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Siuslaw News

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Florence, Oregon

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Number 7 • 136 years

Western Lane Crisis Response Program awarded

FROM WLFEA

The Western Lane Crisis Response Program (WLCR) has been awarded the Outstanding Special District Program Award from the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) in recognition of its outstanding service, innovation, and commitment to supporting individuals and families in crisis throughout Western Lane County.

The award, presented by SDAO at its 2026 Annual Conference in Seaside, Oregon highlights special districts and programs across Oregon that demonstrate

excellence in public service and measurable positive impact in their communities. Western Lane Crisis Response was

selected for its dedication to providing timely, compassionate, and effective crisis intervention services, as well as its strong partnerships with local governments, first responders, and community organizations.

“This recognition from the Special Districts Association of Oregon is a meaningful affirmation of the critical

work our staff and volunteers do every day,” said WLCR Program Manager Melissa

See **AWARD**, Page A6



From Left to Right, Cindy Gentry, WLCR Program Assistant Manager, Melissa House, WLCR Program Manager, Kristy Simmons, WLCR Client Advocate, Lori Oltman, WLCR Crisis Responder.

School board approves bond language

SIOUSLAW NEWS STAFF

At its regular Feb 11 meeting, the Siuslaw School District Board of Directors unanimously approved the language of a bond measure which, if approved by voters, will result in the construction of a new high school, major improvements to the elementary school and construction of a dedicated bus lane between the schools. The board also approved language allowing the district to receive \$6.126 million in state matching grant money, should the bond measure pass. Bonds for the project would be issued in a principal amount not to exceed \$139 million.

Directors had little discussion on the matter before reading the resolution into the record.

The resolution said the board has determined a need to finance capital costs for safety improvements, including the joint funding of safety improvements and has applied for the Oregon School Capital Improvement Match for a \$6.126 million grant if voters approve general obligation bonds.

The District anticipates incurring expenditures to finance the project and will reimburse itself from the proceeds of general obligation bonds which may be issued as tax-exempt obligations, subject to voter approval.

“A measure election is hereby called for the purpose of submitting to the electors of the District the question of authorizing general obligation bonds,” the resolution declares.

The form will be delivered to the Election Officer of Lane and Douglas Counties, Oregon not later than February 27, 2026, which is 81 days prior to the election date.

According to the resolution, the law firm of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, is hereby appointed to serve as Bond Counsel with respect to the issuance of the Bonds.

Piper Sandler & Co. is hereby appointed to serve as Underwriter or Placement Agent with respect to the issuance of the Bonds. According to the resolution's Exhibit A, bonds may be issued in multiple series; each maturing within 30 years from issuance.

The estimated annual tax rate would be \$2.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The actual levy rate may differ due to final interest rates and changes in assessed value (not market value).

To find your properties assessed value, go online to <https://lcmaps.lanecounty.org/propertysearchnew/>

FAC presents last pitch for new high school

By **TONY REED**
The Siuslaw News



FAC Vice-chair Mike Harklerode speaks to a group in the high school library about the proposed replacement of the high school building. Tony Reed photo.

In a final presentation before it went before the School Board Feb. 11, Siuslaw High School Principal Mike Harklerode explained the reasoning for a bond measure to construct a new high school and renovate the elementary school.

As the Vice-Chair of the Facilities Advisory Committee, Harklerode and Committee Chair Bob Orr have given many presentations to local groups in the last six months, to inform voters about the deteriorating condition of the high school and much-needed improvements to the middle school.

Harklerode said the Committee is in a “holding pattern” until it can get one more

See **FAC**, Page A7

Missing Teen may be in Florence area

Officials say a teenager who was reported missing Feb 3 from Eugene may be in the Florence area. Eugene Police Department Information Officer Melinda McLaughlin said Monday morning that the case is still active and the teen has not been located.

Michael M. Newton, age 16, went missing last week and Oregon Department of Human Services personnel say he may be at risk. Officials hope to locate him and assess his safety. According to ODHS,

he may be traveling with his mother in Cottage Grove, Mapleton or Florence. He is 5 feet 9 inches tall, at 240 pounds, with dark brown hair and blue-grey eyes.

As of press time Feb. 12, there have been no new reports or information.

If you see him in the county, make note of the location, call EPD at 541 682 5111 and refer to case number 26-02698. If you see Newton in Florence, please call 541 997 3515.



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|--|--|---|--|
| <p>OLD TOWN COTTAGE 1 BLOCK TO RIVER</p>  <p>289 Harbor St. \$495,000</p> | <p>LIKE NEW IN GATED COMM. W/SHARED DOCK</p>  <p>83591 Sauter Drive \$799,000</p> | <p>IDLEWOOD HARDWOOD FLOORS & BUILT-INS</p>  <p>4948 Oceana Dr. \$459,900</p> | <p>LARGE GREENTREES HOME W/RV PORT</p>  <p>#673 Greentrees West \$398,000</p> |



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VETERAN'S VIEWPOINT

Honor Flight Fundraiser – it's a Daisy!

CAL APPLEBEE, CONTRIBUTOR

The South Willamette Valley Honor Flight (SWVHF) is holding a fundraising raffle in Florence, utilizing a prize with a unique connection to military heritage – a commemorative Daisy Adult Red Ryder BB gun featuring an Honor Flight challenge coin within the stock. This BB gun is a current production version of the legendary youth sized Red Ryder produced originally starting in 1940. The adult version features a larger frame and stock.

In the 1960's the Daisy Company partnered with the United States Army to develop a model to be used for training recruits in the art of "instinct shooting". It featured the larger frame, larger adult sized stock, and lacked both front and rear sights. The goal was to train shooters to not take the time to "sight" the enemy through the front and rear sights, but to simply point and shoot. The training included small metal disc targets tossed into the air, and as the shooter grew more proficient, decreased sized targets were used. The Army's program was called "quick kill", and Daisy would go on to produce a version for the civilian market called "Quick Skill".

The SWVHF program has sponsored honor flights for Veterans to Washington DC twice annually for the past few years. For 2026, due to funding challenges, only a fall trip is scheduled for September. Only 100 raffle tickets at \$5.00 each will be sold for the raffle package valued around \$100 that includes an OD canvas strap, shooting glasses and a shooting gallery. Tickets can be purchased directly from Board Member Steve Baggin by calling 815-512-2506, or in person by attending Monday morning coffee gatherings of the



Band of Brothers who meeting 11:30 a.m. at the Florence Elks Lodge.

PATTON COMES TO FLORENCE

Although not the legendary and colorful General George S. Patton Jr. of WWII fame, Ben Patton is in fact his grandson. And although Ben Patton never served in the military as did his grandfather and even his own father, also General George Patton, IV of Korea and Vietnam era, he has a commitment to those who have served in our nation's armed forces.

In 2011 Ben Patton started Patton Veterans Project film making workshops designed to bring Veterans together in a collaboration to create a short film addressing the struggles and challenges they have faced since leaving military service. The program utilizes professionals from the film and movie industry to coach and guide the Veterans in the two day workshop, resulting in multiple short feature films featuring the Veterans themselves.

Since its inception, the non-profit has conducted nearly one hundred workshops around the United States and even Israel, and most recently in Eugene, Oregon at the University of Oregon in January of this year. Partnering with Will Wagner, Community Engagement & Partnership

Coordinator for the VA, a workshop is scheduled for Florence in early May of 2026 at the Siuslaw Area Resource Center. More information can be found by contacting Wagner at: William.Wagner4@va.gov.

A 'HABIT' OF HELPING VETERANS

Our community is full of organizations which reach out to the Veterans among us, and non-profit Florence Habitat for Humanity is one of them. They offer a variety of programs designed to make the Veteran's home safer and more comfortable, in addition to a Veteran discount at the ReStore every Friday.

Partnering with American Red Cross, they install smoke alarms under the Home Fire Campaign, making the Veteran's home safer to reside in. In addition, ADA compliant door handles are replaced with lever handle devices, making mobility more comfortable for the Veteran and their family.

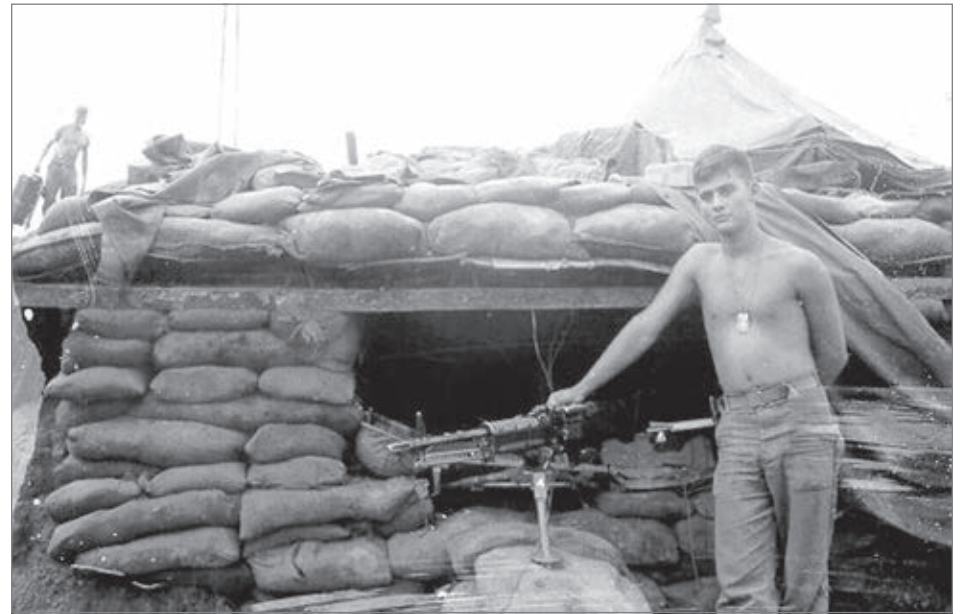
A more beneficial program offered is the Ramps and Rails program, which includes handicap accessibility modifications such as wheelchair ramps, grab bars and handrails. Only metal ramps are utilized ensuring longer life of the improvement. A Veteran needs to call and discuss their personal needs to schedule for this program as there is a waiting period.

