



Cheer Team takes flight

During halftime at the Feb. 19 basketball game against Douglas, the Siuslaw High Cheer Team stacked, balanced and launched some of their own in a performance that surely made some parents gasp. Tony Reed photo.



Captured! Two-year search ends in arrest of convicted rapist

STAFF REPORT
Country Media, Inc.

A Florence man convicted of rape and on the run for two years has been caught in California.

Detectives arrested 48-year-old Jack Duane Crist, at an apartment in Chico. Crist was wanted in Lane County on a Rape 1 conviction and had led Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) detectives on a nearly two-year search across multiple states, according to LCSO Sgt. Tim Wallace.

According to court

See CAPTURED, Page A7

SOS calls on community to help

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

An email from Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) earlier this month warned about the pending result of funding reductions in 2025 and asked that community members and groups come together to help.

"Siuslaw Outreach Services has been helping residents to move out of the unsafe living conditions there as well as help residents connect with legal aid services for several years now," the email reads. "However, this year Lane County has not distributed move-in or relocation

assistance funds to Siuslaw Outreach Services due to a shift in funding priorities."

Teter later explained that SOS is a nonprofit agency that receives grants from private and government entities and foundations. SOS staff are available around the clock, and the list of distinct services they provide is long.

Asked for the dollar amount in reduced funding, Teter said it's relative in terms of what SOS has missed out on.

"The Covid money has stopped, American Restoration Act funding has stopped, what we typically receive from the state and county, that was

about \$100,000 drop," he said. "The shift was before this fiscal year. We had dollars that were set aside to help people move into a place, so we could do that directly. Now, we have to refer those to Lane County for processing. All the funds we currently have for housing assistance are for past due rent, for those people who are housed, or if they are fleeing domestic or sexual violence. Everything else, we have to go through a referral process with the county, and they make the decision."

The email said SOS is now directed to perform what is called Front Door

Assessments to put them on the centralized waitlist system for relocation assistance. Teter explained that SOS has an application that can be filled out if people need assistance.

"If they need help getting moved into a place, we have them come in, and they have the option of coming in and helping them with an online application for a centralized waitlist. That centralized waitlist is managed by Lane County Human Services Commission, and from there, they do a lottery pick system. They do ask us to partner with

See SOS, Page A6

Students make honor roll

Siuslaw High School and Siuslaw Middle School have released their Honor Roll lists for the first semester. According to Principal Mike Harklerode, to qualify for Honor Roll, students must have a 3.5 GPA for the semester while completing a minimum of 5 classes.

SIUSLAW HIGH SCHOOL

- Anderson, Hailey M.
- Bailey, Ayden J.
- Borgnino, Ava G.
- Burt, Owen N.
- Condy, Madison A.
- Gates, Laila Rose M.
- Gonzaga, Achilles V.
- Grable, William C.
- Hopper, Andrew W.
- Hughes, Alison E.
- James, Miles C.
- Koszuta, Kiera C.
- Lacouture, Danin E.
- Linton, Camden M.
- Nunez, Austin J.
- Pitcher, Jordan J.
- Poole, Annie
- Salyer, Dylan K.
- Scribner, Husky E.
- Spencer, Ethan M.
- Venegas, Mia A.
- Wadzeck, Aster F.
- Weiss, Heidi E.

See HONOR, Page A7

Cold Weather Shelters offers warm, restful nights

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

Florence residents woke up Feb. 17 to find a small layer of hail on their vehicles and a chill in the air, followed by steady rain and then light snow by 10 am. According to readings from the Florence Municipal Airport, temperatures dropped from the 40s to about 35 overnight. Temperatures dropped for the next few nights. Overnight conditions were rain mixed with snow, and residents woke up to frozen puddles and cars.

In that same timeframe, volunteers and staff from the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Committee (FECWSC) welcomed, hosted and fed many homeless residents at their temporary location in north Florence.

FECWSC president Taylor Kohn said the number of guests



Before opening Feb. 19, several beds waited for guests to return. Tony Reed photo

may have been a record for the first few nights from Feb. 16 to Feb. 19.

"The last two nights we have had 15 people each night. We can fit 20," she said Feb 19, noting that the shelter has a

supply of new air mattresses that can be inflated for additional guests.

"For having that many people, it has run very smoothly," she said. "We have a well-trained night crew, who are

paid staff, and they do a great job making sure people are supervised. This will be our fourth night. The first night we had 11, and then 15 on the

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Should healthcare visits involve team advocacy?

By **BOB HORNEY**

This is where the “rubber hits the road” – so to speak. Have we ever given thought to that question? By the way, what is Team Advocacy? Or, to put it another way, what is Bob even talking about?

Good questions – let’s see if I can answer them.

When we are totally able to communicate with our healthcare providers, asking questions, fully answering theirs, we are advocating for ourselves. We can take ourselves to the appointment, meet with our provider and return home with mission accomplished. Both the patient and provider depend on the exchange of information that occurs during their meeting to

help resolve the issue at hand. That’s all well and good until one side or the other fails to deliver. When that happens, the health care of the patient suffers.

My recent visit to my dentist, Ryan Korando, painted that picture so clearly. We often chat about more than just dentures and I mentioned working on my articles regarding advocacy in the health care setting. I specifically mentioned gathering information about patients who are in need of having a patient advocate at their service. Ryan not only spoke about dealing with that concern from the health provider’s perspective but also spoke of it as an ongoing battle. I think we can all see the frustration a health care

provider would have in that situation. This gets to the heart of my Title.

Having spent much time with Ryan getting dentures adjusted, etc., the patient will have many questions to answer that will guide him in adjusting them properly. As Ryan said, when he asks the patient for information like that and gets a “deer in the headlights” response he realizes his job just became much more difficult.

The situation Ryan describes relates directly to my Title.

TEAM ADVOCACY means I (the patient) have someone knowledgeable about my health who will accompany me to my healthcare visits and speak on my behalf when necessary. As an example,

Marianne and I go to each other’s healthcare visits. At this point, we each speak as our own advocate, but the other “participates” by adding information, asking questions, etc. If one of us becomes unable to communicate effectively with our provider, the other will step up and become the advocate.

I see the “participant” as one who is interested in assuring that the patient receives appropriate health care. By being an integral part of the patient’s medical appointments, they are gaining information that will help them be a great advocate if the need ever arises. One list I saw of what an advocate does includes the following: Take notes; ask clarifying questions; notice

inconsistencies; speak up when something doesn’t sound right and ensure follow-through on referrals, tests, and treatments. Having an active participant beside us at our health care appointments should be our goal.

When we absolutely need someone to be our health care advocate is not the time to start searching for one. If we have family members who can be our designated advocates, we are extremely fortunate. Having Marianne sitting in close proximity and “participating” in my exam is most reassuring. If I get to the point that Marianne needs to become my advocate, she will have a lot of information about me which will certainly help her. As I read over and over,

advocacy isn’t a luxury, it’s a necessity. Think about it, if I ask a question – will I remember the response by the time the exam is finished? Knowing me, one question won’t satisfy my curiosity about what is going wrong with me. Having Marianne available to write them down means “we” will remember them. Sitting in a physician’s examining room makes me a firm believer in the old saying, Two Heads are Better Than One.

Here’s my take-away: If I was living alone, I would be looking for someone I trust to attend my medical appointments with the long-range possibility of advocating my health care if/when I am no longer capable of advocating for myself.

POLICE LOG

Florence Police Department responded to the following calls between February 10 and February 16

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

At 11:50 a.m., a resident turned in a set of keys found in the area of 7th Street.

At 12:34 p.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of 11th St. for a report of a dispute between a family and a caregiver. It was reported that one of the family members hit the caregiver. Subjects were separated, and the family member was warned about physical harassment.

At 2:19 p.m., officers responded to the 2000 block of 44th Street for

a report that a caregiver had taken money that was given to purchase supplies. The caregiver was asked to leave the property.

At 3:45 p.m., officers made a traffic stop in the 3000 block of Highway 101. Upon checking, officers found the driver had a warrant from Florence Municipal Court. The driver was taken into custody.

At 4:04 p.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of 25th St. for a report that first responders were doing CPR on a subject. The subject could not be resuscitated,

and officers found nothing suspicious about the death.

At 4:29 p.m., officers responded to the bus stop in the 700 block of Highway 101 for a report of an intoxicated subject inside. Subject poured out the contents of his bottle when police arrived. The subject was warned not to continue or that he would be arrested for disorderly conduct.

At 4:31 p.m., officers made a traffic stop in the 2000 block of Highway 101. Upon check-in, the driver was found to have a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. While being taken into custody subject was found in possession of a concealed weapon.

At 4:44 p.m., officers responded to the 1400 block of Pine St. for a report that someone had stolen a bag of aluminum cans. Officers report that the incident was captured on video camera and that the subject returned later to steal more cans.

Subject was arrested for Theft 3.

At 6:48 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of 43rd St. for a reported verbal dispute between 3 to 5 subjects. During the investigation, one of the subjects attempted to leave. Subject was arrested for Trespassing 2, and taken to Detox where a charge of Criminal Mischief 3 was added after he damaged the jail cell.

At 8 p.m., officers responded to report that a vehicle had hit a median and left. Officers found the vehicle running nearby, and conducted a field sobriety test on the driver. Officers determined that the driver was not impaired.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

At 2:40 p.m., they caller reported that a male subject in the area of the community college had flashed her. Officers patrolled the area but were unable to locate the

described subject.

At 2:56 p.m., officers responded to the 3500 block of Oak Street for a reported dispute between father and son. Upon arrival, officers were told the father had taken a vape pen from the sun, who became angry and started kicking things around the house. No crime was committed, subjects were counseled, and no further action was taken.

At 4:48 p.m., officers responded to the 3700 block of Highway 101 for a reported dispute between two subjects. Officers investigated, but neither subject wished to press charges. No further action was taken.

At 8:28 p.m., a caller in the 1200 block of Bay Street reported hearing a thump on her window and kids laughing. The caller came out to find an adult toy affixed to her window. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate any juveniles.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

At 12:34 a.m., a caller reported that a subject had left after making threats to harm himself. The subject’s license plate number was entered into the Flock camera system. Oregon State Police were then able to locate the subject and talk him down.

At 11:05 a.m., a caller reported that someone had been digging in the dirt and moving large rocks near the Florence Events Center.

At 11:41 a.m., officers responded to the 3500 block of Highway 101 for a report that an 11-year-old juvenile had run away. Juvenile was located in minutes, and no further action was taken.

At 2:32 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of Kenwood for a report of a male subject yelling inside of business. Arriving officers were able to calm the situation, and the subject agreed to come back and talk to the manager later.

At 10:50 p.m., officers found that someone had placed large traffic cones in the roadway in the area of Highway 101 and 12th St. Cones were removed.

At 11:21 p.m., officers found a stopped vehicle in the area of Highway 101 and 126. The driver told officers the car had stalled and wouldn’t start. Officers helped her push the car out of the roadway and a tow truck was called.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

At 2:16 p.m., a caller reported losing her wallet in the 1800 block of 42nd St. The caller re-contacted to say she had found her wallet.

At 3:50 p.m., officers responded to the 2400 block of 16th St. for a report of a verbal dispute between husband and wife. It was then reported that the wife’s father arrived, and a dispute between him and the husband occurred. Officers investigated and found no one had been injured and that no crime had been committed. Subjects were counseled, and no further action was taken.

At 9:37 p.m., a business in the 700 block of Highway 101 reported that a subject had left with a handful of merchandise.

At 11:50 p.m., an abandoned vehicle was found in the 3100 block of Highway 101, and a tow truck was called to remove it.

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William Louis Free

June 9, 1940 - February 7, 2026

William Louis (Bill) Free of San Saba, Texas, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 7 at Advent Health Hospital in Killeen, Texas, with his wife, Marti, by his side.

Bill was born on June 9, 1940, in Bryan, Texas, to William (Ruby) and Francis Free. After graduating from Stephen F. Austin High School, he enlisted in the Navy, serving aboard the USS Bugara submarine.

In 1959, Bill met Maren (Marti) Cook and they married in 1961. Together they raised four children, Kristen, Valerie, Jason, and Jennifer.

After his discharge from the Navy, Bill began a career in finance while attending

San Bernardino Valley College. In 1972, the Frees moved to Florence, Oregon, after purchasing a Sears Catalog Store. Later, Bill achieved his life-long ambition of becoming an Auctioneer and Real Estate Broker. In 2003 Bill was elected to the Oregon Auctioneers Hall of Fame.

Bill was pre-deceased by his parents and five siblings.

He is survived by a sister, Elizabeth Schake of Arizona. In addition to his immediate family, he is survived by ten grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

In 2021, Bill and Marti retired to San Saba, Texas and have become active members of New Hope Presbyterian Church, ECO, in the community of Sloan.

