

## People can audition for 'Monologues' this week

The Last Resort Players (LRP) will hold auditions for "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler, on Friday, May 14, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 15, at 2 p.m. at the Florence Playhouse, 208 Laurel St.

All women are encouraged to audition. Previous stage experience is not required, but people should bring an adventurous spirit, a sense of fun, and the ability to speak honestly and from the heart.

The show features 10 divergent monologues. Copies of the script are available for preview.

Those considering auditioning should come prepared to read from the script.

Other audition times may be available by special arrangement with the directors.

Performances will be at City Lights Cinemas on June 24, 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. and June 27 at 2 p.m.

For further information, or to obtain a copy of the script, contact Director Jim Wellington at [jwell.or@charter.net](mailto:jwell.or@charter.net) or Assistant Director Annie Schmidt at [gandas39@charter.net](mailto:gandas39@charter.net).

### FLAGS from page 5A

According to Article V, Section 5.2.27, of the Florentine Estates Homeowners Association, "Except as needed by Declarant (or with Declarant's written permission, a retail manufactured home seller) during construction and sales periods, no sign or other advertising device of any character shall be placed or erected on any lot or maintained upon any part of the development except identification signs installed by the lot owner, declarant or the association. All signs must be approved by the board before installation."

In February, the board announced Resolution 2020-006 which clarifies which "signs" are included under this rule.

"The association's stance, in the past, has been rather lenient either by choice or not understanding exactly what is prohibited according to the declaration. The board understands this will be quite a change for some. ... Many owners have been under the impression that their signs, flags, banners etc., were not a violation. There will not be any 'grandfathering' for any reason. This includes all signs, flags, banners etc.," Florentine General Manager Jason Nelson said in a newsletter sent on behalf of the board.

This decision by the Florentine Estates Homeowners Association Board of Directors to prohibit many flags has been met with disbelief and outrage by a large number of residents who reside in Florentine Estates.

One veteran, Del Neely, has taken it upon himself to push back against what he considers an unnecessary and unpatriotic restraint on his freedom of expression.

Neely contacted the Siuslaw News with his concerns after receiving no response to his repeated objections to the prohibition from the Florentine board of directors.

"The board's recent decision to rid Florentine of political and other obnoxious flags is much appreciated," said Neely. "However, the resolution created issues for homeowners' flying flags that are appropriate for any community, gated or non-gated. It is ludicrous to exclude the flag of the State of Oregon where Florentine Estates is chartered. And no one wants to explain this; I have tried, and they just won't respond to my calls or emails."

Neely has attempted to convince the board the recently passed resolution banning the display of any flag other than the American Flag was well-intended but limits his freedom of expression and his show his patriotism.

According to the board, the reason for the change in rule regarding the flying of flags were the many political flags and other versions of the American flag, many of which were altered, and sprang up throughout the development. The number and nature of these modified American flags caused a backlash from residents opposed to the politization of the presidential election last November.

It is also clearly stated in the Florentine by-laws that

no political signs of any kind are allowed on any lot or common area during any-time of the year.

"It is important that everyone understands these are not new rules and restrictions. This has been in the declaration since its inception," Nelson wrote in the newsletter.

Neely has contacted other veterans living in Florentine Estates and elsewhere to convince the board to rescind its restrictions — at least as far as the flying of unaltered service flags.

"Florence and her citizens, many of whom are veterans, are very supportive of the purpose and patriotic spirit these flags engender," Neely said. "It is to be noted that Florence is a U.S. Coast Guard City. These military service flags fly over our local cemetery. Every veteran has a legal right to fly his or her service flag. For most of us, however, it goes well beyond that."

On Monday morning, Neely spoke with veterans from all five services at the gathering of the unofficial group, "The Band of Brothers," at Clawson's Wheelhouse restaurant.

Neely's presentation resulted in offers of financial support, in addition to threats to protest the ban with a demonstration at Florentine.

Per Article V, Section 5.2.27, illegal signs within Florentine Estates are eligible for a fine of \$150 per incident, plus \$20 per day.

One of the long-term solutions suggested by Neely and other members of the Brothers was the creation and adoption of a state law governing the display of service flags modeled after the American Flag Act of 2005, which makes it illegal for homeowner associations

to prohibit the flying of the American flag.

"I am asking that our legislators pass a similar act, which would allow us to fly Old Glory as well as our service flags, in their past and present forms without being penalized for showing our patriotism," Neely said.

Florentine Estates Board Member Ron Hildebrand was hesitant to discuss the ban at an impromptu meeting with Siuslaw News. He said those complaining were directing their concerns to the board, when they no longer had control over the restrictions, as any change to the rules currently governing flags would need to be voted on by all members of the HOA.

Hildebrand also suggested that people contact Nelson. However, Nelson and members of the Florentine Estates Homeowners Association Board of Directors have not responded to requests for comment or more information.

The HOA Handbook of Rules & Procedures was updated Jan. 4. In it, the board wrote, "These rules and procedures have been developed to help ensure that our community maintains its high quality, property values and the unmatched beauty of our surroundings."

For Neely, there is one option for him and others opposed to the flag ban, according to the HOA. They may petition the board for permission to fly any flag, or post a particular sign, other than the American flag.

Neely has investigated that option and, due to timing constraints and the uncertainty of the outcome, he remains doubtful the petition would be granted in time for Armed Forces Day this Saturday, May 15.

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