One of the more significant programs is the Roof Replacement program in which the local chapter partners with legendary

Owens Corning Company for one Veteran home per year in the chapter's service area. The program covers replacement of roof covering only and does not include repairs needed due to existing structural damage. There is an application and approval process to determine the Veteran's qualification. This program can substantially ease the burden for the Veteran in today's high-cost of construction prices.

All of these programs are administered locally through Construction Supervisor Mike Long who can be reached at 541-902-9227 to obtain detailed information for qualification and application.

VETERAN PROFILE - RICHARD LEWIS



One of the things I most enjoy about my time volunteering with the Florence Band of Brothers is getting to know some of our communities' Veterans, such as Richard Lewis. I

first met Richard back in 2016 when then-mayor Joe Henry 'drafted' Richard to be the photographer for our Coast Guard City Appreciation Dinner. He was phenomenal in the way he went about his task, and generated some great photos of those in attendance as we celebrated our Station Siuslaw USCG members.

Since that time, I also 'drafted' Richard to become the photographer for our annual Veterans Day parade – it wasn't hard to get him on-board! Since then he and his wife Sharron have covered both our parade staging process at Florence Christian Church as well as the parade itself down through Bay Street in Old Town. It is a valued asset in our annual effort to honor the Veterans in our community.

Born at Fort Presidio in San Francisco while his father was stationed there, the family returned to Puerto Rico where Richard grew up, until returning stateside in 1959.

Richard entered his military service in 1964 at age 18 when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in San Diego, California. Military heritage is rich in Richards family. His father had served our nation in the United States Army both

stateside, Richard served back at Camp Pendleton as noncommissioned officer in charge of Brig Control. He discharged while at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in 1968 and would go on to attend college majoring in Horticulture, becoming certified in Entomology, followed by a career with the Department of Defense. His home base was Beale Air Force Base in California, but he would also spend time at Kadana Air Force Base in Japan before retiring in 2001.

Like so many of our Veterans, he maintains friendships forged long ago with his military brothers with whom he served, such as Tomas Arenas from El Paso, Texas. They are close and stay in regular contact.

Richard and his wife Sharron retired to Florence where he is active not only in the Veteran community, but the overall Florence community as well. He currently serves as Vice Commander for DAV Chapter 23, is a member of VFW Post 3232, and active in the weekly Florence Band of Brothers meetings. He has served in his Home Owners Association for multiple years, as well as Florence Christian Church. In addition to his life-long hobby in photography, he also has

in WWII as well as Korea. His sister was an Army medic, and his son John was in Army Airborne. Richard would become an infantryman in Vietnam, manning an M-60 machine gun. He celebrated his 19th birthday in a rice patty in Vietnam. He would serve two terms there.

A battle experience that took place in August of 1966 during Operation Starlite near Van Tuong would cement his relationship with God, and that relationship continues today.

Following his return

an interest that can sting you if not careful – apiculture – specifically honey bees!

At our weekly Band of Brothers coffee mornings, I regularly enjoy his stories of childhood as an Army brat growing up in both Puerto Rico as well as stateside, and both his military life and professional life. They're not only educational and interesting, but always delivered with a smile, sparkle in his eye and an upbeat attitude.

Thank you for your service Richard, both to our nation years ago, and to our community today.

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Florence Area Veteran Service Organizations:

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Disabled American Veterans Chapter 23
<https://davwebsites.dav.org/or/23/SystemPages/Home.aspx>
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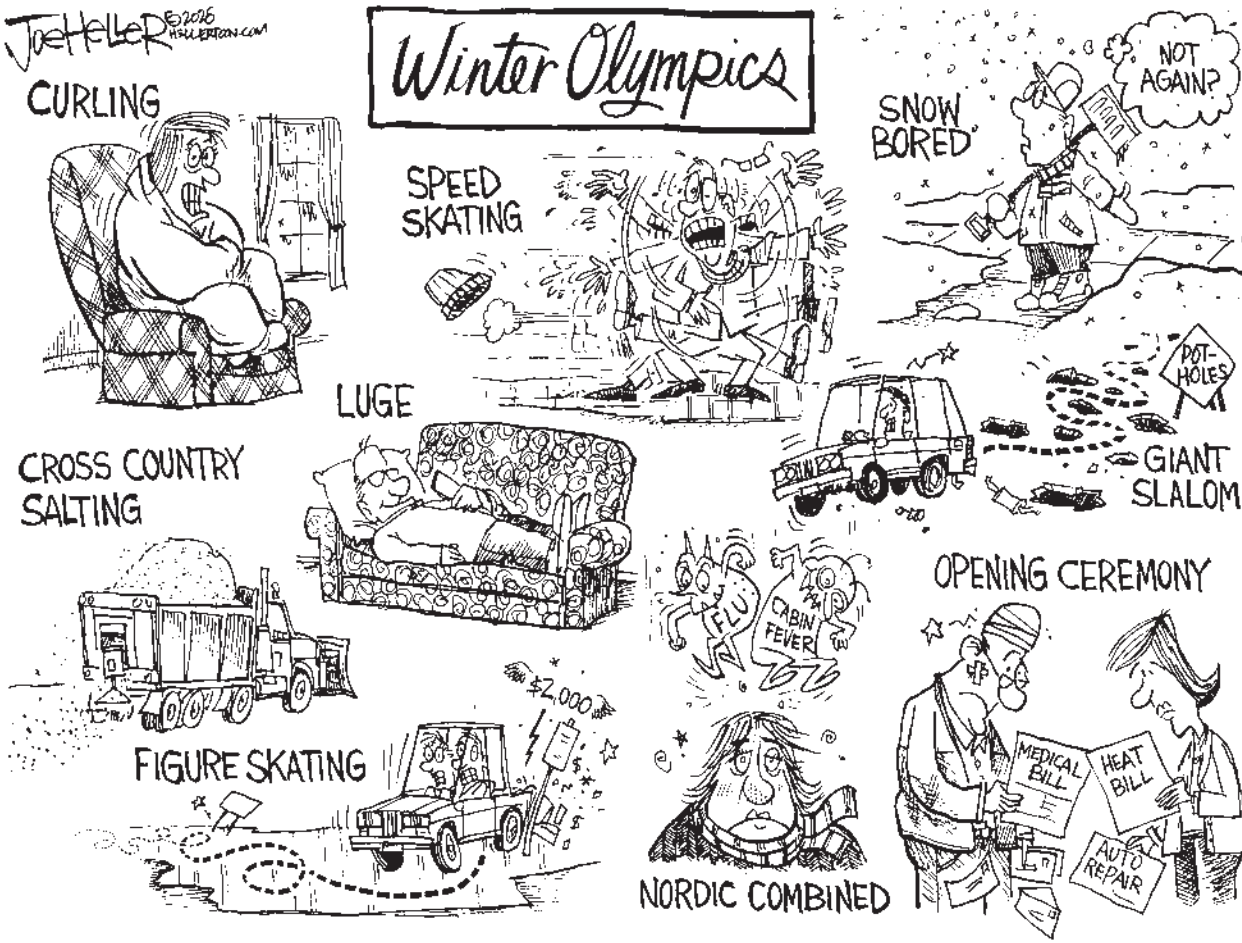
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The newspaper is published every **WEDNESDAY**. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Country Media, P.O. Box 35, Salem, OR 97301.

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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.

TO SUBMIT TO THE SIUSLAW NEWS:

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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U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle (4th Dist.)
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LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR,

Our Health System is Broken

It is not a matter of if we'll need health care, but of when. All other well-off countries have followed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), WHO's International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), and the Alma-Ata Declaration (1978) --- each declaring health care is a right, not a privilege. For 40 years as a physician, I've always worn this principle on my lapel. But this principle is just aspiration in the USA.

* Many of us find it unfair if "they" get health insurance for free.
 * Having insurance does not guarantee health care, as insurance companies can deny claims for care while still collecting premiums.

* Having a nearby clinic and hospital does not guarantee health care, as hospitals can declare people's insurance to be out-of-network. Also, hospitals can close less profitable services (e.g., palliative care).

* Hospital and medical debt causes 2/3rds of bankruptcies in the US.
 * People avoid health care for fear that profit-centric hospitals will demand ALL

their finances.

* Half of our \$16,000-per-capita annual health bill is paid by US and Oregon via Medicare, Medicaid, VA, etc.. Canada spends half as much per person, but Canadians receive universal coverage, without added premiums, copays, deductibles, or denials. Given our broken system, I see no resolution other than a single-payer system, similar to Canada's. The free market has failed at health insurance. While my clinic caused zero bankruptcies, I cannot treat everyone. I have to charge membership to pay rent for my humble office. But if health care for all Oregon (HCAO.org) happened, I would gladly stop collecting membership fees to have and provide access to health care.

*John Egar,
 Florence*

DEAR EDITOR, Trump Gets Away With Constant Lies

Trump says things that are false over and over & faces limited consequences. Media rewards speed, outrage & click\$ more than accuracy. False emotionally charged claims travel faster than truth. By the time

fact-checks land, the headline moment has passed & the correction factor never spreads as far as the lies. Remember when: CBS CEO Leslie Moonves bragged during Trump's 1st run for the White House, "It may not be good for America, but it's damn good for CBS, [T]he money's rolling in, [T]his is going to be a very good year for us."