Jamie Wallace

Feb 1, 1976 - Feb 6, 2026

Jamie Lynette Wallace (maiden Boyd) passed away in her home surrounded by the ones that loved her on Feb. 6th, 2026. She fought for almost 3 years with chronic pancreatitis but eventually it took her away from us much too young.

Jamie was born Feb. 1st, 1976, to Darlene Hays and Roger Boyd in Vancouver, WA. She moved to Estacada, Oregon with her mom and called it home.

She was a hairdresser, then took care of children, raised award-winning Labradors, and worked for DSHS later on. She married her husband Erik M. Wallace Sep. 16, 2000.

She loved her husband, her children, and animals.

She survives by her husband Erik, her children, six grandchildren, her dad Gregory, her father Roger, brothers, and numerous friends. Her loud laugh and never stop personality will be missed.

A celebration of life will be held at the

Estacada Funeral Home on February 28th, 2026, at 11am. All who loved her are welcomed.

Funeral Arrangements, Estacada Funeral Home on February 28th, 2026, at 11am.

Assumptions about homelessness

TONY REED
Editor

As a reporter since 1999, I've worked in several communities dealing with greater and lesser degrees of homelessness. People in my former town of Mendocino would think Florence has a big homeless problem. However, people in Crescent City would look at our situation and say, "that's nothing."

I've heard the rhetoric from politicians, the fear from residents, and the opposition from property owners when it comes to helping homeless people. I've also interviewed many homeless people and I can say I was often surprised and felt pangs of guilt for my own incorrect assumptions about them.

I remember interviewing a man who had just fallen on hard luck, and found himself asking for change near a supermarket. Upon looking into his back-ground, I found that in his former town, he had been recognized by the city its fire department for saving the life of a truck driver who had a heart attack at the wheel. I interviewed a woman who left home

after being repeatedly sexually assaulted, only to find herself sexually assaulted again as a homeless woman. She told me her goal was to take classes and become a women's advocate. I interviewed a man who lost his entire contracting business after a divorce and then found himself homeless because of the exorbitant legal costs. That man came back into my office a couple years later to tell me he was getting back on his feet and planning to start a new business.

My point? No human being is a lost cause and not everything we think about homeless people is true.

Some would be surprised to know I was homeless myself in my early 20s. I survived the cold autumn nights in Montana by stealing apples from trees, serving food at the homeless mission during the day and sleeping in an abandoned van that was riddled with



bulletholes. With help from some friends and community members, I was also able to get back on my feet.

It's been said that many of us are one paycheck away from being homeless, and it can happen to anyone.

For all my experiences, I'm not shy about talking to homeless people. Aside from a few early-20s nomad transients, every one I've spoken with has hated their situation and felt powerless to get out of it. They say that without a shower, a mailbox, a car, a daily change of clothes, and a phone, it's almost impossible to get and keep a job. Some found their way into homelessness via illicit drugs, opioids or alcohol, but also recognized that they need help to clean up.

Others have told me it breaks their heart to see that people are so afraid of them. Take a moment to meditate on what that must feel like.

Taylor Kohn made a

fantastic point during our conversation that no matter what is happening on the national level, we all have a duty to make a difference in our tiny communities. And we do that by simply doing what we're supposed to do, which is to look out for each other, help in any way we can, and work together.

Her suggestion, and also mine, is to step outside your box and help. Go through your closets and donate last winter's coats, donate to the FoodShare, Siuslaw Outreach Services, Helping Hands Coalition, or any of the local churches actively helping the homeless. Join a local help organization. Call around to see who's cooking and serving food. Then help directly so you can actually look people in the face to see their genuine gratitude.

As individuals, we can't help the entire homeless community, but as a community, we can help many homeless individuals. Imagine the help and insight they can offer when they become stable members of the community again.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Compliments to Tony Reed of the Siuslaw News for his fine reporting on the City Council decision regarding Flock cameras in Florence in the February 11th edition of the paper. His reporting was well detailed and public comments accurate. The reader got a good sense of what the session was about. Well done.

*George Durant
Florence*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Mouse That Roared was a fictional movie about a tiny nation that collapses because its main product is duplicated in, of all places, California. They declare war on the United States, expecting to lose, and then receive aid from the U.S. They accidentally win and become a world power. It is important to remember the word "fictional." On February 2, 2026, the 5-member Florence City Council declared war on the United States of America by defying the Supremacy Clause (Article VI, Clause 2) of the U.S. Constitution. This clause makes the federal government the supreme law of the land, able to override conflicting state constitutions or statutes. By passing this resolution, we are excusing persons who not "only" violated our federal laws by entering illegally, but we are expected to give them comfort and shelter. This resolution admits these persons are "in violation of federal immigration laws" as if it were no big deal. Unlike the movie, when the federal government comes to call, Florence will not have won the war. Will the Geriatric Militia greet the National Guard

on the corner of Routes 101 and 126 with placards and canes? Will the ten Police Officers materialize with guns drawn? This is a town no one has heard of except the people who live here, in a state that has become a joke on the six o'clock news. It is time for Florence, and indeed, Oregon to protect citizens who have come here legally. Those who do not, have no rights. The Justice Department has published a list of Sanctuary Jurisdictions, and Oregon is on it. As a result, Oregon could lose significant federal money. But don't worry, Salem is so busy dreaming up new laws to tax its "citizens", what's a few folks who "only" wandered in from a foreign country "in violation of federal immigration laws?"

*Diane Manos
Florence*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pennies/Nickels
Our federal administration no longer issues pennies. There are two needs; without rounding, allow XXX.99 pricing and sales tax. Oregon added a sales tax on gross receipts in 2020 by legislation calling it a "corporate activity tax" to fool us. Some businesses have CAT due on receipts though the ST label would be just as accurate.

The "Federal Reserve Dollar Note" paper was issued redeemable in silver and gold until Nixon in 1971 terminated this exchange. Smaller denomination coins originally were like the quarter being 1/4 ounce of silver. Our Administration turned to producing fake silver clad copper coins (dimes/quarters) and copper clad iron

coins (pennies). Coins are now "tokens"; no longer real "money". Now even those coins cost more to produce than they represent as the federal currency debasement continues.

Nothing prevents citizens and businesses from adopting alternatives. With the demise of the penny, next will be the nickel. I propose we implement an alternate penny and nickel. Electrical boxes typically have 1/2 and 3/4 inch punch outs which go to our landfills. Let us start accepting the 1/2 as a penny and the 3/4 as a nickel; or something similar. Not only will we divert metal from our landfills; but, we might even get our Administration to accept these replacements.

*Keith Stanton, CCP
Florence*

DEAR EDITOR,

How tragic that so many Americans regard President Trump as a liar. A shameless, egregious liar, divorced from reality by his supposed character and personality flaws. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth. Our leader is a man of honesty and integrity. I believe I may have come up with a way to assuage the public's concern with the President's credibility. Most of us have heard of "the briefcase" with our nuclear codes, carried by a military officer always stationed near the President. What I propose is a similar arrangement, namely a portable high-tech lie detector, powered by AI, to be maintained next to the President for his press conferences, Cabinet meetings, rallies, and visits with foreign dignitaries. In the unlikely case of a lie being detected by AI, a red light

would flash on the detector, from one time (small lie) up to three times (big lie), within view of all those present, including media. Only problem I can foresee is having to replace those red light bulbs so darn often.

*Jim White
Florence*

DEAR EDITOR,

I saw Pam Bondi (our DOJ) tell Congress they should stop talking about the Epstein Files and focus on how good the DOW is doing. Probably good advice. Rich people usually get off, special treatment like Ms. Maxwell got, or got a pardon anyway.

Fun fact:
Just 10% of Americans own 90% of the stock. 50% of Americans own less than 1% of the stock. So when stocks go high, 90% of the profit goes to the top 10%. Seems the Stock market is just an indicator of wealth transferring from the lower 50% of us to the richest top 10%.

My true economic indicator is getting my Freddy's \$20 off when I buy \$200 of groceries. It used to be a challenge, but now I can do it with just 2-3 bags of groceries. My gas and health insurance is up.

I just try to follow the money - but it seems to be running from me. I guess this is the new "Golden Age" for America - just not for the majority of Americans, at least from a money standpoint.

Best thing the ones in power can do - distraction. Could explain what the "Show" everyday is about

*Steve Williams
Florence*



Siuslaw News

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The newspaper is published every **WEDNESDAY**. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Country Media, P.O. Box 35, Salem, OR 97301.

OFFICE HOURS

Siuslaw News office is closed to in-person service. Call 541-997-3441 - Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The *Siuslaw News* welcomes Letters to the Editor and Guest Viewpoints as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Email letters to treed@countrymedia.net

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION:

- Letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large. In addition:
- Letters reflect the opinion of the writer. The *Siuslaw News* cannot verify the accuracy of all statements made in letters. Authors should ensure any information is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay, and include sources where possible.
- Letters have a suggested 300-word limit and may be edited for grammar and clarity. Occasionally letters will be longer.
- Authors must sign their full name and include their street address (only city will be printed), as well as a daytime phone number and/or email address for verification. The person who signs the letter must be the actual author. *Siuslaw News* does not accept anonymous Letters to the Editor.
- Siuslaw News* will not print form letters, libelous letters, business promotions or personal disputes, poetry, open letters, letters espousing religious views without reference to a current issue, or letters considered in poor taste. Letters also may not be part of letter-writing campaigns.
- Writers are limited to one published letter every two weeks.

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Emailed submissions are preferred. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. The newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| FEBRUARY 25 | FEBRUARY 26 | FEBRUARY 27 | FEBRUARY 28 | MARCH 1 | MARCH 2 | MARCH 3 |
| | | | | | | |
| 51° / 41° Partly Cloudy | 53° / 43° Showers | 53° / 41° Showers | 53° / 42° AM Showers | 54° / 41° Showers | 54° / 40° Showers | 55° / 42° Showers |

2026 Chowder Champions crowned

FROM FLORENCE AREA
Chamber Of Commerce

Florence's annual Wine, Chowder & Glass Float Trail Weekend concluded with record participation, a new champion, and a festive three-day celebration across town. Held during Presidents Day and Valentine's Day weekend, the 2026 event featured 15 wineries and distilleries, 10 chowder competitors vying for a new trophy, and more than 30 hand-blown glass floats "hidden in plain sight" in local businesses.

"What a weekend in Oregon's Coastal Playground," said Bettina Hannigan, president/CEO of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. "We welcomed more than 600 wine tasters, hundreds



Hannigan and Ball flank Kylie McKenzie, The Firehouse Restaurant manager

of chowder judges, and enthusiastic glass float hunters exploring town all three days. We met people from around the country and a visitor from Germany. The energy was incredible—and now the

votes are in."

The Chowder Champion trophy was awarded to The Firehouse Restaurant. Lovejoy's Restaurant & Tea Room earned second place, and Linda Did It Deli claimed third.

"I think our clam chowder is different from others because of the seasonings we use," said Kylie McKenzie, manager at The Firehouse Restaurant. (she wasn't going to divulge trade secrets).

"We won the old Chowder, Blues, and Brews Festival in 2003, 2004, and 2005. Then, we were asked to judge it in 2006, and we finally entered and won again in 2011. We entered the Florence Wine, Chowder & Glass Float Trail Weekend a couple of times, and we won this year. Truthfully, it feels wonderful to win again," she said.

"We've been using this same chowder recipe since our restaurant opened in March of 2002. It just fills my heart knowing that

everyone who voted for us, and many who didn't, enjoyed our chowder. We went through at least 13 gallons worth of our clam chowder just for the contest's samples, and we sold at least 15 gallons on Sunday. It makes me proud to still be doing this after all these years, and it was wonderful to see so many people coming through town," she added.

Throughout the weekend, participants searched for glass floats hidden inside Florence businesses. Each discovery earned an entry into Sunday's drawing, where 35 locally crafted glass floats were awarded. Free shuttle service, provided by Three Rivers Casino Resort, connected Gazebo Park, the Port of Siuslaw, and the casino, making

it easier for guests to explore.

Wine tastings took place Saturday and Sunday at more than 15 locations throughout Historic Old Town, showcasing regional vineyards and local distilleries.

The event wrapped up Sunday afternoon, February 15, with the Chowder Trail judging and glass float giveaway.

"With more than 600 wine tasters and hundreds of chowder judges and float hunters over three incredible days, this event required serious planning—and they delivered," Hannigan said. "Because of their hard work, our businesses benefited, our visitors had a fantastic experience, and our community shone brightly."

Scotch Broom removal at Oregon Dunes day use area

Join the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative for its first volunteer event for 2026! They will be removing invasive Scotch broom and Portuguese broom at the Oregon Dunes Day Use Area on Saturday, February 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. It will be a short walk on moderate, sandy slopes to get to the

work area. Bring closed-toe shoes, work gloves, water, and snacks. Please bring shovels, hand saws, or loppers if you have them. If you don't, ODRC will have tools you can borrow.

