

Community News

Chamber announces growth of flower basket program

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the public works department of the City of Florence, is preparing to hang the magnificent flower baskets that have adorned Bay Street from spring into fall for the last several years.

However, that program is set to double this year.

“We’re excited to celebrate the new streetscape on Highway 101, from the bridge to the intersection with Highway 126, by hanging an additional 60 baskets this year,” said chamber president and CEO Bettina Hannigan. “By doing so we’re hoping to celebrate optimism, good will, good weather, beauty, a reduction in COVID-19’s impact, and our cautious steps toward the restoration of tourism.”

Individuals, businesses, and civic clubs are encouraged to sponsor a flower basket for \$85.

The chamber organizes the effort and the City of Florence public works department hangs and maintains the flowers from early May through October.

Last year the chamber had 34 donors including several from Eugene, Corvallis, Albany and other places.

“We think some of our sponsors are inspired by visitors or have vacation places in Florence. Some people sponsor them as a dedication to a friend or loved one,” said Hannigan, who added that many people take pictures with the baskets to share online and remember their trip to Florence — something Hannigan said gives the program a lot of market-



Flower baskets like these in Old Town are available for sponsorship through the Florence Chamber of Commerce.

COURTESY PHOTO

ing mileage.

“This is yet another way to build on our local beauty and support local small businesses. By hanging them along the new streetscape, as well as in Old Town, locals and visitors will slow down and take in a very positive impression of our community, and that helps commerce in our area,” said Hannigan.

Hannigan said that approximately 1,900 people in Florence rely on tourism-based employment, and tourism pumps about \$147 million into the local economy each year.

“We are doing all we can to safely advance the cause of commerce during the pandemic to make Florence the best place to live, work, shop, eat, play, and stay — now, and as the crisis passes. We must be vigilant in adhering to

CDC guidelines,” she said. “As a chamber of commerce, and as a community at large, our top priority should be preventing further spread of COVID-19 and taking care of each other with compassion, humility and encouragement.”

“We cannot wait to welcome visitors back to fully enjoy all that Oregon’s Coastal Playground has to offer as soon as restrictions are lifted and it is safe to do so.”

For more information on sponsoring a flower basket, joining the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, or how to volunteer, contact Hannigan at 541-997-3128.

Sponsor a basket by going to the Events tab at FlorenceChamber.com or our Facebook page at Florence Oregon Coast.

SOS offering financial assistance for impacted by COVID-19

Siuslaw Outreach Services now has funds available for past-due rent, electric and water assistance for those either at risk, affected by or who have lost

income due to COVID-19.

To see if you qualify, contact SOS by phone at 541-997-2816 to schedule an appointment.

Florence Bahá’í, KXCR highlight Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Each year, Black History Month’s theme is set by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, an organization founded in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the famed African American historian known as the “Father of Black History.”

This year’s theme is “The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity.”

Aligning with this year’s theme, the Florence Bahá’í community will sponsor a radio program “A Past and Living History of the Black Family in Oregon,” on KXCR Community Radio 90.7 FM on Monday, Feb. 15, at 4 p.m.

During the broadcast, Frances Klippel will host a group of four distin-

guished guests representing their experience and activism connecting the past to living history we are witnessing in the Black American experience in Oregon and beyond.

Guest speakers include:

- Angela Apodaca, an activist, educator and poet living in Florence, will touch on a historical experience of a black woman in Oregon, drawing on inspiration and resources from Zachary Stocks, executive director of Oregon Black Pioneers.

Apodaca will also add her own poetry as a biracial woman in America.

- Maree Beers, business woman, activist and musician lives in the Florence area, will sing “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

This song, often called “The Black National An-

them,” was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson and then set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson in 1899.

It was first performed in public in the Johnsons’ hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, as part of a celebration of Lincoln’s birthday on Feb. 12, 1900, by a choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James was principal.

- Annis Cassells, educator and poet residing in Coos Bay, Ore., and Bakersfield, Calif, comes to the event through her participation in Florence’s Big Wave Poetry.

Cassells’ activism led her to collaborate with Ronald Montgomery’s project, and will be reciting poetry from “Enough:

Say Their Names.”

- Tillamook’s Ronald Montgomery is an educator, activist and author of 13 volumes of poetry.

Montgomery brings participants a living history as creator and writer of the project and book, “Enough: Say their Names, Messages from Ground Zero to the World.”

The work is a rich tapestry of insightful photography, paintings and poetry sharing the passion of those who marched as living art in the protests.

The community is invited to join the Florence Bahá’ís for this informative look into the Black experience in Oregon.

KXCR also streams online at kxcr.net.

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New vaccination info options available for seniors

The Oregon Health Authority piloted and launched a new “Get Vaccinated Oregon” tool as part of a multi-pronged effort to

provide older adults information about COVID-19 vaccinations.

As of Feb. 8, approximately 168,000 adults age 80 and older became eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination. While vaccine supplies are expected to increase in coming weeks, supplies are currently scarce. State health officials asked for patience as more than 700,000 seniors age 65

and older become eligible for vaccines over the next four weeks.

Get Vaccinated Oregon is an eligibility and notification tool that can be found at oregon.gov or at getvaccinated.oregon.gov.

The tool allows users to answer basic questions to learn if they are eligible and get linked to information about vaccinations in their counties. Users can sign

up for alerts to get notified about vaccination events or find out when they may become eligible.

211: Older Oregonians can also text ORCOVID to 898211 to get text/SMS updates about vaccination clinics (this option is available in English and Spanish only). Seniors can also email ORCOVID@211info.org.

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gofundme WE REACHED OUR GOAL!

www.gofundme.com/f/save-city-lights-cinemas

For more information on our closure and current status, please visit www.citylightscinemas.com

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 13	FEBRUARY 14	FEBRUARY 15	FEBRUARY 16	FEBRUARY 17	FEBRUARY 18	FEBRUARY 19
Showers	Rain	Rain	Showers	Few Showers	Rain	Light Rain
49°F 42°F	48°F 46°F	50°F 43°F	49°F 40°F	51°F 43°F	50°F 44°F	50°F 42°F

Health is our #1 Priority!

At Shervin's we are taking extra precaution in order to ensure that our customers and staff are kept safe and healthy during this quickly changing situation.

1 Car Sanitation - All cars are wiped down with a sanitizer before and after the service. We wipe down any areas in the interior where employees have touched, such as door handles, the steering wheel, keys, shifters and power window panels.

2 Hand Sanitation - Our staff will continue to wash their hands throughout the day and change gloves after each car they service.

3 Give Customers Options - We will pick up and deliver your vehicle to your home. You may also drop your key in our secure mailbox for drop-offs to avoid or minimize contact.

4 Employee Illness is Serious - We are encouraging employees not to shake hands. We are practicing “personal distancing” and encouraging employees to stay home if they feel under the weather.

5 Wipe Down High Touch Points - We wipe/spray counters, credit card machines, door handles, phone handles, kitchen areas, and chair arms and tables in waiting area multiple times a day. We continue to be focused and committed to working with each of you to ensure we continue to meet and exceed your expectations. We are here for you.

We thank you for your business and more importantly, your friendship. Please be safe and exercise extra precaution during this challenging time.

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