Politicians stick to certain rules: consistency, evidence & apologies when wrong. Trump simply doesn't, he is the rule! When you never admit error & never slow down, critics are stuck playing defense & catch-up all the time. Calling out lie #347 doesn't matter when you're now at lie #3347. Trump's supporters/cult followers don't see his statements as literal truth claims. They hear them as expressions of grievance, "the system is rigged", "I'm on your side" & attacks enemies rather than factual descriptions. So fact-checking often misses the point for that tone-deaf audience; saying "that's false" doesn't land if the listener couldn't care less if it's a factual claim in the first place. Decades of declining trust in media, government & experts means that pushback often gets

tossed out as biased or corrupt. If you convince people ahead of time that referees are illegitimate, then every foul call looks suspect. Volume & repetition is the strategy! When someone lies constantly it overwhelms a system designed to respond to occasional dishonesty. Journalists, courts, and voters all have limited attention.

The sheer amount creates exhaustion and normalization. Repeat a lie often enough & it becomes the truth is a propaganda law often attributed to the Nazi, Joseph Goebbels. "That's just how he talks" (Trump) is plain BS!

Pushback does exist in fact checks, court rulings & investigations but consequences are slow, technical & boring compared to bold claims made on a stage. Too many political actors benefit from not confronting him with vigor, it risks backlash from his base. Put together, it's less no one notices & more that our system isn't built to handle someone who treats truth as optional. Trump's political consultant, Kellyanne Conway first used the expression, "alternative facts"--those are just lies!

*Jeff Gemutliche
 Florence*

POLICE LOG

The Florence Police Department responded to the following calls from February 3 to February 9

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

At 8:37 a.m., a caller reported finding a phone and a car they had purchased. Officers took possession of the phone and placed it into evidence.

At 9:59 a.m., officers arrested two subjects in the 900 block of Greenwood for warrants from Florence Municipal Court.

At 3:14 p.m., a caller reported a vehicle west-bound on Highway 26

near mile marker five that was unable to stay in its lane. Officers waited at the city limits, but the vehicle did not arrive.

At 3:22 p.m., a caller reported finding a tablet in the area of Highway 101 and 24th St. The tablet was placed into evidence at the police department.

At 8:13 p.m., officers responded to a two-vehicle accident in the area of 8th Street and Kenwood. Officers determined no

injuries occurred, but developed probable cause for a DUI investigation. Marie Hayden was arrested for DUII.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

At 10:53 a.m., a caller in the 3700 block of Highway 101 reported seeing a subject spraying something on the vehicle. Officers arrived to determine that the subject was actually spraying weeds near the vehicle.

At 1:26 p.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of 12th St. for a report of a dog that had

been inside a vehicle for a long time. Prior to the officer's arrival, the owner arrived and let the dog out.

At 2:26 p.m., a caller reported a subject in the 200 block of Highway 101 who appeared to be intoxicated getting into the driver's side of a vehicle. Officers arrived and made contact with the subject and determined he was not under the influence. No further action was taken.

At 9:35 p.m., officers made contact with a

See **POLICE**, Page A6

| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
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Calling all Siuslaw, Mapleton and homeschool students

Local free workshop for DEQ Art Contest

All local K - 12 Siuslaw, Mapleton and homeschool students are encouraged to attend a special FREE DEQ Art Contest Workshop on Saturday February 28th from 10 am until noon at BeauxArts Fine Art Materials and Gallery at 2285 Highway 101 in Florence (Coastal Fitness Plaza).

This is a great way to showcase your sustainability spirit and join the effort to protect and preserve Oregon's environment and natural wonder by sharing your experience with the changing world. BeauxArts will provide the materials and support to help young artists create and submit their artwork. Students are encouraged to create something inspired by their climate impact experience on

one of these themes:

- Protect What Sustains Us
- Climate Solutions Start Here
- From Pollution to Solution- the Earth We Want to See

Students can choose any visual medium to enter the art contest. Artwork can be realistic or abstract, horizontal or vertical, a painting, photograph or a sketch. All artwork must be original and created entirely by the student. See full application for submission details.

Deadline for the contest is April 22, 2026) There will be refreshments and snacks available.

Please contact BeauxArts for more information beauxartsfam@gmail.com or 541-991-8213 and feel free to stop by the shop.

More information about the DEQ Art Contest can be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Documents/YouthClimateArtContestFlyer.pdf>

Hoyle secures over \$16.6 million for community projects

From The Office Of REP. VAL HOYLE

Rep. Val Hoyle announced that she secured more than \$16.6 million in federal funding for community projects in Oregon's 4th Congressional District. These funds will support 15 projects in Benton, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane and Lincoln Counties. The allocation sends \$3.58 million to Lane County and \$250,000 specifically to Florence and \$675,000 to Mapleton.

For Fiscal Year 2026, each Member of Congress could request federal funding for up to 15 community projects on behalf of their district. Last spring kicked off months of work between the Congresswoman's office and local governments, first responders, schools, ports and other organizations to identify, vet and advance community priority projects. Rep.

Hoyle advocated for her colleagues to invest in these projects. She also partnered with Senators Merkley and Wyden to move an even broader set of Oregon priorities through the process.

"These project requests came from communities across six counties, and for months I've worked with my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee and our Senators to help carry them forward — from public safety and affordable housing to workforce training to cutting-edge research," said Rep. Hoyle. "I'm looking forward to communities starting to see real investments on the ground — from shovels in the dirt to programs getting underway."

This federal funding will allow communities to make long-overdue investments in fire and police services, water infrastructure, workforce training and affordable housing. A

full list of funded projects can be found below.

Since entering Congress, Rep. Hoyle has leveraged the federal appropriations process to bring more than \$33.3 million back to Oregon's 4th Congressional District.

LANE COUNTY

- \$1 million for Lane County to strengthen its fire radio network
- \$675,000 for the Mapleton Water District to extend the service life of Mapleton's water storage tanks
- \$858,000 for the City of Springfield to replace existing body-worn cameras and in-car video systems used by police officers
- \$800,000 for the City of Cottage Grove to support community policing
- \$250,000 for the City of Florence to work to stabilize a landslide along the Siuslaw River and repair damaged storm-water infrastructure

Spinning Wheel and Weaving demonstrations

Join us at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum for two free hands-on demonstrations of making yarn with a spinning wheel and weaving cloth with a wooden floor loom. Brenda Gilmer, a long-time weaver, will introduce you to the loom and with her guidance, you'll have a chance to 'throw' the shuttle under the threads,

work the treadle with your foot and watch the threads gradually come together to create a colorful interwoven pattern! She'll explain the steps involved before the unfinished weaving ("web") is finished (or "fulled"), to become a beautiful cloth. Cherie Aubian will also be on hand for a spinning demonstration. If you've

ever wondered about spinning yarn, the art of weaving or have an interest in witnessing a loom or spinning wheel in action, these demonstrations are for you! This free event is on Sunday, February 22 from Noon to 4 p.m. at the Pioneer Museum, located at 278 Maple Street (across from Homegrown Public House Restaurant).

Rep. Boomer Wright celebrates passage of Bill to deliver free books to Oregon children

From The Desk Of REPRESENTATIVE BOOMER WRIGHT

Today, the Oregon House of Representatives passed HB 4022, which seeks to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Oregon. If

signed into law, the program will deliver free, age-appropriate books each month to kids aged 0-5. Representative Boomer Wright (R-Coos Bay) cheered the bill's passing.

"There's no denying

that we have a lot of work to do to get our young children back on track academically. That being said, I wholeheartedly believe that putting physical books in children's hands is an excellent place to start," said Rep. Wright.

House Bill 4022 now heads to the Senate for consideration.

the spotlight

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

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Coquille Tribe donates to food backpack

The Food Backpack For Kids program has received a \$5,000 grant from the Coquille Tribal Community Fund.

This dedicated program ensures that identified Florence and Mapleton students in grades K-12 have access to nutritious food over the weekends throughout the school year. Each school weekend, participating students receive pre-packaged bags filled with six shelf-stable meals (three for Saturday and three for Sunday), milk, fruit, snacks, and necessary utensils — a crucial addition for children from food-insecure homes who may not have access to these basic items.


Since 2024 through 2025, the Food Backpack For Kids program has provided over 62,880 meals to children in need. No child should worry about where their next meal is coming from. Food Backpack for Kids is helping ensure that no child goes hungry.

Local educators and administrators have seen the incredible impact of the Food Backpack For Kids program firsthand. Before its implementation, children were known to hoard food on Fridays and scavenge for leftovers on Mondays. Since the program began, these behaviors have disappeared, replaced with nourished students ready to focus on learning.

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Together we are changing the world four paws at a time!

New nanoparticles enable melanoma tumors to be removed with low-power laser light

By **STEVE LUNDEBERG**
Oregon State University

Researchers at Oregon State University have developed and tested in a mouse model a new type of nanoparticle that enables the removal of melanoma tumors with a low-power laser.

After the systemically administered nanoparticles accumulate in cancerous tissue, exposure to near-infrared light causes them to heat up and destroy the melanoma cells, leaving healthy tissue unharmed.

The study led by Olena Taratula and Prem Singh of the Oregon State University College of Pharmacy represents a huge step toward solving a persistent problem with using photothermal therapy

to treat melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer: Conventional nanoparticles require lasers with power

Taratula, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Singh, a postdoctoral researcher in Taratula's lab, based their new theranostic platform – it can be used for both treatment and diagnosis – on gold nanorods. The nanorods are coated with an iron-cobalt shell and tightly loaded with a dye that heats up upon exposure to near-infrared light – invisible, low-frequency radiation able to penetrate deeply into human tissue.