The Day Use Area is mid-way between Reedsport and Florence. You can go to the beach after the event. It is a

two-mile hike round trip. Children and grandchildren are invited, this is a family-friendly event!

As you know, the weather on the Oregon coast can be quite varied. One day it can be nice and sunny, which we are hoping for on the 28th, the next day it can be stormy. Dress for the weather! If

it is sunny or misting, we will be working, if it is a storm, we will cancel. We will make the best call that we can Friday afternoon, the 27th. Check our webpage, <http://www.saveoregondunes/events/> or our Facebook page, Save The Oregon Dunes, for updates.

Directions:
From Florence, OR take Highway 101 south 11.4 miles. Look for the Oregon

Dunes Day Use Area sign. Turn right (west) into the parking area.

From Reedsport, OR take Highway 101 north 11.5 miles. Look for the Oregon Dunes Day Use Area sign. Turn left (west) into the parking area.

Parking: Go past the individual parking spaces next to the side walk, and park in the parking area for larger vehicles. Day use

fees are waived for volunteers at this event.

The Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative's mission is to collaboratively support, guide and promote Oregon dunes restoration and the preservation of the open sand, unique habitats, and dunes processes that benefit the plants, animals and people who live and play in this special place.



Many improvements in the area of 35th Street and Laurelwood. Photo provided

City complete 35th St. safe routes to school

FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE

The City of Florence is pleased to announce the 35th Street Pedestrian

Improvement Project is now complete.

The "Safe Routes to School" grant-funded project on 35th Street installed sidewalks to the south side

of 35th Street between Siano Loop at Rolling Dunes Park and Kingwood Street, and to both the north and south sides of 35th Street between Kingwood and Oak. This included ADA compliant curb ramps at the street intersections along the route.

Since November 2025, the City's contractor, SLE Inc., worked to install over 21,000 square feet of concrete, over 100 tons of asphalt, and over 1,200 lineal feet of thermoplastic roadway markings, including crosswalks and stop bars. The project was completed at the end of January 2026.

The City of Florence would like to thank the public for their patience during construction, especially with the traffic impacts. Public Works Director August Murphy also thanked SLE Inc. for their efficient and hard-working crews, which completed the project so quickly. Their professionalism and hard work made this project successful.

"Furthermore, a special thanks goes out to our Public Works Inspector, Jake Krieger, whose dedication and many hours of on-site inspections ensured that the new pedestrian walkways fully comply with ADA standards and meet the high-quality standards the Public Works Department is known for," Murphy said.

Learn more about the project at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/848/35th-Street-Pedestrian-Improvements>.

the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, savings and doings around town.

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Pet of the Week



SWEET AS SUGAR

Sugar is 2 years old and 18 pounds of sweet, sweet love. This girl has lived with kids. Although shy when meeting new dogs, we believe she could live peacefully with other pets. She is looking for an active home where she can spend time with her family and go on lots of adventures. If you'd like to add a spoonful of Sugar to your life, stop by the shelter or apply online!

If you would like to meet them or any of their friends, please visit us at:

OREGON COAST HUMANE SOCIETY
2840 Rhododendron Drive • Florence • 541-997-4277
www.oregoncoasthumaneociety.org
Shelter hours are 10am until 5pm seven days a week.

This message brought to you by:

News and views that define our community.
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Sharing the warmth

Laura Wilson, Broker with Windermere Real Estate, recently hosted her 7th Annual "Share the Warmth" drive in partnership with the Idylewood community. This year, more than 60 red bags filled with jackets, blankets, and socks were collected and donated to Siuslaw Outreach Services.

Over the past seven years, Wilson and the residents of Idylewood have contributed more than 440 bags of much-needed items to support local individuals and families through S.O.S.



Pictured: Laura Wilson, Broker at Windermere Real Estate, and Bob Teeter, Director of Siuslaw Outreach Services.



(L-R) Exalted Ruler Gary Vawter, PER and ENF Fundraising Chairman - George Bandy, Pregnancy & Parenting Executive Director Susan Kirby, PER Tom Hornback, Manager of Client Services -Teresa LaNasa



(L-R) Project Coordinator - Diane Williams, PER Tom Hornback, Project Coordinator- Darren Williams, PER and ENF Fundraising Chairman - George Bandy, Pastor Mike Brandow, Exalted Ruler Gary Vawter

Pancake breakfast was a hit

The Pancake Breakfast benefiting the Pregnancy and Parenting Center February 14, was a huge success. Over 110 pancake breakfasts were served. The Center received numerous donations from the public. Florence Elks Lodge received grants from the Elks National Foundation which enables the Lodge to help support the Center both financially and through events such as this.

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MLS Listings: 24230994, 24400021, 24318214, 24290679, 24686796, 24024694, 24417443

Elks benefit Backpacks for Kids

The Florence Elks Lodge #1858 donated part of their Beacon Grant of \$3000 to Backpack for Kids, to help provide weekend food supplies to at-risk, food insecure

students during the school year. This enables those students, chosen by the schools in Florence to have nutritional meals on weekends. When families have to choose between

buying groceries and paying bills, Backpack for Kids steps in to help. Elk volunteers help to pack up the meals for the kids, so they have them for the weekend.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

POLICE

From Page A2

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

At 9:31 a.m., a subject came into the police department to report that a gun had been stolen from his vehicle. The case remains under investigation.

At 10:43 p.m., a caller reported that his 16-year-old son had left the house and hadn't been seen for several hours. The juvenile's information was entered into the system, and as of February 17, he still had not returned.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

At 11:46 a.m., officers

responded to the 2200 block of 42nd St. for a report that juveniles were damaging a stop sign and throwing rocks at an electrical box. Officers contacted some juveniles who said they were just playing with the stop sign. Officers inspected the sign and the box and found no damage to them.

At 3 p.m., a caller reported a dark green Jeep in the area of Highway 126 and Highway one01 that was unable to stay in its lane and had some of its lights out. Officers patrolled the area, but were unable to locate the described vehicle.

At 3:11 p.m., a caller reported finding several small nitrous oxide (whip-pet) containers along

Munsel Creek Road.

At 10:32 p.m., a caller reported hearing a loud noise in the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive. Officers were able to determine the noise was a backfiring vehicle, and the driver was warned.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

At 5:17 a.m., a caller reported that he had shot his gun into his floor at his address on Easy Street.

No other calls were received.

At 10:54 a.m., officers responded to the area of Kingwood Drive and Airport Road for a reported dispute between a male and a female. Subjects were separated and counseled.

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MARCH 14, 2026

SILENT AUCTION - 5pm AT THE FLORENCE
DINNER - 6:30pm EVENTS CENTER
LIVE AUCTION: - 7pm 715 QUINCE ST.

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Peace Harbor Volunteers

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www.ustooflorence.org

To include your organization in this directory please call us @ 541-997-3441

SOS

From Page A1

the county to do some case management, but they make the decision about who receives those move-in dollars.”

In the meantime, SOS continues to assist several residents with basic need vouchers, food and clothing while making referrals to other county-wide programs to help them relocate or connect with legal services, he said.

COME TOGETHER

The email said it will take the entire community to come together to make this happen.

“That was in reference to addressing the significant number of people who are going to be unhoused, to find some housing alternative for them,” Teter explained later. “Also, in terms of sheltering, like ongoing shelter, the programs rely on volunteers, they rely on funding, and they rely on location, and that’s where the community needs to come together and solve those barriers.”

Asked how the average community member can help, Teter said the first, foremost and easiest, is that the emergency cold-weather shelter needs volunteers.

“...and they need help

with funding,” he added. “There used to be a year-round shelter program called Bridges. I know there is a group trying to restart that program, but I know they struggle because they lack volunteers, and there were some other issues.

The other thing is to help with locations for these programs. Nobody wants it in their backyard, so these programs struggle to find a location. It’s going to take a community to come together and allow those programs to exist. When Bridges was operating, they had a lot of success helping people get jobs, several kicked their addiction issues and and there was a lot of good work being done, but they struggled with community support.”

Teter explained that SOS supports and works with housing and shelter programs that run such programs.

“One of the positive things that’s coming out of this is that I think there are those discussions and groups coming together. I did spearhead a volunteer group right before Covid hit, and I’m hoping we can get that restarted. It was called the Homelessness Resource Team, which was going to be a collection of different agency groups that address homelessness to do some kind of team case

management- Not actually operating shelters, but a team approach of case management. I’m hoping we can get that restarted again and from there, some kind of shelter program may come together.”

Asked if any clients are in danger of being put out in the cold presently, Teter said SOS has been successful in helping people out of domestic violence issues.

WHAT SOS DOES

“Our agency is three different departments, and domestic violence is only one component. Our three departments are special victims assistance, which we have advocacy and resource programs for people who are fleeing or experiencing domestic violence, trafficking, stalking and elder abuse. That department sees about 300 cases a year. Our Crisis Assistance is rent assistance, basic needs vouchers- we need shower, laundry, transportation, prescription assistance, some case management services,” he explained. “Our third arm is outreach and education, and we are doing self-sufficiency programs in areas of personal finance, personal responsibility, summer employment classes, intro to family law, and all of our services are free and open to the

public.”

Teter said his agency has about 2,500 clients year-round and distributes between \$600,000 and \$1 million each year in direct aid in the Florence area.

He said when SOS moved into its resource center last fall, it started a mental health service program, along with programs for people with disabilities and the Reveille Foundation, which focuses on veterans.

He said that since the resource center opened last fall, things have been going well, outside of some phone and technical issues.

“We’re getting closer to getting all those problems solved in an old building like this,” he said, “but we are averaging about 40 visitors a day.”

Asked if there is anything he would like the community to know, Teter said, “There are a lot of great agencies out there doing some really great work,” he said, mentioning Florence First Step. He said if the Bridges program can be revived, it will again be a great resource for the community. He said Florence Food Share also does a lot for the community and works with SOS. He said a mobile pantry will kick off in March.

“Find those different resources and get involved and volunteer,” he said. “Someone asked me, ‘Why isn’t there just one agency handling it all?’ and the answer is that since we have so many complex issues that people are dealing with, you need experts in those particular fields. Working together, which was the vision of this resource center, to get all those agencies together working on coordinating and really making a difference as a whole.

To help SOS or for more information, call (541) 997-2816.

OTHER AVENUES

According to the City of Florence website, it’s offering opportunities to support those experiencing homelessness by creating a temporary sheltering program for private property owners to allow limited sheltering via tent or vehicle.

Since 2024, private property owners have been allowed to host people experiencing homelessness and allow them to essentially “camp” on their property. However, property owners will need to register with the City to do so. More information is online at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/458/Temporary-Sheltering>

The City website also refers to “Emergency

Shelter Super Siting” as a method for assisting the implementation of emergency shelters.

“In June 2020, the Oregon Legislature adopted HB 4212 to remove land use barriers that might otherwise prevent emergency shelters from locating on certain sites,” the city website states. “In summary, the legislation allows local governments and certain non-profit organizations to develop emergency shelters in available buildings and on open sites without the need for any land use approvals. Thus, an emergency shelter is permitted to make use of property even if the emergency shelter use is not allowed on the property under the City’s land use regulations, that would, under typical circumstances, require certain applications prior to starting the emergency shelter. The City is required to approve the emergency shelter application, so long as the proposal meets basic approval criteria.”

Applicants are required to fill out the Emergency Shelter Siting Application for review and consideration for approval based on the requirements of HB 3395.

For more information regarding emergency shelters, please call the planning department at 541-997-8237.

SHELTERS

From Page A1

last two nights. I think that might be a record, except for when First Presbyterian Church ran it years ago.”

She said that whenever the shelter opens, the number of guests increases after the first night, once the word gets out.

“The majority have been men,” she said, “and we had three women last night. People have been just so grateful to have a warm place.”

Kohn explained that

upon check-in, all guests sign a waiver and are given the basic rules for their stay. She said that overall, all of the guests were civil and well-behaved. Only one person was asked to leave for creating a disturbance.

She said guests are not allowed to leave the building and run around once they have checked in, and they are not allowed to camp in their cars in the parking lot. She said most guests arrived on foot, but a van was available to pick people up from various locations around Florence.

She said two staff people are on duty at

any time throughout the check-in process and overnight.

She said bags and personal effects are checked and locked up for the night inside the building.

The large indoor space is separated into two sides by doorways. Inside the room where they check in, there are several large tables with chairs, puzzles and books, some free clothing items, a television with DVD movies and food cooking and serving supplies.

In the next large room, beds lined the walls, and some personal items had been left next to their bed of choice by guests who knew it would be open again the next night. She said it was fortunate that the location was available, since packing up daily would have been impossible for so few staff.

“In the past, being in different locations, everything would have to be packed up in the morning, loaded into a trailer and unpacked again,” she said.

