear, the reaction usually includes a recognition that it's a unique entertainment experience.

Suggested donation is \$15. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m.

Tea and coffee will be available. Healthy finger foods encouraged (optional BYOB if over age 21).

For information, call 541-997-2997 or 541-305-9003.

New 'Smokey Bear' license plates available from DMV Aug. 1

The Keep Oregon Green Association Smokey Bear vehicle license plate will be available for Oregon passenger vehicles starting Aug. 1.

The plate is only for passenger vehicles titled and registered in Oregon. The DMV cannot accept or process applications received before Aug. 1.

In addition to regular title, registration and plate manufacturing fees, the Smokey Bear plate has a \$40 surcharge due when individuals first order the plate and at each registration renewal. The surcharge is the same amount for four-year or two-year registration periods.

Customers who purchased a prepaid voucher may submit that with their application in lieu of the

surcharge. The voucher may only be used once.

The Keep Oregon Green Association was required to sell at least 3,000 vouchers before DMV could start implementation of the Smokey Bear license plate.

Surcharge funds will go to the Keep Oregon Green Association. For more information on the association, visit www.keeporegongreen.org.

Custom (vanity) and Amateur Radio Operator (HAM radio) versions will be available on the Smokey Bear plate. DMV cannot reserve specific number-letter configurations for license plates. Also, DMV does not sell "sample" versions of license plates.

People can apply for the plates by mail, at DMV field offices, online or through

licensed vehicle dealers when they purchase a car.

Customers cannot apply for a Smokey Bear plate online if they are submitting a pre-paid voucher. Customers cannot replace vehicle plates through DEQ emissions testing stations (emissions tests are required only in parts of the Portland and Medford metropolitan areas).

The cost of a set of plates depends upon when and how a vehicle owner applies for a new set. Here are two common scenarios:

1 Plates ordered within 120 days before a vehicle's stickers expire:

- Smokey Bear surcharge: \$40 (also paid at every renewal) or a pre-paid voucher

- Plate fee: \$24.50 for the pair

- Plate replacement fee: \$5

- Registration renewal: \$112 (Multnomah County residents add \$38; Washington County residents add \$60)

- Total without a voucher: \$181.50 (\$219.50 in Multnomah County; \$241.50 in Washington County)

- Total with a pre-paid voucher: \$141.50 (\$179.50 in Multnomah County; \$201.50 in Washington County)

2 Plates ordered more than 120 days before a vehicle's stickers expire:

- Smokey Bear surcharge: \$40 (also paid at every two-year renewal) or a pre-paid voucher

- Plate fee: \$24.50 for the pair

- Plate replacement fee: \$10

- Total without a voucher: \$74.50

- Total with a pre-paid voucher: \$34.50

People who purchase a new or used vehicle from a licensed dealer may order Smokey Bear plates as part of the car-buying process and provide a pre-paid voucher to the dealer if they have one.

To order new plates from DMV more than 120 days before a vehicle's stickers expire, customers need to fill out an Application for Registration, Renewal, Replacement or Transfer of Plates and/or Stickers, Form 268. Customers can get this form at their local DMV office to apply for the plate in person.

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