A key feature of the platform is its use of resonance energy transfer, a nanoscale process in which energy moves directly

from one molecule to another. The highly efficient nature of resonance energy transfer is what allows the nanoparticles to heat up quickly under laser exposure far below the safety threshold for maintaining healthy skin.

"The safety limit is 0.33 watts per centimeter squared," Taratula said. "When we used 0.25 watts per centimeter squared with our nanoparticles, a single treatment of an aggressive melanoma mouse model, developed in the lab of our OSU colleague Adam Alani, completely ablated the tumor."

A HUGE THREAT

According to the American Cancer Society, skin cancer is by far the most common type

of cancer in the United States, and melanoma is the most dangerous type. Melanoma, which starts in the skin's pigment-producing cells and is typically caused by exposure to ultraviolet light, accounts for only about 1% of skin cancers but is responsible for the majority of skin cancer deaths.

More than 8,000 people in the U.S. died of melanoma in 2025, according to the National Institutes of Health, and more than 100,000 new cases were diagnosed.

"Many of those cases likely were treated with a surgical procedure that required a big incision and a significant amount of tissue removal to help ensure no cancerous cells were left behind," Singh

said. "Photothermal therapy on the other hand is a minimally invasive treatment, and our work establishes resonance energy transfer as a truly transformative strategy for coming up with next-generation photothermal therapy agents."

The design of the nanoparticle presented in this research, he added, allows it to also act as an imaging agent that enables fluorescence-guided ablation therapy – an imaging system shows where to focus the laser during tumor removal.

The OSU College of Pharmacy, the OSU Advantage program, the

National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development supported this research.

The collaboration included Oregon State's Constanze Raitmayr, Syed Zaki Husain Rizvi, Ammar Salem, Vladislav Grigoriev, Tetiana Korzun, Karthickraja Duraisamy, Akshay Vyawahare, Kongbrailatpam Shitaljit Sharma, Ana Paula Mesquita Souza, Yoon Tae Goo, Manali Phawde, Chrissa Kiousi and Oleh Taratula, and Yitayal Admassu Workie of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University.

Tax cut legislation advancing

From The Office Of
SEN. ANTHONY BROADMAN

The Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue advanced legislation to the Senate floor that cuts taxes for more than 200,000 low-to-moderate income Oregon households, spurs job growth in Oregon businesses, and protects \$291 million in needed funding for education, health care, and public safety.

Senate Bill 1507 achieves these benefits for working Oregonians by closing tax loopholes overwhelmingly used by the wealthy and big corporations.

"Democrats are laser-focused on

putting more money in the pockets of everyday Oregonians," Senator Anthony Broadman (D-Bend) said. "At a time when the cost of living is too high and rising, we need to take urgent action this legislative session to invest in affordability and support local businesses."

Last summer, the Trump tax package blew a \$900 million hole in Oregon's budget with tax cuts largely going toward the wealthy and big corporations. Those tax cuts were automatically adopted by Oregon's tax code.

This proposal makes targeted changes to re-align Oregon's tax code to benefit working Oregonians.

It expands the Earned Income Tax Credit by the largest amount in Oregon history, which lowers taxes for more than 200,000 low-to-moderate income households. The credit is increased from 9% for individual filers and 12% for filers with a child under 3, to 14% and 17%, respectively.

The proposal also creates the new \$25 million Jobs Tax Credit to lower taxes on Oregon businesses that create good-paying jobs in Oregon. The tax credit is available regardless of industry, but is only available if the business has net job increases in the state.

The proposal also

reaffirms that neither tips nor overtime pay will be taxed.

To pay for these credits and to preserve \$291 million for health care, education, and public safety, the proposal removes from Oregon's tax code three provisions that would have unfairly benefited the wealthy and corporations while not supporting job growth in Oregon.

Removed are deductions on auto loan interest for new cars, deductions on profits from corporate equity sales, and bonus depreciation for machinery and equipment.

NAW prevails against Recycling Act

FROM NAW

The National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) today prevailed in securing a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of Oregon's Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act. The injunction prevents Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality from enforcing the Act against NAW Members

until the court rules on the merits. The Court agreed with NAW that the law's opaque regulatory scheme raises serious questions about whether the Act violates the Due Process and Dormant Commerce Clauses in the United States Constitution.

"This ruling is a significant victory for NAW members, who face imminent and irreparable harm under the Act, including unrecoverable compliance

costs, competitive distortions, and the risk of steep civil penalties," said Eric Hoplin, President and CEO of NAW. "This is a major win for NAW member companies who have been dramatically impacted by the exorbitant fees imposed under the law by the Circular Action Alliance, NAW looks forward to presenting its case on the merits when the Court hears our case on July 13."

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U.S. Forest Service unveils plans to hire summer seasonal employees in 2026

(Washington, D.C., February 12, 2026) – Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service announced plans to hire up to 2,000 seasonal positions for the upcoming summer recreation season, helping to support active management work and improve access and experiences on national forests and grasslands.

“Under President Trump’s leadership,

USDA is restoring fiscal responsibility, efficiency and accountability so that Americans can count on services that endure,” said Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins. “We have addressed millions of dollars in salary deficits inherited from the previous administration. The Forest Service is now on a path to fiscal solvency and able to fill these critical seasonal positions to improve services for visitors this summer.”

“Hiring these seasonal positions is essential to delivering the services visitors rely on,” said Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz. “Our seasonal employees are active members of the communities they serve. They keep forests open and accessible, campgrounds and other facilities clean, and neighboring towns thriving. It’s a direct investment in the people who make our national forests and grasslands

special.”

Now that the Forest Service has streamlined its hiring process and shortened hiring timeframes, seasonal employees can begin work earlier — opening more opportunities for people in rural communities to compete for jobs close to home.

“This year, we’re focusing our recruitment within the communities we serve,” added Chief Schultz. “Local residents bring invaluable

knowledge, pride, and a strong connection to the places we care for. We are excited to offer more opportunities for people who want to work close to home.”

These positions are in addition to seasonal fire hiring already underway. If you enjoy being in the outdoors and are interested in seasonal employment with the Forest Service, please check for opportunities and hiring events in your area.

Interested applicants must apply through USAJOBS.gov. Application periods, qualifications, and start dates vary by position. Applicants are encouraged to review job announcements carefully for deadlines and required materials.

To learn more about Forest Service careers, benefits, and upcoming hiring opportunities and events, visit fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/careers.

Warm winter days, cold winter nights

FROM FLORENCE WARMING SHELTER

The Florence Warming Center made the decision to open Feb. 9 and 10 after carefully watching shifting predictions and studying several weather apps.

The shelter is located at 4480 Hwy 101, its permanent home for the season.

Looking ahead, there are sure to be more weather events this month that activate its

opening.

The shelter was open for eight nights in a row last month. The hard work of the night crew and volunteers and community partners made it possible to have a safe and warm place for guests. Having one place where volunteers did not have to set up and break down each day was essential to this successful opening.

Shelter staff members feel good about fulfilling the

mission: Working with the community to provide Florence neighbors without shelter a safe place to sleep and warm food to eat in harsh weather.

White and Black flags will be out at 6 a.m. when weather is expected to reach life-threatening overnight temperatures.

Guests will begin to get picked up at various Florence locations starting at 4:45 PM. They will be transported from the warming center the next morning by 8 a.m.

Florence Food Share receives grant award from The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund

The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund has granted \$7,099 to Florence Food Share. This funding will go towards the purchase and installation of a new freezer.

Colin Morgan, Executive Director at Florence Food Share, stated, “Our pantry provides free food for people living on low incomes in western Lane County. Two freezers recently began failing; we received a donation and replaced one and this grant will help us replace and install the second one.”

“We extend our gratitude to The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund for their generous support in achieving these

objectives,” he added.

Since its inception, STCCF has distributed more than \$16.3 million in charitable grant awards. For details, visit <https://ctsi.nsn.us/charitable-contribution-fund/>.

For more information or if you would like to contribute to this project, please call 541-997-9110 or visit <http://www.florencefoodshare.org/>. Florence Food Share is located at 2190 Spruce Street in Florence and is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday and Wednesday evenings from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community members are encouraged to visit to see what is available.

POLICE

From Page A3

subject in the area of Ivy and 6th Street who was wanted for questioning on another case. Upon investigating, officers found the subject to be in possession of meth. He was arrested for unlawful possession of a controlled substance and carrying a concealed weapon.

At 11:37 p.m., officers responded to a report of a vehicle stalled on the Siuslaw River Bridge. Officers made contact with the driver, determined he had warrants from Florence Municipal Court and took him into custody.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

At 5:06 a.m., a caller reported finding a phone in the 1600 block of 15th St.. Caller recontacted to say he had found the person who owned the phone and returned it.

At 11:35 a.m., a caller reported an illegally parked vehicle in the area

of 26th and Spruce. The vehicle was moved when officers arrived.

At 4:27 p.m., a business in the 1200 block of Highway 101 reported a subject being disorderly. Officers were en route when the business said the subject had left.

At 4:43 p.m., a caller reported that while shopping in the 700 block of Highway 101, a drone was stolen from their vehicle. The case remains under investigation.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

At 11:23 a.m., officers responded to the 3700 block of Highway 101 for a reported dispute. Officers found an ongoing dispute between neighbors. Subjects were counseled, and no further action was taken.

At 2:54 p.m., an elderly subject came into the police department requesting help. An officer came to the counter to assist him with court paperwork.