Food was prepared at another location and brought in for serving. Kohn said staff underestimated the amount of food needed, because some people came to eat but

not to stay.

A GENEROUS DONATION

Kohn said that while looking for a suitable building, an anonymous donor contacted FECWSC and offered to help pay rent if a more stable building could be found. She said staff contacted the owner of the building, who lives in Coos Bay, who happily agreed to rent it out. She said FECWSC was able to rent the building for less than half of what it would typically cost, and the donor paid for it.

“It’s just been amazing that we have this spot,” she said.

Kohn said she has spoken to the neighbors several times, and they have been welcoming and happy with the shelter. She said one immediate neighbor even offered to help cook food.

A MESSAGE

“I think it’s important that the community, as a whole, think about our homeless neighbors,” she said. There’s a wide variety of reasons why people become homeless.”

She said that as a retired social worker, she has seen people at every income level, and

age group within the homeless population. She noted that everything from childhood trauma to economic issues to unforeseen life circumstances can lead to homelessness, which nobody wants.

“From my experience and my past and then working here, some of the homeless people or some of the most courageous, resilient, survivors and just good people. They help each other out even though they have nothing. Sometimes they congregate in camps so they can protect each other. Then people have a whole issue about the camps. It’s kind of human behavior to connect and feel safe, so I wish the community would understand that the whole issue is very complex and we just need more compassion and the ability to give people a safe place and help them move forward.”

She said even at the warming shelter, staff were able to make connections for people, including a veteran who needed transportation home. Staff were able to get him a bus ticket.

“We can help make those connections. It’s like a crossroads here

where someone can come in and get out of the rain and have a chance to settle, and we can direct them to other services, or just give them that sense that someone cares. I’ve had people just start crying...”

Kohn said she hopes that a permanent winter shelter can be established in Florence rather than one only open during life-threatening weather events.

“I think if we had something like that, we would say good outcomes,” she said. “We would see fewer of the issues that are caused by people being out there.”

The Bridges program, a 20-unit emergency shelter in Florence provided closed due to the lease ending and the closure of an All In grant. In October, the Florence City Council approved a request from FECWSC to operate an overnight shelter in the winter months when temperatures are forecast below 34 degrees or 38 degrees during windy, rainy nights. Thursday, Feb. 19 was the shelter’s final consecutive cold weather night, since forecasts predicted warmer temperatures and a chance of continuing rain.






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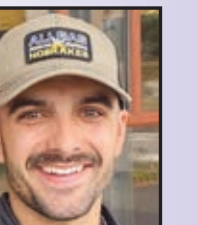


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| <p>4837 SEAPINE DR.</p>  <p>Immaculate 1802 SF home. Remodeled kitchen. Extra lot w/garage/shop. .67 ac. Total. 3 Bed/2 Bath.</p> <p>\$499,999</p> | <p>289 HARBOR ST.</p>  <p>Charming home in Old Town with upstairs apt. One block from the marina. 2 Bed/2.5 Bath, 1752 SF.</p> <p>\$495,000</p> | <p>1651 29TH ST.</p>  <p>Completely remodeled and move-in ready! Large fenced yard + covered patio. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 1076 SF.</p> <p>\$390,000</p> | <p>83591 SAUTER DRIVE</p>  <p>Like new home in private Woahink Lake neighborhood. Shared community dock. Sold fully furnished. 3 Bed/2 Bath. 2008 SF</p> <p>\$799,000</p> |
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| <p>1080 BAY ST. #19</p>  <p>Bay Bridge Condo with River views. Covered porch. Dedicated parking space and storage unit. 2 Bed/2 Bath. 1048 SF</p> <p>\$439,000</p> | <p>4948 OCEANA DR.</p>  <p>Surrounded by lush vegetation for privacy. Hardwood floors and built-ins throughout. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1568 SF</p> <p>\$459,900</p> | <p>87803 SANDRIFT ST.</p>  <p>Cozy Idylewood cottage on a corner lot. Dead end street w/ private backyard. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1084 SF. 3 car garage.</p> <p>\$399,999</p> | <p>5938 VIEW LOOP</p>  <p>2 level chalet w/ Mercer Lake access plus oversized garage & workshop. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2110 sq. ft.</p> <p>\$484,000</p> | <p>18156 HIGHWAY 36 • BLACHLY</p>  <p>Coastal ranch on 22 creekfront acres. NW designed custom home. Shop w/ full bath. 2 + Bed/3 Bath, 2952 SF</p> <p>\$950,000</p> |
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| <p>1260 10TH ST. #5</p>  <p>Ideally located in the heart of Florence. New kitchen, flooring, paint and carpet upgrade. Assigned parking. 1 Bed/1 Bath, 541 SF</p> <p>\$170,000</p> | <p>1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #654</p>  <p>1993 Golden West double-wide. New roof in 2024. All appliances included. 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1080 SF</p> <p>\$310,000</p> | <p>1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #673</p>  <p>Triple-wide manufactured home. Manicured landscaping. Two workshops and RV port. 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1836 SF</p> <p>\$398,000</p> | <p>1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #694</p>  <p>Cozy home with LVP flooring, ductless heat pump & large living room. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1539 SF</p> <p>\$314,997</p> | <p>21 TWIN TREE CT.</p>  <p>2 story luxury home w/ incredible views of the ocean. Tongue and groove vaulted ceilings. 5 Bed/2.5 Bath, 3378 SF</p> <p>\$1,299,999</p> |
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| <p>2131 WILLOW LOOP</p>  <p>Impeccably maintained Willow Dunes home. Fully fenced w/ low maintenance landscaping. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2199 SF</p> <p>\$739,500</p> | <p>87636 RHODODENDRON DR.</p>  <p>Build your dream home on this .19 lot. Water, electricity & septic installed. Note: the mobile on property has no value.</p> <p>\$145,000</p> | <p>1277 BAY STREET</p>  <p>Rare offering. Quaint Bay St. building currently rented. Prime location on "Restaurant Row". Shown by appt. only.</p> <p>\$392,500</p> | <p>2217 HWY 101</p>  <p>Building for sale. 120 FT of Highway frontage & ample off street parking.</p> <p>\$600,000</p> | <p>2230 KINGWOOD ST.</p>  <p>Rare & coveted income opportunity! Leased thru 3/31/2028. Professional office interior. 4900 SF.</p> <p>\$625,000</p> |
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|  <p>LYNNETTE WIKSTROM Broker</p> |  <p>MISSY JOHNSON Broker</p> |  <p>RANDY PAREDES Broker</p> |  <p>SADIE CLARK Broker</p> |  <p>SAM JOHNSON Broker</p> |  <p>SHIRLEY HUNT Principal Broker</p> |  <p>WANDA JOHNSON Broker</p> |



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Tide Table

Siuslaw River Entrance saltwatertides.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

High.....5:28 a.m.....7.9
Low.....1:19 p.m.....0.5
High.....8:27 p.m.....5.2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Low.....12:29 a.m.....4.4
High.....6:50 a.m.....7.7
Low.....2:35 p.m.....0.2
High.....9:48 p.m.....5.7

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Low.....2:13 a.m.....4.3
High.....8:14 a.m.....7.7
Low.....3:38 p.m.....-0.2
High.....10:37 p.m.....6.2

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Low.....3:33 a.m.....3.7
High.....9:26 a.m.....7.8
Low.....4:30 p.m.....-0.6
High.....11:15 p.m.....6.8

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

Low.....4:34 a.m.....3.0
High.....10:24 a.m.....7.9
Low.....5:13 p.m.....-0.7
High.....11:49 p.m.....7.2

MONDAY, MARCH 2

Low.....5:25 a.m.....2.2
High.....11:15 a.m.....7.9
Low.....5:51 p.m.....-0.7

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

High.....12:20 a.m.....7.5
Low.....6:10 a.m.....1.6
High.....12:01 p.m.....7.7
Low.....6:25 p.m.....-0.4

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

High.....12:50 a.m.....7.8
Low.....6:51 a.m.....1.1
High.....12:45 p.m.....7.4
Low.....6:58 p.m.....0.1

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

High.....1:18 a.m.....7.9
Low.....7:30 a.m.....0.8
High.....1:28 p.m.....7.0
Low.....7:29 p.m.....0.7

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

High.....1:46 a.m.....7.8
Low.....8:08 a.m.....0.6
High.....2:11 p.m.....6.6
Low.....7:58 p.m.....1.5

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

High.....2:13 a.m.....7.7
Low.....8:47 a.m.....0.7
High.....2:56 p.m.....6.1
Low.....8:26 p.m.....2.2

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

High.....3:40 a.m.....7.5
Low.....10:28 a.m.....0.8
High.....4:44 p.m.....5.6
Low.....9:54 p.m.....2.9

MONDAY, MARCH 9

High.....4:10 a.m.....7.3
Low.....11:15 a.m.....1.1
High.....5:41 p.m.....5.2
Low.....10:23 p.m.....3.5

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

High.....4:46 a.m.....7.0
Low.....12:15 p.m.....1.4
High.....6:56 p.m.....4.8
Low.....10:58 p.m.....4.0

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

High.....5:34 a.m.....6.7
Low.....1:30 p.m.....1.6
High.....8:44 p.m.....4.7

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Low.....12:04 a.m.....4.4
High.....6:44 a.m.....6.5
Low.....2:48 p.m.....1.4
High.....10:19 p.m.....5.0

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Low.....2:04 a.m.....4.5
High.....8:11 a.m.....6.4
Low.....3:51 p.m.....1.1
High.....11:02 p.m.....5.3



Will Johnson delivers a signature hit for the blue and gold. Courtesy photos from Will Johnson



Will Johnson was a threat on both sides of the ball and a leader for the Vikings in the locker room.

Siuslaw's Will Johnson receives statewide recognition

Football coach honored for sensational senior season

Will LOHRE
Country Media Inc.

"The next four years should be fun," Siuslaw Football Head Coach Sam Johnson told OSAA today in 2021. What was it he was looking forward to? The

opportunity to coach his younger brother, Will Johnson, then an eighth grader who had been a ball boy for the football team for three seasons. At the time, Sam believed his brother had potential. And he was right.

Fast forward to 2025, and Will Johnson has capped one of the most decorated careers in Siuslaw history. His 2025 season was one for the books. Literally.

A single-man demolition crew on both sides of the ball, Johnson finished his senior season with 1,031 rushing yards, 700 receiving yards, 20 total touchdowns, and staggering defensive numbers,

wracking up 131 tackles for the Vikings.

After another phenomenal season on the gridiron, Will Johnson was named Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year for the Far West League. He was also voted as the Small-School Player of the Year (3A/2A/1A) in Oregon, receiving 53 percent of 26,895 votes cast in an Oregonian poll.

"It was really awesome. It was such a pleasure to get nominated for that," Johnson said. "My dad reads the Oregonian every week, and he's always telling me what's going on, and to see my name in there was pretty cool."

It wasn't something on Will's radar.

When he sees articles highlighting high

See **JOHNSON**, Page B3

Siuslaw boys play South Umpqua for state

Will LOHRE
Country Media Inc.

By the time you read this, Siuslaw will have played the league playoff game against South Umpqua that determined which team between Siuslaw and South Umpqua qualified for the state playoffs. The game was played on Feb. 21, and the result is unavailable at the time of press.

Heading into the final regular season game of the season, Siuslaw's boys put together a scintillating run to stay in the mix for the state playoffs.

After beating Coquille on Feb. 10, Siuslaw netted crucial back-to-back wins against South Umpqua and Glide to keep momentum on their side as they fight for the second playoff spot out of the Far West.

Siuslaw hosted South Umpqua on Feb. 13, hoping to avenge their earlier loss to the Lancers and gain a mental edge over the team they

are competing with for the playoffs. Head Coach Dylan Perry said it was a "great home win."

"The boys battled through adversity and played their hearts out for a dominant second-half performance and league win to keep their playoff dreams

alive," Perry said. "This Siuslaw team is tough and full of grit!"

After scoring just six points in the second

quarter, the Vikings swung the game in the second half with 16 points in each of the third and fourth quarters to take the win 56-44.

Micah Blankenship led the team in scoring with 19, including three three-pointers.

After the game, Perry said he told the team they should be proud of themselves for the attitude and effort they displayed and that he was honored to be their coach this season. The penultimate game of the season saw Siuslaw take on Glide on Feb. 17, a game that Perry

said could be a trap game. Glide hadn't won a league game all season, and with that being the case, Perry said it was crucial not to overlook them with a big game against league-leading Douglas coming on Feb. 19.

"Our boys will be locked in and understand the importance of needing to show up mentally and physically when we travel to Glide on Tuesday. Playing on the road in league play is never an easy thing to do," Perry said ahead of the Glide game.

Safe to say the Vikings did not let their guard down. Siuslaw dominated the game, beating the Wildcats 59-35 to mark their fourth win in a row.