At 10:24 p.m., a business in the 1500 block of 9th Street reported a subject inside yelling.

Officers arrived and contacted the subject. The business owner did not want to press charges but asked that the subject be told not to return.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

At 7:35 a.m., officers assisted Mental Crisis Response personnel in capturing a loose dog.

At 10:53 a.m., a caller reported losing a bag in the area of rhododendron and juniper containing a phone and ID.

At 12:09 p.m., a call reported receiving threats from their ex-spouse by phone. Officers assisted the caller and referred them to Siuslaw Outreach Services.

At 5:29 p.m., officers stopped a subject while investigating a theft of shoes in the 2300 block of Highway 101, when another subject known to have warrants walked up to officers. One subject was arrested for theft, and

the other was arrested for warrants from Florence Municipal Court.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

At 2:38 a.m., a caller reported a bollard in the middle of the roadway in the area of 9th and Hemlock. Officers arrived and removed the hazard from the roadway.

At 9:22 a.m., officers removed a shopping cart from the roadway in the area of 101 and Quince.

At 12:28 p.m., officers responded to the 4700 block of Highway 101 for a report that a vehicle had hit two other vehicles and the driver had gone into the store. Officers contacted the driver, but found the other two vehicles had left. At last report, officers were attempting to contact the other vehicle owners and reviewing store security footage.

At 5:19 p.m., officers responded to the 1400

block of Maple for a reported domestic dispute. Officers arrived to find two subjects who were arguing about the Super Bowl.

At 7:43 p.m., officers were responding to the 1600 block of 30th St. for a report that a juvenile had not returned home. While en route, officers were notified that the juvenile came home.

At 7:50 p.m., two callers reported hearing shots or explosions in the 2400 block of 17th St. Officers arrived to speak with others in the area who said the explosions could have been fireworks. The cause was not determined.

At 11:50 p.m., officers assisted Sheriff’s personnel for an assault that occurred outside the city limits before the victim was dropped off in Florence. Officers took the victim to the hospital, and Lane County Sheriff’s Office is continuing to

investigate.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

At 9:12 a.m., a caller in the 1300 block of 8th Street reported that the license plate had been taken from the back of their vehicle.

At 9:22 a.m., a subject came into the police department to surrender a firearm for destruction.

At 10:53 a.m., school personnel reported an intoxicated subject on one of the school campuses. Officers arrived and made contact with the subject, whom they determined was impaired. The subject was booked into detox to sober up.

At 3:02 p.m., a caller reported losing medication somewhere in Florence. A report was taken.

At 3:18 p.m., a caller reported that two small dogs had been attacked by a German Shepherd on Harbor Street. A report was taken.

AWARD

From Page A1

House. “We are proud to serve our community and grateful for the collaboration and support that make this work possible.”

The Western Lane Crisis Program provides mobile crisis intervention,

on-scene behavioral health response, de-escalation, safety planning, and connection to ongoing supports, helping ensure safety, stability, and recovery for individuals experiencing crisis, helping ensure safety, stability, and recovery for individuals experiencing crisis. The program plays a vital role in strengthening

community resilience and reducing the long-term impacts of trauma.

SDAO represents Oregon’s special districts and works to promote effective governance, leadership, and public service across the state. Awards such as this recognize exemplary programs that embody those values.

Community members

and partner agencies interested in learning more about the Western Lane Crisis Response team are invited to attend a public presentation on February 25 at 11:00 a.m. at the Siuslaw Public Library, Bromley Room. The presentation will provide an overview of the program, its impact, and opportunities for collaboration.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



1258 BAY STREET

Well established Kitchen store since 1982 now available for sale in Old Town Florence. This business occupies a prime spot on Bay Street. Kitchen Klutter is a kitchen store and so much more. Besides kitchen gadgets the inventory includes small appliances, baby clothes, cheeses, truffles, bar supplies, teas, lotions and so much more. It's a store you can spend hours in and be amazed how many goodies are really packed into this delightful spot. Income statements are available to interested parties. Please do not bother the employees, call the agent for more information. **\$225,000.** #12824/142319216



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FAC

From Page A1

vote from the School Board to form a political action committee. He said the facilities committee wanted to get information about the proposal out one last time before the vote.

THE HIGH SCHOOL

He said that while the school was meant for 350 to 375 students when built in 1970, it now holds more than 400 students. He said that at the time, because of circumstances, corners were cut and cheap materials were used in the rushed construction of the high school.

While the electrical system was adequate for the time when it was built, the amount of electronic equipment in the school has grown dramatically.

“We are plugging in Chromebooks all day through power blocks and extension cords that were not part of the original layout of the school,” Harklerode said. “We don’t have enough electrical capacity to bring our classrooms up to date for current instructional technology.”

He said that although the hallways and other areas of the high school are not terribly crowded, the tiny classrooms are. Only 20 to 24 students can comfortably sit in most rooms, he said.

“There is not enough room for teachers to reorganize, or for students to put tables and chairs together to work collaboratively,” he said, noting that classrooms are very undersized, have few windows and poor air circulation.

“We also have a terrible heating system,” he said, noting that last winter, the school had to go into distance learning because the heating system failed in the entire school.

He said for all three schools, all athletic fields, and transportation, the high school requires 40% of the entire budget just to keep the lights on and heat in the classrooms.

The science classroom is unable to use Bunsen Burners, since the propane line runs through concrete and is so deteriorated, it can no longer hold pressure.

POINTS OF CONCERN

Engineers and architects came to the school and found eight major points of concern: aging buildings, inadequate and failing systems, safety and security issues, high cost of maintenance and utilities, needed structural upgrades, capacity issues, no kitchen or cafeteria, and a lack of basic amenities.

He noted that while there is no kitchen or cafeteria at the high school, it has been doing well with having food produced at the elementary school and brought to the high school campus. However, an attendance and security problem is amplified by the fact that most students have to leave the campus during lunch. He said school officials have to incentivize leaving the campus for lunch, which creates a fourth attendance and tardiness.

Harklerode said many security issues exist, since the high school has 17 different entry points. He said that while the campus features a new front office building, gates and cameras, it is extremely difficult to monitor who is coming in and out of the school.

He noted that even though students have been instructed not to, many will open locked doors to allow their friends to come in from outside the campus.

He said that while the school’s security cameras are great for recording if something goes wrong, they have little worth when it comes to preventing anything.

“The 17 points [of entry] are a school safety nightmare,” he said.

ELEMENTARY ISSUES

Harklerode said the elementary school was constructed in 1965 with additions added in 1982, 1985 and 1992.

Kindergarten students are separated from the campus, but have to walk through most of its hallways to get from the school bus to their own classroom, he said.

He added later that the kindergarten classroom was initially estimated to last 12 years, and 2025 marks its 11th year in service.

Kindergarten students also have to walk the full length of the campus every day from the bus to class and back.

“The smallest legs in the district are traveling the farthest to get to class,” he said. He also noted that the rainy day shed is only accessible by walking through the rain, is littered with bird droppings, and on windy days, rain is pushed through it sideways.

Other issues include classroom functionality, obsolete systems, necessary safety and structural upgrades, security issues and issues with buses and traffic flow.

Both the elementary and high school campuses were constructed before the Columbine tragedy, and lack security upgrades that were mandated for most schools. The schools also predate seismic construction requirements. Harklerode noted previously that the district has no way to determine how much shaking will render the buildings uninhabitable.

He said that since the middle school was built in the year 2000, it’s doing just fine.

“But the elementary school has some issues,” he said.

He said that in 2018, school officials had no choice but to bring in portable modular classrooms to allow for full-day kindergarten as mandated by the state at that time.

“The projected shelf life for those buildings was 12 years, so we are approaching the end of the usability of those classrooms,” he said.

Security issues are also a concern, along with the effects of traffic issues and car exhaust wafting into some classrooms in the morning and at day’s end.

THE COSTS

Harklerode also noted that a few changes have come about recently. One is that while the committee previously recommended considering two size options for the new high school, only one option remains now.

“The total is about \$145 million minus \$6 million in the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) Grant,” he said. “The grant is afforded only if we pass the bond in this election cycle.”

The cost per \$1000 of assessed value is \$2.75 on the 30-year bond and is based on assessed value,

not market value.

A NEW, NEW LOCATION

Showing a map of the proposed location, Harklerode said the high school would be moved to the lot just south of the football stadium.

He said the layout would relieve many of the parking and traffic issues on Oak Street.

“About 200 cars per day that would otherwise be crossing Oak Street would be directed toward Kingwood,” he said.

After explaining how sports fields would be rearranged in the plan, Harklerode noted that the new high school would be built on the existing practice soccer field.

“When they built the middle school, they buried all the trees and all the brush that came off that site, so now it’s settling. Our facilities team has been out there drilling holes in it and trying to get it to settle. When that becomes the new high school, 10 to 15 ft of earth is going to get moved anyway, so we really can’t use that space for much else, and it’s the perfect spot to put a school,” he said.

Calling it a late thought, Harklerode said the original plan was to put the high school next to Oak Street, but the City informed the committee that a traffic survey would find the plan ineffective at reducing traffic there. However, the district has all the property it needs to make the necessary connections to Kingwood Street, he said.

BIGGER AND BETTER

He said the new high school would be a two-story building with much bigger classrooms.

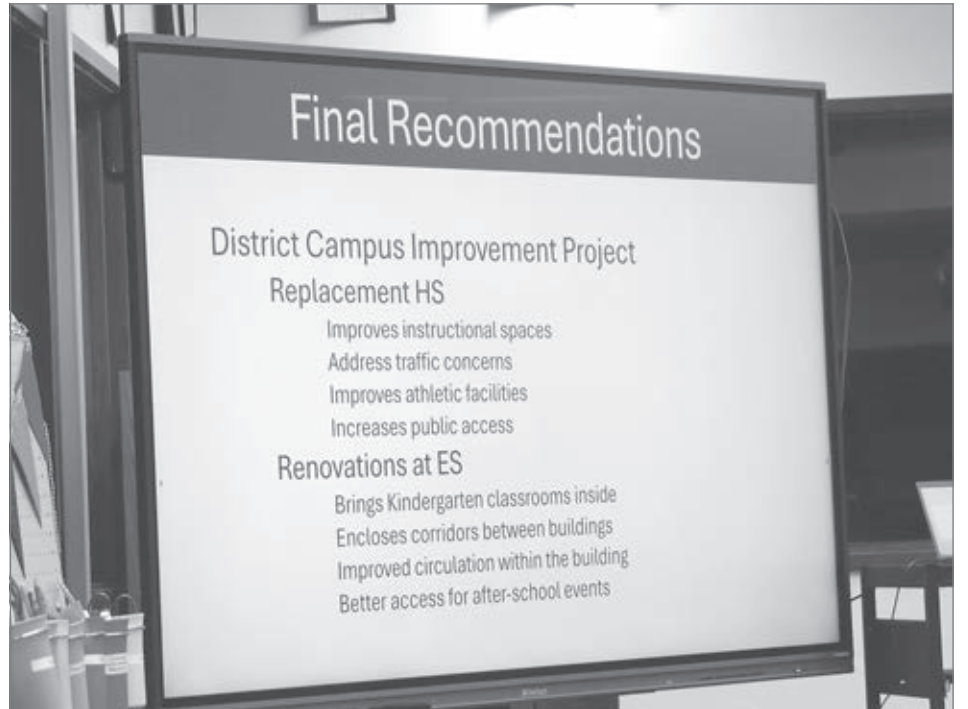
“We would also include an auditorium,” he said. “The auditorium is not intended for us to compete with the event center, but it’s recognizing that there are a number of things we would like to do with an auditorium.”

He said an auditorium would allow for guest speakers, programs, high school presentations, and more without the cost of busing students to the event center. He said the auditorium could also operate on the schools’ time schedule, rather than that of the event center. Currently, many presentations are held in school gyms, where the reverberating echo makes amplified voices indiscernible at times.

Harklerode said it is yet unknown where classrooms, bathrooms, hallways and so forth would be located, because an architectural rendering has not been created. He said those things will be prepared once the bond passes, and architects and drawings will be ordered. Harklerode noted that teachers and community



As principal at the high school, Mike Harklerode is very familiar with the list of eight urgent issues with the campus and its buildings. Tony Reed photo.



members would also be weighing in on the process at that point.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIXES

Harklerode said that the proposed bus lane would mean the students can wait at a location away from Oak Street. He said the new system would be faster, more efficient and probably even save time on the bus route. He said it will also funnel visitors to the correct front door, alleviating the current confusion about school entry doors. Harklerode noted that by having a dedicated bus lane, it would get high school students out of the rain and increase safety for all students.

“It would also bring the oldest structures in the district up to code and should be set for the next generation,” he said. Harklerode stressed that buildings should last longer than people, but at 55 years of age, the high school did not.

“We have every expectation that with modern engineering, the new school will last much longer than the 55 years we were able to get out of this building,” he said. “The same would be true for any additions at the elementary school.”

A REASON TO INVEST

“These are pretty self-selling, in my mind,” he said. “If you talk to kids, and you talk to teachers, everybody gets it, but in a town like Florence, that’s not going

to be enough.”

Harklerode said a new school would also offer community-wide benefits, including more businesses, more health care professionals, teachers, added green space for community use, and lower property tax liability.

“We definitely think that \$2.75 per \$1,000 is the highest it will ever be, and over time, it will likely, logically come down. No one has a crystal ball for Florence, but around the state, that is what happens.”

He said many people have indicated that they also want to live in a community that values its schools and wants to invest in them.

Harklerode noted that with eight Community Technical Education (CTE) programs already in the school, Siuslaw School District is investing in its students. He said only about a third of us high school graduates are choosing to go to college, with more and more going to the workforce or trade schools. He also noted that Siuslaw is the only district in the state requiring 25 credits to graduate.

“Every student graduating from Siuslaw High

School now is going to have a full year of government, and they are also going to have a full semester of personal finance,” he said. “Real-world, adult skills that kids need in order to become productive, active, intelligent adults.”

Student Andrew Hester concurred, saying he took the course, and now knows about personal finance, mortgages, loans, insurance and more.

Noting that construction costs are far outpacing inflation, Harklerode said the time to build is now, because it will be impossible to predict where the numbers will land 10 years from now.

“But we know it’s not going to come down,” he said, “so it’s time for us to invest in a new high school, and these changes at the elementary school, because the need is not going to go away, and is only going to increase year after year of operating in this building. The need is only going to compound each year, and the cost to fix it is going to compound as well.”

The school board voted to approve the bond language on Feb. 11. (see story front page)

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- Water filter or purification tablets
- Nonperishable foods (incl. pet food) and utensils
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery powered or hand crank radio
- 106.9 FM KCST for emergency broadcasts
- A change of clothes
- First aid kit
- Sleeping bags, blankets, towels
- Tool kit with utility knife
- Essential medications and backup eyewear
- Waterproofed map of the area
- Personal hygiene items
- Plastic bags and trash bags
- Manual can opener
- Money sealed in a waterproof container
- List of important addresses/phone numbers
- Knee-high rubber boots and work gloves
- Whistle
- Dust mask
- Duct tape
- Copies of essential documents

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 For a 12-week guide to building your emergency kit, visit www.lanecounty.org/prepare.
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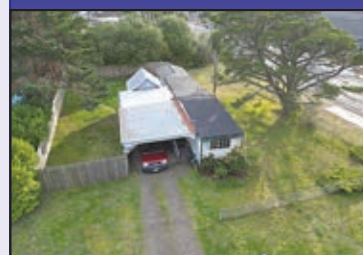
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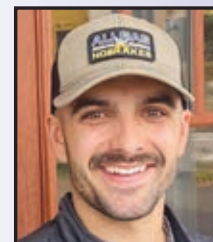
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Vikings boys notch vital wins

Will LOHRE
Country Media Inc.

Siuslaw's playoff hopes were kept alive thanks to critical back-to-back league wins.

After a heartbreaker against Douglas on Feb. 3, the Vikings didn't spend long feeling sorry for themselves. In fact, Siuslaw seemed to channel the frustration of an overtime loss into their best performance of the season against Sutherlin on Feb. 6.

Head Coach Dylan Perry said his team played "really well" as they stomped league rival Sutherlin 53-31. The win was also a revenge game for the Vikings, as the Bulldogs squeaked out a 49-47 win against Siuslaw in the season's first matchup on Jan. 15 in the league opener.

"Dominant performance on both ends of the court. Very physical game, and our defense shined through tonight," Perry said.

Sophomore Jericho Lake led the charge for the Vikings, proving unstoppable as he racked up 23 points. The next-highest scoring player for Siuslaw was senior Micah Blankenship with nine. Despite the lion's share of the scoring coming from those two,

See **BOYS**, Page B2



Tide Table

Siuslaw River Entrance saltwatertides.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

High.....1:02 a.m.....7.3
Low.....6:47 a.m.....1.9
High.....12:36 p.m.....7.8
Low.....7:04 p.m.....-0.2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

High.....1:28 a.m.....7.7
Low.....7:27 a.m.....1.4
High.....1:19 p.m.....7.5
Low.....7:34 p.m.....0.2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

High.....1:55 a.m.....8.0
Low.....8:08 a.m.....1.0
High.....2:05 p.m.....7.1
Low.....8:05 p.m.....0.8

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

High.....2:25 a.m.....8.2
Low.....8:54 a.m.....0.7
High.....2:55 p.m.....6.6
Low.....8:38 p.m.....1.5

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

High.....2:58 a.m.....8.3
Low.....9:45 a.m.....0.6
High.....3:52 p.m.....6.0
Low.....9:14 p.m.....2.4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

High.....3:37 a.m.....8.3
Low.....10:45 a.m.....0.6
High.....5:03 p.m.....5.4
Low.....9:56 p.m.....3.2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

High.....4:25 a.m.....8.1
Low.....11:58 a.m.....0.6
High.....6:36 p.m.....5.1
Low.....10:55 p.m.....3.9

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



Siuslaw girls fall to Sutherlin and Coquille

Will LOHRE
Country Media Inc.

Following their win against Douglas on Feb. 3, Siuslaw's girls had a couple of tough losses to Sutherlin and Coquille on Feb. 6 and Feb. 10. The losses dropped the Vikings to 6-16 on the season and 1-6 in league play.

Grabbing wins against

the Bulldogs and Red Devils was always going to be a tall task, as Sutherlin and Coquille sit atop the Far West Leagues with just one loss between the two in league play this season.

Going into their game with the Vikings, Sutherlin had a 13-7 record, with a 4-1 mark in league play. Playing away from home, the

Bulldogs were undaunted and came away with a 49-29 win against the hosting Vikings.

The next game against Coquille offered an even greater challenge, as the Red Devils entered with a 6-0 record, including a five-point win over Sutherlin on Jan. 30. In their other

See **GIRLS**, Page B2

Siuslaw wrestlers wrap regular season

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Siuslaw's wrestling teams wrapped their regular seasons at Cottage Grove High School, competing alongside and against 53 teams across the boys, girls, and JV boys divisions, with more than 750 wrestlers taking part in 1,423 matches over two days Feb. 6-7.