"Boys took care of business in the second half last night after a slow start. Great ball movement on offense and shut them down defensively in the 2nd half," Perry said after the game.

Jericho Lake and Asher Borgnino stole the show for the Vikings, notching 20 and 17 points, respectively. The win marked the longest win streak of

See **BOYS**, Page B2

Siuslaw girls net historic win

Will LOHRE
Country Media Inc.

It's been a historic season in Head Coach Amanda Richards' first season at the helm of Siuslaw's girls basketball team.

Going into the final game of the season against Douglas, the Vikings' 7-17 record is the best for the program since at least 2013-14, when Siuslaw went 6-16 in the previous iteration of the Far West League. The result of the Feb. 19 game against Douglas is unknown at the time of press, but if Siuslaw won, they will have won the most league games in a campaign dating back to that 2013-14 season.

The third win of 2026 Far West League play was significant for the Vikings, as it was the first time they beat South Umpqua in a regular-season game since winning against the Lancers on Jan. 13, 2027. Siuslaw won the Feb. 13 matchup 51-42, putting a stamp on the season.

Junior Aidell Cadet led the way for the Vikings, netting an impressive 24 points and seven steals to help Siuslaw secure its seventh win. Freshman

Ryleigh Panschow also had her fingerprints all over the game, notching a 10-point, 12-rebound double-double to help power the Vikings over the line. Also scoring points for the Vikings were Avey Hulet, who netted nine, Maren Hughes, with four, and McKenzie Ulrich and Ezra Haberly, who each finished with two.

After the win against South Umpqua, Siuslaw next took the court against Glide on Feb. 17. The game didn't end up going in the Vikings' favor, and Glide ran away with the win 25-52. Again, Cadet and Panschow were driving the offense, each scoring 10, and accounting for 80 percent of Siuslaw's offensive output.

The final game of the season against Douglas was also Senior Night, where Siuslaw's girls honored their lone senior, Mia Snider. Results from that game and reflections on the season will be covered in next week's edition of the Siuslaw News.

Editor's Note: The girls team played hard to chalk up a big 41-20 win over Douglas Feb. 19. Details will appear in the next issue.



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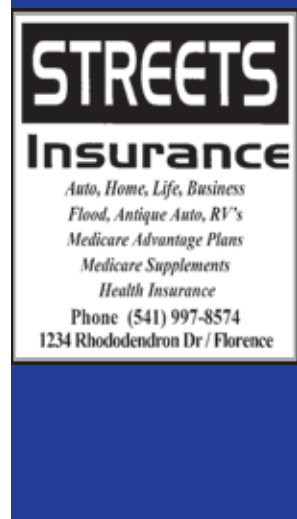
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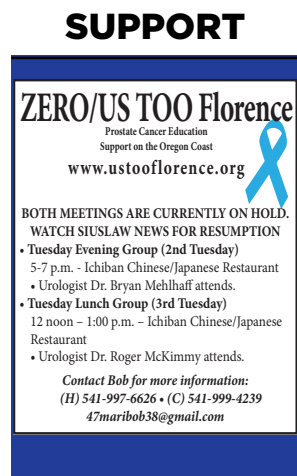
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• Urologist Dr. Bryan Methylatt attends.
• Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday)
12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese
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Community Briefs

Master Recycler Program - Free Classes in Florence

The Lane County Master Recycler Program is offering a nine-week course focused on waste prevention and recycling. This in-person class will be held at the Florence Center of Lane Community College, 3149 Oak Street, on Tuesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., March 31 through June 9, 2026. The course also includes one compost workshop and two multi-site tours scheduled on Saturday mornings. Class presenters and tour guides are local experts and innovators in solid waste management, waste-based businesses, waste prevention, recycling, and composting. "As an avid recycler before I took the class, I was amazed at how much I learned," says Susy Lacer, Master Recycler volunteer. "This course is both informative and fun." The Master Recycler class is free to participants and the program

requires a commitment of 30 volunteer hours after. Individuals who do not wish to complete 30 hours of volunteer work will be charged a \$50 fee to cover class time and materials. Registration is open now! Visit lanecounty.org/wastewise-masterrecyclers for more information and to complete the application

In GUS I Trust

What shapes our beliefs—and how do they shape us? Why do we hold the convictions we do? Can belief inspire growth and connection, or can it divide and harm? And how can we engage across differences before disagreements turn into conflict? Join us on Sunday, March 1, for a thought-provoking and timely conversation led by Jennifer Yocum. Drawing from her own personal journey and lived experiences, she will explore the power of belief—how it forms, how it evolves, and how we can approach it with curiosity, courage, and care. Come ready to reflect, to question, and

to engage in a dynamic exploration of what it means to believe in today's world. You'll also be delighted with the wonderful music of Christine Frances.

Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road
Doors open at 9:30 a.m.; program begins at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us
For more information, please contact:
Sally Wantz
Florence.Unitarian@gmail.com

Community Invited to Help Shape the Future of Siuslaw Watershed Council

Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) is inviting community members to participate in its strategic planning process to help shape the organization's direction for the next five years. Strategic planning is a critical opportunity for SWC to reflect on what is working well, identify emerging challenges, and clarify priorities for the future. Community input will play a central role in ensuring the plan reflects shared values, responds to community needs within its scope, and positions the organization to make the greatest possible impact. "We believe our strongest plans are built in partnership with the community" said Tim Moffett, Executive Director of SWC. "This process is about listening and learning from lived experience and diverse perspectives about how

we can work together to steward the lands and waters of the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes to benefit our communities, economy, and future generations." Community members are invited to participate through an in-person focus group from 11:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday, March 14 in Mapleton, or a virtual focus group on Thursday, March 19, 5:00pm-7:00pm. Feedback gathered during this engagement phase will directly inform the organization's strategic plan. Participation is open to anyone who cares about the Siuslaw Watershed and SWC's mission, including program participants, partners, volunteers, donors, neighbors, and community members. Those interested in sharing their input can learn more and find participation opportunities at siuslaw.org/events. The finalized strategic plan is expected to be adopted by the end of 2026 and will guide SWC's work through 2031. For more information, please visit siuslaw.org or contact Tim Moffett, Executive Director, at 541-268-3044.

Siuslaw Public Library, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center, the Florence Events Center, Lane Community College in Florence, the Power of Florence, the Kiwanis Flag Program --and service organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptimists, Ladies of Elks, and the Elks Lodge #1858.

We hope you'll be with us to celebrate and enjoy the Awards Ceremony. First Citizens of the past will be recognized, and the inspiring stories of our current nominees will impress all who hear them.

Your sponsorship as an Underwriter for the event will help cover the costs of the awards lunch to continue this important recognition of our community's leaders. Underwriters: Level Title • \$500 Gold • \$250 Silver • \$100 Bronze • Other Legacy Supporter Contributions for the event may be made payable The Good Deed Project, (a 501c3 nonprofit) at the address below.

We ask that you respond by Friday, March 13th at 4:00 p.m. to have your name/ organization included in our program.

Tickets and table sponsorships are priced at \$30/ ticket, and are available through: <https://www.thegooddeedprojectflorence.com> Then plan to join us at 11:30 am on Tuesday, March 31st, at the Florence Events Center for the 59th Awards Luncheon Celebration.

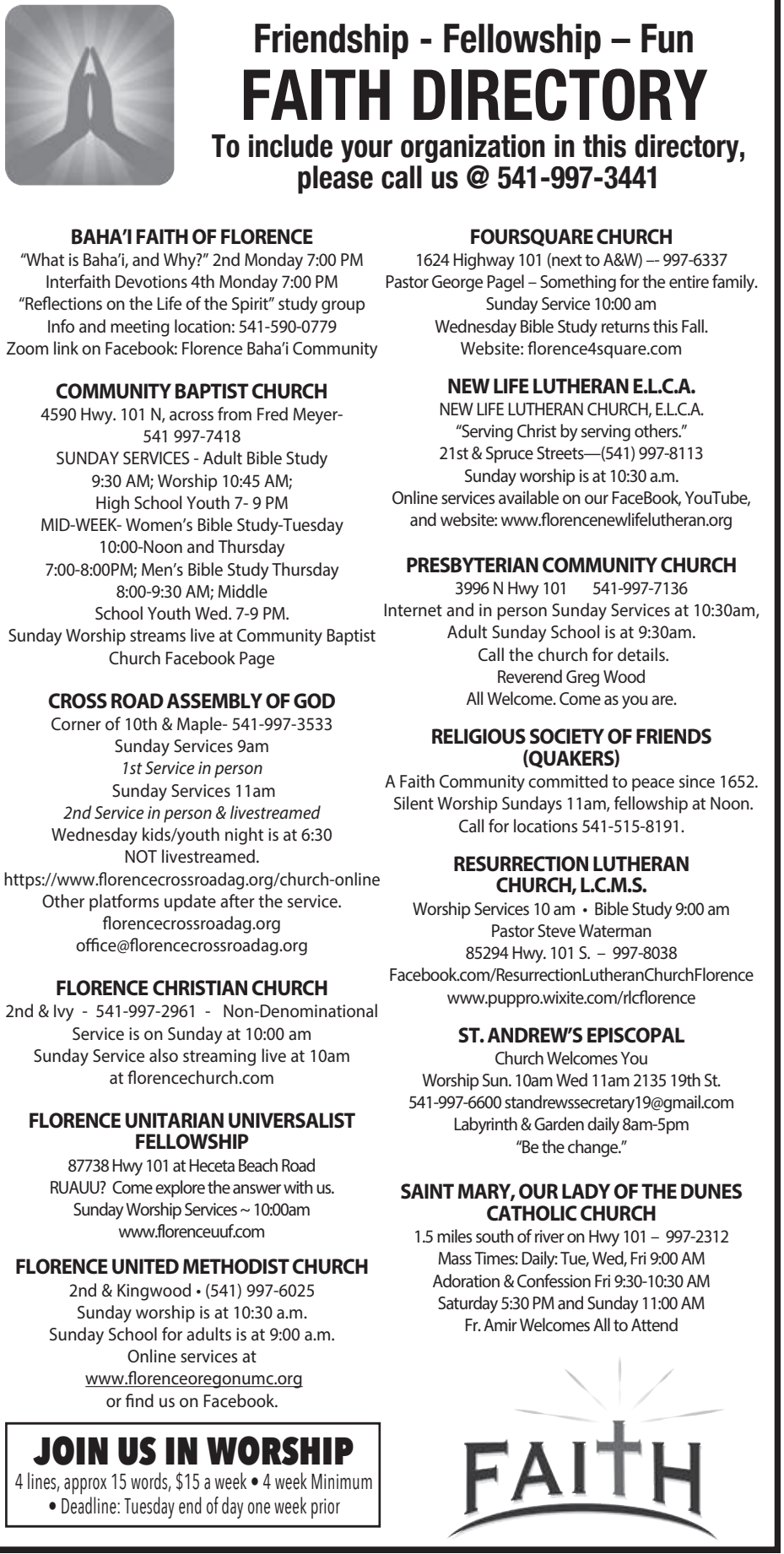
Thanks, and see you there! The Florence First and Future First Citizen Celebration Committee, 2026 Address: The Good Deed Project PO Box H Florence, OR 97439

Help recognize First Citizens

Come Celebrate the Past -- and the Future -- at the Florence First / Future First Citizen Celebration Awards on March 31. This Legacy of Leadership event, held since 1967, recognizes the efforts of Florence area citizens who have improved our community through the



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"Reflections on the Life of the Spirit" study group
Info and meeting location: 541-590-0779
Zoom link on Facebook: Florence Baha'i Community

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
4590 Hwy. 101 N, across from Fred Meyer- 541 997-7418
SUNDAY SERVICES - Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM; Worship 10:45 AM; High School Youth 7- 9 PM
MID-WEEK- Women's Bible Study-Tuesday 10:00-Noon and Thursday 7:00-8:00PM; Men's Bible Study Thursday 8:00-9:30 AM; Middle School Youth Wed. 7-9 PM.
Sunday Worship streams live at Community Baptist Church Facebook Page

CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Corner of 10th & Maple- 541-997-3533
Sunday Services 9am
1st Service in person
Sunday Services 11am
2nd Service in person & livestreamed
Wednesday kids/youth night is at 6:30 NOT livestreamed.
<https://www.florencecrossroadag.org/church-online>
Other platforms update after the service.
florencecrossroadag.org
office@florencecrossroadag.org

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2nd & Ivy - 541-997-2961 - Non-Denominational
Service is on Sunday at 10:00 am
Sunday Service also streaming live at 10am at florencechurch.com

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Online services at www.florenceoregonumc.org or find us on Facebook.

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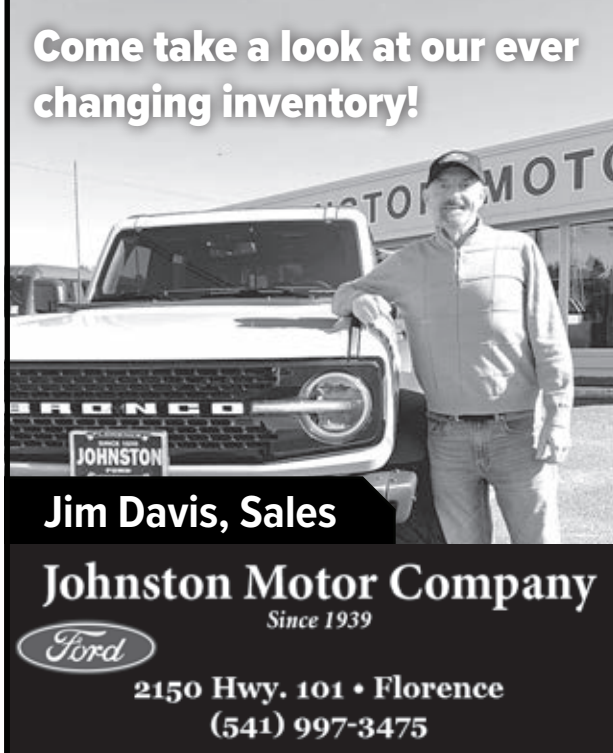
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Boys

From Page B1
the season for Siuslaw, and with South Umpqua losing to Douglas on the same night, saw the Vikings leapfrog the Lancers in the Far West standings. Going into the final game, the Far West standings were:
Douglas - 9-0 (league), 19-4 (overall)
Siuslaw - 6-3, 15-9
South Umpqua - 6-3, 13-9
Sutherlin - 4-5, 10-13
Coquille - 2-7, 3-18
Glide - 0-9, 3-18
In the final game

of the regular season against Douglas on Feb. 19, Siuslaw honored the program's seniors, Micah Blankenship, Tom Morgan, Asher Borgnino, Owen Burt, Eddie Osorio, and Noah Gonzalez. Regardless of the outcome against Douglas, Siuslaw needed to play South Umpqua to see who would grab the coveted second bid to state out of the Far West. Check in next week for results from that game, as well as other postseason action. Editor's Note: The boys came from behind Feb. 19 to take the win against Douglas 44-38. Details will appear in the next issue.



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JOHNSON
From Page B1

school football players, it's usually players from bigger schools. If it's about smaller programs, it seems to be players from private schools who gain notoriety. Garnering this type of distinction only seemed possible once he was nominated, and receiving the award was special for him and his footballing family.

"We were all really excited and stoked for him! Such a neat honor that highlights what an incredible football player he was for Siuslaw Football," Sam said of his brother. "I'd argue the best to ever put the gold helmet on in Siuslaw Football's 97-year history!"

Will finished his career as Siuslaw's all-time leading scorer with 383, as well as third in the program history in both rushing and receiving with 2,547 and 1,577, respectively. While the offensive numbers jump off the page, Will's calling card was the skeleton-shaking hits he delivered as a defensive back, and it was on defense that he felt most at home.

"I really enjoy defense. As much as I do have to think about where I'm going and what I'm doing and what my job is on the play, there's a lot less thinking for me. A lot less risk. I'm just going out there and hitting kids as hard as I can," Johnson said. "That's kind of what I enjoy."

And in 2025, he did that. A lot. Johnson's 131 (77 solo, 54 assisted) measured out to 13.1 tackles per game. On defense, he was everywhere. It wasn't always that way.

In his freshman year, Will wanted to be good right away. He didn't want to be the scrawny first-year player who was getting "tossed around all the time." As a freshman, he found his emotions would get the better of him, spending time angry that he wasn't able to do more.

"As I grew up over the years, it's gotten a lot better. I've been able to channel that anger of being the small kid getting tossed around, and being able to channel that into delivering hits," Will said.

Sam echoed his brother's reflection on his progression through the years.

"He grew up so much from his freshman year to his senior year. Being able to have great seniors above him show him how to lead, and then for him to buy in day in and day out to be able to lead our program was really neat to see. I think the biggest way he grew as a leader was learning how to channel his emotions into being a positive," Sam Johnson said. "Football is such an emotional game that it's impossible to repress those emotions and hide them, but learning how to use those to you and your team's benefit is such an incredible skill that he was able to develop and show our younger kids how to do that."

Will said he felt like he started hitting his stride on the football field in his sophomore year. Playing away at Sisters in 2023, Will said things clicked for him. Despite giving up a crucial late defensive penalty in the loss, that game marked a shift in his mindset.

"I remember that being heartbreaking, but I played an outstanding game. I had three or

four sideline catches that game. In our offense, we don't pass that often, and so I was kind of running around blocking, then I finally got my chance, and I really felt like I got to make good on it," Will recalled. "I also played a really good defensive game that week, outside of my penalty. It was a good week all around, and I felt like from that point, I knew if I worked for it, I could be the best one on the field wherever I go. And if I treat it like that, I could really make a difference for our team."

And working for it was something Will did. With his brother as head coach, his father, Andy, as Offensive Coordinator, and cousin Nick Johnson as Defensive Coordinator, all eyes were on him. Will said it was a "pleasure and a curse."

Will has enjoyed spending so much time with them over the past four years, but it also meant he "never got let off easy. He was 'always the example.'"

"It's been an absolute blessing to spend so much time around them 24/7, because we're going 300 out of the 365 days. Lifting, working out, playing catch; doing everything to get that little bit better," Will said.

On the flip side, Will was the player who was coached the hardest, and it could be a lot of pressure. But he grew accustomed to it, and he

said being held to that standard didn't bother him. It helped make him the player he is.

Will's work ethic off the field in preparation for football was something that made him a "trainer's dream." Siuslaw Strength Coach Ben Snider said Will brings a rare combination of talent, relentless determination, discipline, and humility. While his work ethic is "unmatched," Snider said it was Will's ability to bring the best out of others that made him truly remarkable.

"Will is an exceptional athlete, but what stands out most is his character. He's a natural leader who carries himself that way both on and off the field," Snider said. "His accomplishments in football and track speak for themselves, yet what impresses me most is how he invests in others. One of the strongest athletes in the weight room, he still takes time to mentor and encourage younger players—even those outside his lifting group."

Some of the memories Will said will stick with him for years to come are all the times he spent with the team and staff away from the field. In particular, Johnson said he will remember the summer campouts and offseason workouts.

"They were the hardest times, and the best times of my life. I don't have any better memories than

staying up way too late with the football team, and the gym, sleeping over for that week, then have to get up at all hours of the morning and get right back to it," Will said. "So many core memories are from those times."

Running lines at 6:00 a.m. isn't for the faint of heart. But coming together with the team for the shared grind made it all worth it.

"I'm not going to remember the wins and losses, but I really remember the journey of getting there," Johnson said.

All the work Will put in off the field helped him reach exciting heights with the Vikings; it was as much a testament to his athletic ability as to his mindset.

"While Will has steadily increased his physical strength over the years, it's his mental toughness that truly sets him apart. He's all in. When he laces up his cleats, you can expect 100% effort—every rep, every snap, every opportunity—until the final whistle," Snider said.

Sam talked about how Will set the example in the program of just being an "all-around great person."

"He showed them how to act on and off the football field as well as how to give your all in everything you do," Sam Johnson said.

Will's senior season

didn't end with a storybook run to the title game. It ended in the first round of the state playoffs, and for Will, that's okay. Though he hasn't quite gotten over the disappointment of it, he is content with having given everything he could.


"What you put into it is what you get out of it. I feel like I put in as much work as I possibly could have, and I personally, truly got out exactly what I wanted. I was a good contributor to our team, I ended up being a leader my senior year, and was just able to really help our team, even though we didn't pan out wins-wise towards the ends of seasons," Will Johnson said. "I'm content with going out in the playoffs and giving it our best effort, and coming up a little bit short. That happens in life, and it happens in football a lot. Those are things you have to live with. There are many worse things in life, and I still have a whole brotherhood I can talk about it with anytime."

Will now has to turn his attention to track season, where he'll be a key contributor in multiple events for the reigning 3A state champion Vikings. He has hopes of continuing on the track in college.0225 folder


While he doesn't have plans to play football at the collegiate level, there's no doubt of his place among Siuslaw's best football players.

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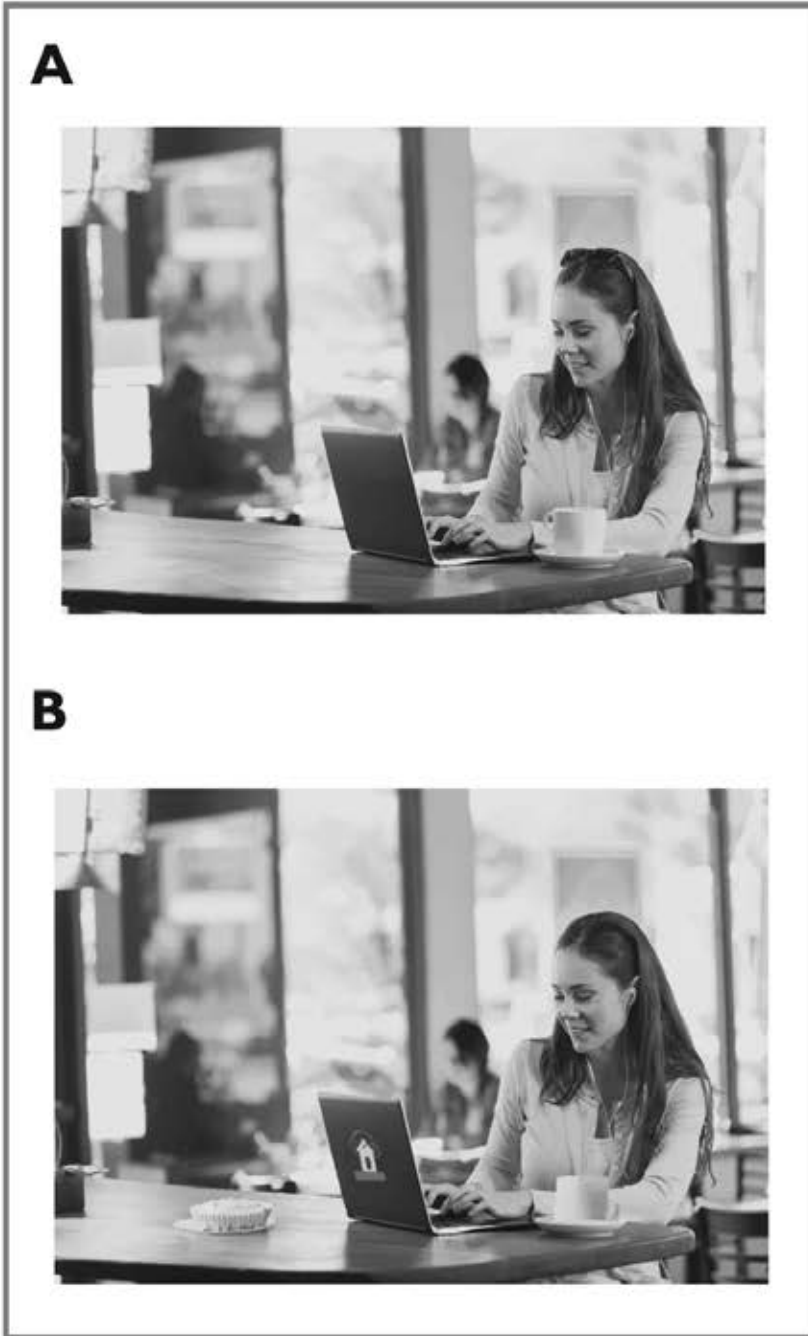


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What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Logo on laptop 2. Pastry on table 3. Cup upside down 4. Missing sunglasses

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1860: Abraham Lincoln delivers a speech at Cooper Union in New York that affects his presidential campaign.

1964: Italy asks for help keeping the Leaning Tower of Pisa from toppling.

1991: George H.W. Bush announces "Kuwait is liberated."

NEW WORD

WEB

resources interconnected by the internet

People FACT:



Approximately 73 percent of the world's population uses this.

Answer: The internet

How they say that in...

- English:** Clutter
- Spanish:** Desorden
- Italian:** Disordine
- French:** Désordre
- German:** Unordnung

Did You Know?