Head Coach Neil Wartnik said his team had some great performances despite recent bouts of sickness and battling the injury bug. It was another sweat-soaked, gritty showing for the Vikings, with the boys finishing 18th of 42 teams with 58 points and the girls taking 11th of 41 teams with 57.5. Five wrestlers finished their tournaments on the podium.

"All our placewinners wrestled very well this weekend," Wartnik said.

As has so often been the case this season, senior Jacob Mann was at the top of the podium, stealing the show. Mann seized the 215-pound title with a 4-0 record, winning one with a pin, one by decision, and two by technical fall. While

getting the tournament championship was sweet, it was the 7-5 win in the semifinal over returning state champion and US Open champion Carson Langford from Dallas High School.

"The biggest achievement was turned in by Jacob Mann," Wartnik said. "The 7-5 victory was a hard-fought match, but Jacob dominated positions and wrestled with great poise, taking advantage of his opportunities. This was the biggest victory of his career."

Mann rode the momentum of his inspired career performance by dominating Rainier's Hayden Belcher in signature style, forcing a technical fall with a 16-1 advantage on the scorecard.

Senior Gage Mills, wrestling at 190 pounds, also grabbed the "biggest win of his career." In the consolation finals, Mills pinned Philomath's Lake Mulberry as time expired, notching a marquee win against a top-class opponent, and earning a bronze as a result. Mills went 4-1 on the weekend, polished off

See **WRESTLE**, Page B2

Randy Paredes
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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH SIUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION
• Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday)
5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Bryan Methyluff attends.
• Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday)
12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.
Contact Bob for more information:
(H) 541-997-6626 • (C) 541-999-4239
47maribob38@gmail.com

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1st Service in person
Sunday 11:00
2nd Service in person & Online
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Corner of 10th & Maple
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Community Briefs

America 250! Help make this a memorable event!

From Daughters of the American Revolution America 250! Planning is underway. As our community and the rest of the country prepare to celebrate America 250, please join us in helping make this special right here in Florence! A planning meeting will be held in the Bromley Room at Siuslaw Public Library on Wednesday, February 18th

at 4:30 pm. If you plan to attend, please email Jacquie Beveridge, DAR4Jacquie@gmail.com The website <https://america250.org/> offers a wealth of information. Additional information will be shared at this meeting to help ensure this is a memorable event!

The meeting begins promptly at 1:30 p.m. Bring questions, concerns, & goals that your group is facing and ask Siuslaw Vision members for suggestions, and/or answers. Go to CityClubofFlorence@Facebook.com Or call 541-999-0745 for more information.

Community Presbyterian Church 3996 Highway 101 Please join us at this family friendly event to connect, share and bring ideas for strengthening our community! There will be information tables from various community organizations. If your group wants to have a table, please let us know. After supper, games will be provided for family fun and entertainment (or bring your own)! Childcare will be available. FOR will provide juice, coffee and tea. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Contact us at forflorenceor@gmail.com or Florence ORganizes on Facebook.

Need help with your organization?

Siuslaw Vision will address City Club on Thursday, February 12, 2026, in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library.

FOR Community Potluck Supper/ Game Night

Wednesday, February 25 5:30- 7:30 pm. at the Florence

GIRLS

From Page B1

five games, they posted winning margins of at least 25 points. Coming into the game against the Vikings, Coquille was the #7-ranked 3A team in the state. In their previous matchup on Jan. 23, the Vikings came up short 58-16, and the rematch on Feb. 10 offered Siuslaw a chance to remeasure

where they stack up against the class of the Far West. The Vikings fought valiantly. Siuslaw actually started the game trading baskets and took a 4-2 lead out of the gate. That opening single-basket advantage was not to last, however. The Red Devils stormed ahead on the back of a 14-2 run, going up 16-6. After trading baskets, with the score 20-10, Coquille sparked another

run, scoring 11 straight points to pull away 31-10. The game ended 54-21, but the Vikings showed improvement over their previous game, scoring five more points than they did against Coquille in January. It was also the third most points Coquille had given up in their seven league games this season. Aidell Cadet led the Vikings in points, scoring nine of their 21, but a well-rounded game

from freshman Ryleigh Panschow was another highlight of the game. Panschow finished with seven points, 12 rebounds, and five steals. Panschow was everywhere and grabbed significant percentages of the team's 27 rebounds and 12 steals. Also registering points for Siuslaw were Avey Hulet (2 points), Pearl Jensen (2 points), and Maren Hughes (1 point). Despite the league

record of 1-6, the Vikings sat fourth of the six teams in the Far West, ahead of South Umpqua (1-6, 2-16) and Douglas (1-6, 2-17), as of Feb. 12. At the time of press, the Vikings have scored the fourth-most points in the league. Results from games against South Umpqua on Feb. 13 and Glide on Feb. 17, are unavailable at the time of press. The Vikings will look to finish the season strong when they play Douglas on Feb. 19.

WRESTLE

From Page B1

with that signature win. For the girls, senior Danin Lacouture posted another podium performance, taking second at 140 pounds. Lacouture was dominant in the first three rounds of the tournament, pinning each of her first three opponents to reach the finals. Once there, Lacouture couldn't quite get a handle on Coquille's Paisley

Morrison, a returning state champion. Also placing for Siuslaw were Molly Mills and Emma Ford. "Molly Mills added an impressive 4th place at 125, and Emma Ford had her best tournament of the year, placing 5th at 105 pounds," Wartnik said. Mills dominated in her first matchup, besting Glide's Montana Holcomb with a resounding 19-2 technical fall victory. In the quarterfinals, Mills couldn't get the better of Ashland's Lily Dominguez, losing by

fall. Once in the consolation bracket, Mills marshaled an impressive run, winning three matches in a row to reach the bronze medal match. There she ended up falling to Oakridge's Victoria Keller, and finished the tournament with a 4-2 record. On her run to fifth, Ford also put together a 4-2 record. She pinned her first opponent to make the quarterfinals, but was pinned by #2-seeded Cadence Morales in the quarterfinals. In her next

two matches, Ford registered two more pins to reach the consolation semifinals. After a tough loss to Oakridge's Aurora Somerville, Ford notched her fourth and final win, securing fifth with another pin. On the JV Side, Siuslaw had two placewinners: Waylon Griffiths placed 3rd at 113, and Caleb McCurdy placed 4th at 120. The following weekend, the boys competed at the district tournament

at Creswell High School on Feb. 14. Favored to advance to the state tournament were Jacob Mann, Gage Mills, Ali Ijaz, and Yair Brito Xilot, with dark horses including Waylon Griffiths and Aris Lade, according to Wartnik. The results are unavailable at the time of press. The girls' district will be Feb. 20-21 at Cottage Grove High School, with Lacouture and Mills favored to advance to the state championships, with Ford as a dark horse.

BOYS

From Page B1

the Vikings also used a balanced attack, with seven other plays scoring. Only a few days later on Feb. 10, Siuslaw secured a second straight win by more than 20 points. Hosting the Red Devils, Siuslaw scored its third win in four games, beating Coquille 64-41 to improve to 4-3 in league play and 13-9 overall. "Another dominant performance by our boys," Perry said after the game. Again, Lake played an important part, scoring 20 points, including 12 in the first half. Asher Borgnino led the Vikings in scoring against the Red Devils, putting up 21. Borgnino played with an aggressive edge, forcing the issue and drawing plenty of fouls. He knocked down seven

of his eight attempts at the charity stripe. Blankeship added another nine points to his season total, and seven other Vikings scored at least a point. It was a critical win to keep Siuslaw's hopes of an automatic league playoff berth alive. Only the top two Far West teams are guaranteed a spot in the state championship. Ahead of the team's games against South Umpqua and Glide on Feb. 13 and Feb. 17, Siuslaw was sitting third in the Far West, positioned behind South Umpqua (6-1, 13-7) and Douglas (7-0, 17-4). The results from those games are unavailable at the time of press. If Siuslaw can win against South Umpqua and Glide, the season will come down to Siuslaw's final game against league leaders Douglas, a team Siuslaw barely lost to in their first matchup.




Friendship - Fellowship – Fun FAITH DIRECTORY

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

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>BAHA'I FAITH OF FLORENCE "What is Baha'i, and Why?" 2nd Monday 7:00 pm Interfaith Devotions 4th Monday 7:00 pm Info and meeting location: 541-590-0779 Zoom link on Facebook: Florence Baha'i Community All ARE WELCOME!</p> | <p>FOUR SQUARE CHURCH 1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) – 997-6337 Pastor George Pagel – Something for the entire family. Sunday Service 10:00 am Wednesday Bible Study returns this Fall. Website: florence4square.com</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>NEW LIFE LUTHERAN E.L.C.A. NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. "Serving Christ by serving others." 21st & Spruce Streets—(541) 997-8113 Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. Online services available on our Facebook, YouTube, and website: www.florencenewlifelutheran.org</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH 3996 N Hwy 101 541-997-7136 Internet and in person Sunday Services at 10:30am, Adult Sunday School is at 9:30am. Call the church for details. Reverend Greg Wood All Welcome. Come as you are.</p> |
| <p>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</p> | <p>RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) A Faith Community committed to peace since 1652. Silent Worship Sundays 11am, fellowship at Noon. Call for locations 541-515-8191.</p> |
| <p>FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP 87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road RUAUU? Come explore the answer with us. Sunday Worship Services ~ 10:00am www.florenceuuf.com</p> | <p>RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S. Worship Services 10 am • Bible Study 9:00 am Pastor Steve Waterman 85294 Hwy. 101 S. – 997-8038 Facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchFlorence www.puppro.wixite.com/r/florence</p> |
| <p>FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025 Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:00 a.m. Online services at www.florenceoregonumc.org or find us on Facebook.</p> | <p>ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL Church Welcomes You Worship Sun. 10am Wed 11am 2135 19th St. 541-997-6600 standrewssecretary19@gmail.com Labyrinth & Garden daily 8am-5pm "Be the change."</p> |
| <p>JOIN US IN WORSHIP 4 lines, approx 15 words, \$15 a week • 4 week Minimum • Deadline: Tuesday end of day one week prior</p> | <p>SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE DUNES CATHOLIC CHURCH 1.5 miles south of river on Hwy 101 – 997-2312 Mass Times: Daily: Tue, Wed, Fri 9:00 AM Adoration & Confession Fri 9:30-10:30 AM Saturday 5:30 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM Fr. Amir Welcomes All to Attend</p> |

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Kotek, mayors call for pause on immigration enforcement

JULIA SHUMWAY
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Gov. Tina Kotek and mayors of 31 cities have a message for the federal government: Stop all immigration enforcement in Oregon until recent violent incidents in Minneapolis, Portland and elsewhere are fully investigated.