Parents should monitor their children's internet usage to make sure that they are safe while online.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Laptop

CANNED GOODS WORD SEARCH

L T F T T F B H S E V H N S U U B K O V
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 I R I N O I B G T Z L L P B T C I P A P
 E L E S K E E I O U I N F K G T Y E C Z
 T L H H L R P R N A E R V T C B T U K U
 C L C N Y S L R O R U K U N M O I T I G
 R Z G Z O D K G O T D N T E N O T M N I
 L R K N N I R S N C A B G S T O O S G Z
 S I F G I M T A E P E T E Y V S B K V U
 Y L D R E N I A T A U S I H R E A M O V
 P L L C E E I G T E L R S O E O E P P I
 C I M K S V S L A N E I C I N H I F E U
 C L C Z I I R S Y T E Z N O N K F I N G
 B A A K U A T E S M R M N G P G A L E V
 U E N V L E Z I S I P R R U O H Y L R E
 H K V I R I N R F E L I R E U A N E G N
 F Y V I B A N E L S R Y H Y F V I D U I
 S I L Y C S H G Z U S P K D O A S D S R
 K E A Y U B U V E P Y M S T O R A G E B

WORDS

- BRINE
- CAN
- CANISTER
- FERMENTATION
- FILLED
- LABEL
- LID
- LINING
- OPENER
- PACKING
- PASTEURIZE
- PICKLING
- PRESERVE
- PROCESSING
- REHYDRATE
- ROTATION
- SEALING
- SHELF
- STERILE
- STOCKPILE
- STORAGE
- SYRUP
- TIN
- VACUUM

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

February 23, 2026 Posting Date

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: X equals L

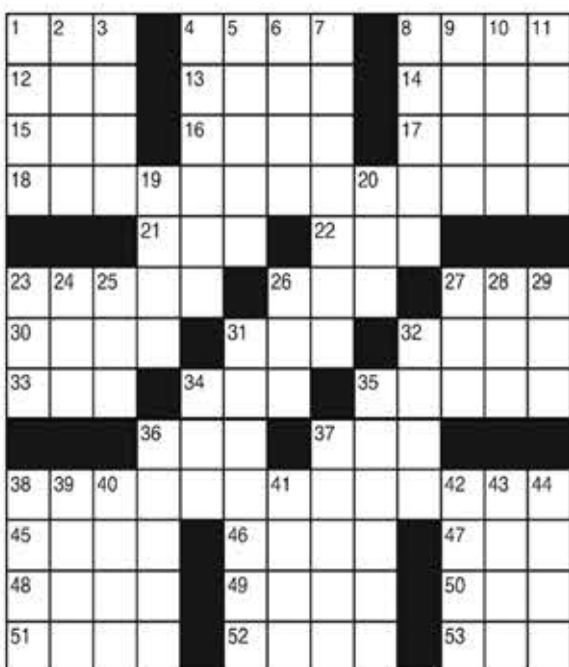
HI YWSHBA UFEUXF'V
TFXZBYJEXS KWEUV ZXMZSV
IZXX HB ZXHABFK UZWZXXFX
UZHVV, H'K YZXX GJFT
GME-GFZWFK.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Golfer Ernie
- 4 Gullet
- 8 Engine noise
- 12 Horror star Chaney
- 13 Costa —
- 14 Inter —
- 15 Past
- 16 Novelist Jennifer
- 17 Pealed
- 18 Fresh starts
- 21 Boom times
- 22 Small batteries
- 23 Humorist Dave
- 26 Flow out
- 27 Depot vehicle
- 30 "Iliad" setting
- 31 Shade
- 32 Spring honorees
- 33 — Salvador
- 34 Supporting
- 35 Rolled-up sandwiches
- 36 Evergreen tree
- 37 Hindu honorific
- 38 Age-old knowledge
- 45 Soccer leg-end
- 46 Spring flower
- 47 Plastic — Band
- 48 Verbal
- 49 Quitter's word



- 50 Neighbor of Leb.
- 51 Duck's hang-out
- 52 Checks out
- 53 Tel. number add-on
- 7 Hopeful
- 8 Seine city
- 9 — Bator
- 10 Saturn feature
- 11 Cleaning cloths
- 19 Conceal, in a way
- 20 Arrest
- 23 "Dynamite" band
- 24 Notre Dame coach
- 25 Harry Potter pal
- 26 Where Ger. is
- 27 Large snake
- 28 Ref
- 29 Radiator sound
- 31 "That's wonderful!"
- 32 Hosp. scans
- 34 Charge
- 35 Places for bracelets
- 36 Relinquish
- 37 Pigs
- 38 Per person
- 39 Roman emperor
- 40 Family
- 41 Tea carrier
- 42 Rx amount
- 43 Cameo stone
- 44 Humorist Sahl

DOWN

- 1 Flair
- 2 Theater section
- 3 Winter fall
- 4 Eerie
- 5 Bobby who lost to Billie Jean King
- 6 Smoothie berry

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Weekly SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | | 7 | | | | | 6 |
| 2 | | 5 | 1 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | 3 | | 5 | | | |
| | 9 | | 2 | | | 6 | 5 | |
| | | | | 7 | | | | |
| 8 | 6 | 3 | | 4 | 1 | | | |
| | | 8 | | | 6 | 5 | 3 | |
| | | | | 3 | 8 | | 4 | |
| | | | 5 | 8 | | | 2 | 7 |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "carpe noctem" mean in English?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was a lifeguard in his earlier life and saved 77 people from drowning over a seven-year period?
- MOVIES: Who is the primary nemesis of Professor X in "X-Men"?
- GEOGRAPHY: English is the official language in which Central American country?
- LITERATURE: Which English novel features characters such as Pip, Miss Havisham and Estella?
- MUSIC: How many strings does a standard guitar have?
- TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom stars a character named Eleanor Shellstrop?
- HISTORY: Which European ruler is known as the Sun King?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to Mount St. Helens?
- ANATOMY: Which human organ produces insulin?

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Who's counting?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | O | I | N | T |
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Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.fivespotpuzzle.com

02628



Solution time: 21 mins.

King Crossword Answers

1. Seize the night

1. Seize the night
2. Ronald Reagan
3. Magento
4. Belize
5. "Great Expectations"
6. Six
7. "The Good Place"
8. Louis XIV of France
9. Washington
10. The pancreas

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the board letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

| | | | | | |
|----------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| Budding | ENCANTS | | | | |
| Soar | LEGID | | | | |
| String | NEWIT | | | | |
| Fastener | TRIVE | | | | |

TODAY'S WORD



"Sorry to keep you waiting, I thought she'd never stop _____!"



Cryptogram

If crying people's melancholy drops always fall in aligned parallel pairs, I'd call them two-teared.

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Go Figure!
Answers

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| 7 | + | 8 | ÷ | 1 | = | 15 |
| - | + | + | | | | |
| 4 | + | 3 | × | 2 | = | 14 |
| + | × | × | | | | |
| 9 | - | 6 | × | 5 | = | 15 |
| = | = | = | | | | |
| 12 | = | 66 | = | 15 | | |

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Brand New Construction on Dunewood Drive in the Reserve at Heceta Lakes. This three bedroom, 2 bath custom home has 2100 sq. ft. of living space, an attached double car garage and high-end finishes. **\$899,000 List #1283/378512803**

Craftsman custom built home in Rhodoview Dunes located on .65 acre lot. This 3 bdrm, 3 bath home with 3086 sq. ft. of living space including a large family room on the lower level. **\$825,000 List #1319/351129445**

3 bdrm, 2.5 bath home with 1160 sq. ft. of living space in the gated 55+ community of Florentine Estates. Double wide manufactured home has a double car garage, private deck & single level living. **\$379,000 List #1362/356624943**

Be the first occupant in this modern & thoughtfully designed 3 bdrm, 2 bath home with 1689 sq. ft. of living space in the Three Mile Prairie neighborhood. Primary suite has soaking tub. Attached 2-car garage. **\$459,500 List #1292/537909643**

Charming older home fully remodeled & located on a quiet corner street near a neighborhood path to the Siuslaw Riverfront. Open living plan, dining area and large laundry room. Updated interior & detached garage. **\$445,000 List #1330/109700327**

Charming 2-story home with 1958 sq. ft. of living space. 3 bdrm, 2.5 baths, double car garage. Main floor living space & bedroom. Gourmet kitchen. Upper level has 2 bdrms & kitchenette. **\$559,900 List #1363/288254791**

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999 PUBLIC NOTICES

TSN26-114 PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 10, 2026, 5:30 P.M.
Florence Planning Commission will consider annexing 0.19 acres at 88179 3rd Ave and applying MDR zoning (Petitioner: Michelle Bertao). Recommendation goes to City Council April 6, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. Case Nos.: PC 25 27 ANN 02 & PC 25 28 ZC 02

TSN26-116 INVITATION TO BID CITY OF FLORENCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT BEACON AND WIND CONE REPLACEMENT A.I.G. PROJECT NO. 3-41-0019-020-2025
Sealed bids for Florence Municipal Airport, Beacon and Wind Cone Replacement Project, A.I.G. Project No. 3-41-0019-020-2025, will be received by August Murphy, Public Works Director, at the Public Works Facility located at 2675 Kingwood Street, Florence, Oregon, 97439, until the bid closing time of 11:00 a.m. local time, on the 24th of March, 2026, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. Bidders shall submit the required first-tier subcontractor disclosure form within two hours of the bid closing time. Bidders whose bids and/or disclosure statements are received after the stated times will be considered non-responsive, and their bids will not be considered. The scope of work being considered is: 1. Replace existing tip-down pole and Airport Beacon with new foundation; 2. Replace existing Wind Cone with new foundation; 3. Pull new conductor(s) from power source to Airport Beacon; and 4. Pull new conductor(s) from power source to Wind Cone. The Contract Documents, including the specifications, for the above project may be reviewed and after the offices of the City of Florence Public Works Facility located at 2675 Kingwood Street, Florence, Oregon, 97439 on working days, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Bidding documents can be downloaded at www.questcdn.com under Login using QuestCDN #10032771 for a non-refundable charge of \$22.00. Contact Quest-

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

CDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration and downloading this digital project information. Technical questions shall be directed to Sydney Schroeder, E.I.T., Century West Engineering Corporation, (541) 322-8962. Contractors must be qualified in accordance with the applicable parts of ORS 279C in order to enter into a contract with the City. Among other factors that will be considered, the City will only award a contract to a contractor that is able to demonstrate that they have completed previous contracts of a similar nature with a satisfactory record of performance, and that demonstrate that they have a satisfactory record of integrity. The City may investigate to determine the qualifications of the bidders as part of the evaluation of the bids, and the City may reject a bid that does not comply with the prescribed public contracting procedures and requirements, including the requirement to demonstrate the bidder's responsibility under ORS 279C.375(3)(b). Bidders must submit qualification statements in accordance with the terms of subsection 20-02 of the General Provisions (FAA) with their Proposals. Proposals submitted without qualification statements will not be accepted. This contract will be funded, in part, by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. As such it will be subject to federal requirements. These include, but are not limited to: Buy America Preferences; Prevailing Wage Rates. All labor shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by the US Secretary of Labor (Davis Bacon) or the State of Oregon (BOL) whichever is greater; Government wide Debarment and Suspension; Government wide Requirements for Drug-free workplace; Foreign Trade Restrictions; and Federal Fair Labor Standard Act. All applicable federal provisions are given in the specifications under FAA Required Provisions. As a condition of a grant award, the Sponsor shall demonstrate that it complies with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq) and implementing regulations (49 CFR part 21) including amendments thereto, the Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 U.S.C. § 47123), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.), U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Assurances, and other relevant civil rights statutes, regulations, or authorities, including any amendments or updates thereto. This may include, as applicable, providing a current Title VI Program Plan to the FAA for approval, in the format and according to the timeline required by the FAA, and other information about the communities that will be benefited and impacted by the project. A completed FAA Title VI Pre-Grant Award Checklist based on grace, color, national origin, sex, creed, age, disability, genetic information, in consideration for federal financial assistance. The Department's and FAA's Office of Civil Rights may provide resources and technical assistance to recipients to ensure full compliance with Federal civil rights requirements. Failure to comply with civil rights requirements will be considered a violation of the agreement or contract and be subject to any enforcement action as authorized by law, based on grace, color, national origin, sex, or national origin in the award or performance of this contract. The owner encourages participation by all firms qualifying under this solicitation regardless of business size or ownership. A NON-MANDATORY pre-

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

bid meeting is to be held at 11:00 a.m., local time on the 10th day of March, 2026, at the Florence Municipal Airport Office located at 2001 Airport Way, Florence, OR 97439. Interested prime and subcontractors are encouraged to attend. At this meeting, questions concerning the Contract Documents and the proposed work will be discussed. A tour of the project site will be conducted after the meeting, after which, no other formal tours or site visits will be scheduled. This project is for a public improvement subject to the prevailing rates of wage requirements of ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870, or by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is greater. The City will not receive or consider a bid unless the bid contains a statement by the bidder that the bidder will comply with ORS 279C.838 or 279C.840. Contractor licensing under ORS 468A.720 for asbestos abatement is not a requirement of this project. No bid shall be considered unless the bidder is licensed by the Oregon Construction Contractors Board or the State Landscape Contractors Board. Bids must be submitted on the prescribed forms and must be accompanied by certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed in favor of the City in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid. Each Bidder must supply all information required by the bid documents and specifications. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and payment bond, each in the full amount of the contract price. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled time for the public opening of the bid as specified above. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any irregularities, and to accept the bid deemed in the best inter-

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

est of the City. The City may reject any bid not in compliance with all prescribed public bidding procedures and requirements and may reject for good cause any or all bids after finding that doing so is in the public interest. AUGUST MURPHY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CITY OF FLORENCE City of Florence, this 25th day of February, 2026

TSN26-108 PORT SEEKS COMMISSION APPLICANTS

The Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners will appoint a district citizen to fill the Position 2 vacancy created by the recent resignation of R. Dale Edwards. The term of the appointee will expire on 30 June 2027 at which time an elected successor will be seated. Persons wishing to be appointed to the Port Commission vacancy should obtain an application from the Port office at 100 Harbor Street, or the Port's web site www.portofsiuslaw.com. Applications will be accepted until 5:00pm Friday, March 13, 2026. Applicants must be registered voters residing within the Port of Siuslaw district. The district boundary encompasses most of the Siuslaw River watershed, including the communities of Florence and Dunes City, and extending upriver to Mapleton, Walton, Lorane, and Blachly. The Port is the sponsor of the federal maritime investment in Lane County for maintenance of the channel, harbor, jetties, and navigable ocean bars. The Port also has significant authority under Oregon statute for local economic development and infrastructure projects that encourage job cre-

999 PUBLIC NOTICES

ation and tourism. The Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners meet regularly at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the Port office at 100 Harbor Street in Florence. Regular Port Commission meetings are open to the public. Questions should be directed to the Port office at 541-997-3426

TSN26-107 PORT SEEKS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners invites applications from residents interested in serving on the Port's Budget Committee. Interested persons should obtain an application from the Port office at 100 Harbor Street, or from the Port's web site: www.portofsiuslaw.com. Applications will be accepted until 5pm, Friday, March 13, 2026. Applicants must be registered voters residing within the Port of Siuslaw district. The district boundary encompasses most of the Siuslaw River watershed, including the communities of Florence and Dunes City, and extending upriver to Mapleton, Walton, Lorane, and Blachly. The Budget Committee is a standing committee that sits jointly with the Port Commission to publicly review and revise the annual budget. The Budget Committee approves the budget and tax levy. The budget then goes to the Port Commission to be adopted. Committee members serve three-year terms which expire on June 30. A Budget Committee Member is expected to spend up to 20 hours that includes reviewing the budget and meeting 1-3 times from May through June each year. The Committee may be called to meet again during the year in the event of a significant budgetary change. Questions should be directed to the Port office at 541-997-3426.

Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of March 2, 2026.

- ON NOW: "Scrubs: Revival Series" (Season 1) — Hulu**
- ON NOW: "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" (Season 13) — HBO Max**
- ON NOW: "Regretting You" (PG-13) — MGM+**
- 2-March: "Gabby's Dollhouse" (Season 13) — Netflix**
- 2-March: "Tribunal Justice" (Season 3) — Prime Video**
- 4-March: "Young Sherlock" (Season 1) — Prime Video**
- 3-March: "Bruce Bruce: I Ain't Playin'" (Comedy Special) — Netflix**
- 5-March: "Vladimir" (Limited Series) — Netflix**
- 5-March: "Ted" (Season 2) — Peacock**
- 6-March: "The Pink Pill: Sex, Drugs & Who Has Control" (Documentary) — Paramount+**

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to your good health
WITH **Dr. Keith Roach**

Understand the Relationship Between HRT and UTIs

DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recent column, you wrote that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) should be considered in elderly women to prevent urinary tract infections (UTIs) by stopping bacteria from getting into the bladder in the first place. How does this work? Which is better: pills or vaginal creams? Isn't HRT in postmenopausal women frowned upon these days?

I also wonder whether HRT in elderly men also helps prevent UTIs. (My husband, who died recently at 82, had a succession of UTIs during the final months of his life, which may have contributed to his death from pneumonia and sepsis.) — *J.H.*

ANSWER: I'm glad that you wrote because I didn't make this point clear enough. I specifically meant topical estrogen that can be a cream, tablet or ring — all of which deliver estrogen locally. The tissue lining of the vulva and vagina are estrogen-sensitive, and the low levels of estrogen that occur after menopause often cause them to atrophy.

Not only can this cause dryness and discomfort, the urethra sometimes doesn't seal properly. Bacteria can then get into the urine and make their way up into the bladder (and sometimes into the kidneys). Having a healthy lining reduces the risk of UTIs. Topical estrogen is not considered HRT.

While oral estrogen (which is considered HRT) also helps these tissues, there is an increased risk of heart disease if systemic estrogen (a pill or patch) is started at age 60 or more than 10 years after menopause, so topical estrogen is safer. Topical estrogen is not appreciably absorbed, so it does not have the poten-

tial for harm in the heart or the potential for blood clots.

People with estrogen-sensitive tumors should still discuss topical estrogen with their oncologists as small amounts are absorbed when the lining is atrophied.

HRT is not an effective treatment to prevent UTIs in men. Although there are several reasons that older men can get UTIs, the most important one is that the prostate gland enlarges, making it more difficult for the bladder to be drained. In men with enlarged prostate glands, the urine can become "stale" and a breeding ground for bacteria. Testosterone replacement has many potential benefits, but it does not shrink the prostate. (It's the reverse, unfortunately.)

Shrinking the prostate with medication or a surgical procedure is occasionally necessary in men with recurrent UTIs.

DEAR DR. ROACH: For at least a decade, I've had CT scans that noted an incidental "small" liver cyst. The latest CT scan mentions that the liver cyst is 3 cm. Is a 3-cm liver cyst considered small? I am trying to understand if the actual measurement now means that it's no longer small. If this is the case, do I need to see a specialist?

Thank you for any assistance you can provide. (I'm now 60, but the cyst was first noted when I was in my late 40s.) — *K.B.*

ANSWER: Incidental findings on CT scans or MRIs are common, and sometimes it's not clear what to do. But as we have gained more experience with liver (and kidney) cysts, there is now an accepted regimen. These cysts are common, with perhaps 10% to 20% of people having them appear in advanced imaging like a CT scan.

For a "simple" liver cyst (meaning that the cyst appears to be a single fluid-filled space with no walls and no enhancement with contrast) that is less than 4 cm, the risk is very small; no further testing is required for the cyst. The fact that yours is still small after at least a decade is further evidence that this is not one to worry about.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | - | × | | = 15 | | | | |
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| 12 | | 66 | | 15 | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numerical row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an L, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------|---------------------|---|-------|
| 1. Speeding penalty | T | _____ | Fence stake | P | _____ |
| 2. Snarl like a mad dog | | _____ | L Fully-fledged | | _____ |
| 3. Magicians' sticks | | _____ | S A Fish Called | | _____ |
| 4. Pursue | H | _____ | Halt | E | _____ |
| 5. Food formula | | _____ | P Narrate | | _____ |
| 6. Sieve | T | _____ | Ample injury | P | _____ |
| 7. Pungent bulb | O | _____ | Amalgamation | U | _____ |
| 8. Singer Cyrus | | _____ | Y Units of distance | | _____ |
| 9. Walkie-talkie, e.g. | D | _____ | Proportion | T | _____ |
| 10. Client | R | _____ | WWII general | T | _____ |

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Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ticket, Picket | 6. Strain, Sprain |
| 2. Growl, Grown | 7. Onion, Union |
| 3. Wands, Wanda | 8. Miley, Miles |
| 4. Chase, Cease | 9. Radio, Ratio |
| 5. Recipe, Rectle | 10. Patron, Patton |



TR Hunter Real Estate

1749 Highway. 101, Florence OR 97439

www.trhunter.com

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1601-534 Rhododendron Dr. - \$390,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2280 SqFt. Manufactured home with attached garage, sun porch, workshop and covered RV/boat storage. #3729-220740617



87977 Kelsie Way - \$205,000

0.88 acre lot. Big beach area lot with septic and water already installed! #3741-329648580



65 Shoreline Dr. - \$750,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2145 SqFt. Shelter Cove gated community. Minutes to beach. With added bonus 16x26 sq ft hobby room. #3745-168626712



1600-113 Rhododendron Dr. - \$158,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 924 SqFt. Excellent opportunity to bring in a new manufactured home. Call agent for buyer incentive details. #3705-730692234



179 Outer Dr. - \$296,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1100 SqFt. Peaceful Coast Village home with natural light, cozy spaces, garden paths, and convenient amenities. #3716-756515536



87748 Terrace View Dr. - \$710,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1416 SqFt. Coastal living with ocean views, plus possible rental income from renovated lower-level. #3734-446288655



11445 E Mapleton Rd. - \$775,000

3 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 2440 SqFt. Five-acre riverfront property offering privacy, versatility, large shop, and endless potential. #3738-363944680



88426 2nd Ave. - \$710,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1810 SqFt. Whimsical beach retreat, proven Airbnb income, ocean views, one block to sand. #3742-457960361



1070 Bay St #22 - \$447,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 984 SqFt. Bay Bridge condo with river and dune views, pellet stove, patio, storage shed. #3743-159787344



4990 Mitchell Loop Rd. - \$585,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2665 SqFt. Custom ranch style home with open living, sunroom, and garage with RV parking. #3695-161538459



5262 Nopal St. - \$430,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1493 SqFt. Coastal charm meets modern living in the desirable Three Mile Prairie neighborhood. #3670-317018212



89510 Hwy 101 #26 - \$60,000

2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 784 SqFt. Recently upgraded doors, shower, laminate flooring, windows, ceiling fans, electric panel, shed and carport. #3694-555498165



1699 27th St. #5 - \$79,000

2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, 924 SqFt. Well kept manufactured home in Ocean Breeze Park with sunroom, fenced backyard, and alley access. #3723-583761940



2060 20th St. - \$392,500

3 bdrms, 1 bath, 960 SqFt. Extensively updated home with modern kitchen, new roof, fireplace, garage upgrades, outdoor spaces. #3728-362336387



13904 Stagecoach Rd. - \$584,000

4 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2152 SqFt. 5 acre, riverfront property with horse stalls, chicken coops, duck pond, and more! #3689-285143016



1600-29 Rhododendron Dr. - \$249,000

3 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 1308 SqFt. Inviting 55+ retreat featuring pellet stove, efficient heating, new appliances, covered deck, workshop. #3698-344579839



290 Harbor St. - \$1,599,000

5 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 2201 SqFt. Restored 1894 Old Town cottage with new garage, ADU, luxury upgrades, modern comfort throughout. #3724-327759244



83763 Hwy 101 #10 - \$115,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 800 SqFt. Move-in ready home in 55+ Lakeshore Park. Peaceful, low-maintenance, all-season comfort and charm! #3664-366140328



2937 Munsel Lake Rd. - \$399,000

3 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 1013 SqFt. Move-in ready single-level home with updated kitchen, fenced yard, RV parking, and abundant natural light. #3725-445649944



87830 Terrace View Dr. - \$435,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1482 SqFt. Shop/Garage, RV Garage with 30 AMP, private covered deck, enclosed sunroom/greenhouse. #3702-456128863



3932 Spruce St. - \$524,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1472 SqFt. Enclosed sunroom, RV parking with hookups, outdoor hobby room and tool shed with gardens. #3717-687208935



87511 Tiernan Rd. - \$425,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1866 SqFt. Secluded property with mature fruit trees, custom kitchen, bonus room, shop, and river access. #3714-272688773



133 Shoreline Dr. - \$845,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2120 SqFt. New Construction! Quality craftsmanship and finishes. 3-bay garage with paved parking. #3620-575874537



238 Horseshoe Bend - \$179,500

1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, 500 SqFt. Nice corner lot with RV hookups. Home is well cared for with bonus room and garden. #3690-524301067



89510 Hwy 101 #23 - \$60,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 924 SqFt. Spacious, clean, and affordable. Appliances included. Lake access. Move-in ready condition. #3679-545143954



Aileen Sapp
Broker, SRS,
SRES
541 999-5396



Brandi Hart
Broker
541 999-2671



Kyle Lewis
Broker
541 991-6728



Nichole Lewis
Broker
541 999-8786



Crystell Wise
Principal Broker,
CRS, SRS, SRES
541 991-9487



Mike Blankenship
Broker,
ABR, SRS
541 991-7826



Haylee Cole
Broker
541-999-2112



Tim Sapp
Owner /
Principal Broker
541 999-8230



Richard Beaudro
Principal Broker
541 991-6677



Melody Beaudro
Principal Broker
541 991-2151



Wendy Krause
Broker
541 999-7765



Amy Johnson
Broker, CSA
541 999-7875



Heidi White
Broker
541 600-6058



Kelsey Peterson
Broker
541-999-2584



Vanessa Buss
Broker
541-991-0478