Kotek and the mayors sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and White House border czar Tom Homan on Thursday, Feb. 5, saying they represent communities that are afraid of and morally opposed to federal officers' tactics.

"The actions of your officers are not making our communities safer," they wrote. "Parents are afraid to take their children to school. Families are avoiding health care. People are scared to go to work or even go to the store for



Gov. Tina Kotek discusses legislative priorities in the 2026 short session in a meeting with reporters at the Oregon State Capitol on Jan. 28, 2026. Mia Mldonado / Oregon Capital Chronicle

essentials, let alone support a range of small businesses. The actions of your officers, especially the use of lethal force, are damaging local economies and hurting the people we are responsible for protecting and serving."

Most of the 31 mayors who signed onto the letter represent cities in the Portland region and

Willamette Valley, but it also includes signers from the coast, Central Oregon and Rogue Valley.

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson and Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson, both of whom have navigated recent incidents of federal officers using tear gas on protesters outside federal buildings in the state's largest and third-largest

cities, signed the letter. Salem Mayor Julie Hoy, who voted in December against declaring a state of emergency over increased immigration enforcement in Oregon's second-largest city, did not.

While most of the mayors who signed come from liberal-leaning cities, the list of signers also includes the mayors of the deeply Republican city of Detroit, which President Donald Trump won by 45 points in 2024, and Carlton and Dayton, two small Yamhill County cities he won by double digits.

The letter included a commitment to the state's decades-old sanctuary law that prohibits local governments from using their resources to enforce federal immigration law. Oregon voters upheld that law by a 2-to-1 margin in 2018.

"Our message to our immigrant and refugee

communities is unequivocal: We stand with you. You belong here," it ended. "Our message to your administration is equally clear: Current practices must change immediately."

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/briefs/oregon-gov-kotek-mayors-call-for-pause-on-immigration-enforcement/>

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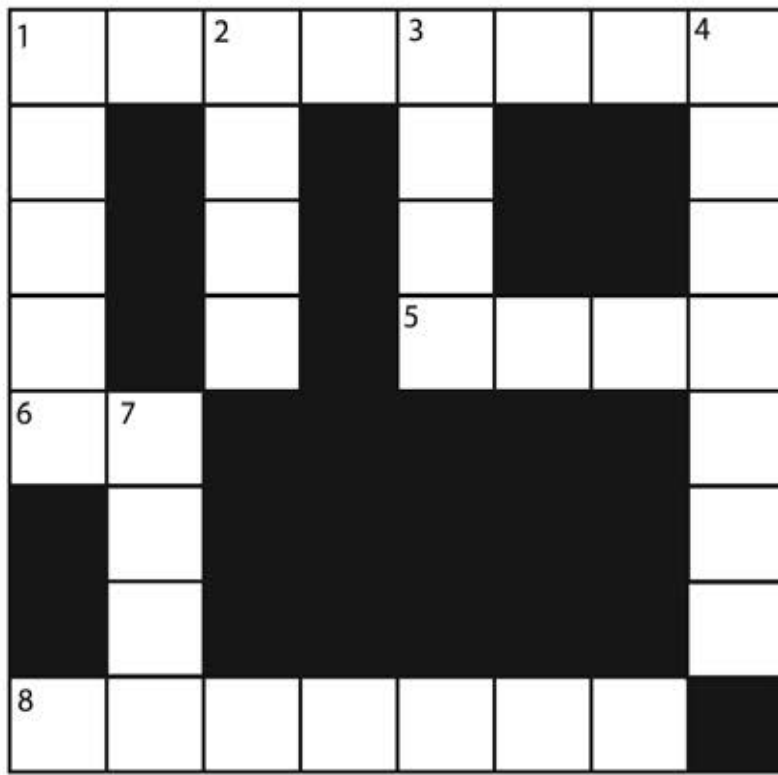
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Connects kite to person
- 5. Defrost
- 6. Southern U.S. state
- 8. Hand spinning tool

DOWN

- 1. Flying devices
- 2. Part of a kite
- 3. Gain height
- 4. Twist together
- 7. Slap hands together

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1792: The Postal Service Act is signed in the United States.

1824: William Buckland announces Megalosaurus as the first non-avian dinosaur species.

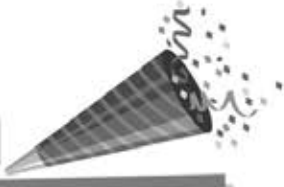
1986: The Soviet Union launches its Mir spacecraft, which remains in orbit for 15 years.

NEW WORD

TAIL

a part of a kite that improves stability and adds color

Fun FACT:



Although the claims cannot be confirmed, some link this device to an early Chinese philosopher.

Answer: Kite

Down
1. Kites 2. Tail 3. Lift 4. Entwine 7. Clap

Across
1. Kite-line 5. Thaw 6. SC 8. Spindle

Answers:

How they say that in...

- English:** Windy
- Spanish:** Ventoso
- Italian:** Ventoso
- French:** Venteux
- German:** Windig

Did You Know?

Guinness World Records says Australian Robert Moore's kite reached the highest altitude by a single kite in 2014. Moore's kite reached 16,009 feet, or 4,879.84 meters.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Kite

LIBRARY VISIT WORD SEARCH

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 Y R A R B I L H A B M O S K O E T U A B
 N A I R A R B I L D I B S G T U A A T E

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

WORDS

- ARCHIVES
- ARRIVAL
- AUDIOBOOKS
- BIBLIOGRAPHY
- CATALOG
- CHECKOUT
- CIRCULATION
- COLLECTIONS
- DATABASE
- DESK
- LIBRARIAN
- LIBRARY
- LOAN
- MICROFICHE
- PERIODICALS
- QUIET
- READING
- REFERENCE
- RESERVE
- RETURN
- SHELF
- STACKS
- STUDY
- SYSTEM

February 16, 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



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| 8 | + | 1 | × | 4 | = | 36 |
| = | | | | | | |
| 56 | | 4 | | | | 11 |

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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. Applicants may be invited for interviews. The Port of Siuslaw is a Special District authorized by Oregon law to help sustain the economic vitality of western Lane County. The district boundary encompasses most of the Siuslaw River watershed, including the coastal 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

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

that encourage job creation 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 of five members 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

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

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.

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

The Garden Bug
Planning your growing space
• Consider a **container garden** if you have a small space or a patio. Compact veggies like peppers like to grow in pots.
• For smaller properties, a **raised garden bed** gives more space and control than containers, but less permanent than in-ground beds. They're great for root crops, onions, garlic, cabbage, zucchini and squash.
• An **in-ground garden** works if there is full sun, good soil and space for what you'll grow. This requires the most time and effort. Corn, tomatoes, winter squash and perennial herbs like more space to grow. - Brenda Weaver
Source: thehomesteadchallenge.com

STREAMING SOURCE

Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of Feb. 23, 2026.

- ON NOW: "Dead of Winter" (R) — HBO Max
- 23-Feb: "Paradise" (Season 2) — Hulu
- 24-Feb: "Taylor Tomlinson: Prodigal Daughter" (Comedy Special) — Netflix
- 25-Feb: "The Bluff" (R) — Prime Video
- 26-Feb: "Bridgerton (Season 4 - Part 2)" — Netflix
- 26-Feb: "House of Villains" (Season 3) — Peacock
- 27-Feb: "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (R) — Hulu
- 27-Feb: "Formula 1: Drive to Survive" (Season 8) — Netflix
- 27-Feb: "Monarch: Legacy of Monsters" (Season 2) — Apple TV
- 28-Feb: "Jurassic World: Rebirth" (PG-13) — Netflix

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Fun Fact

The country with the **highest number of dogs** is the United States with 90 million, followed by Brazil with 60 million and China with 58 million. The Philippines own 20.5 million and Thailand has 18.5 million. Surprisingly, the country that has the most dogs owned per every 100,000 in population is Portugal, with 28,890.

Source: worldpopulationreview.com

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

The Cost of Medicine for IBS Is \$811 Even With Insurance

DEAR DR. ROACH: After a month of testing from my gastrointestinal doctor, I have been diagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). I have been sick for several months and have lost 12 pounds. (I'm now down to 100 pounds.)

I have been prescribed Xifaxan. The cost from my pharmacy is \$811. Normally, I never have a co-pay. I checked around, and there are no discounts with any other pharmacies. I read many chats about the medicine, and 50% of people in these chats believe that it does not work well and is very hard to digest for the two weeks that you have to take it.

I am meeting with a nutritionist to increase my weight, but every couple of days, I get so sick due to the IBS and can't gain weight. What are your thoughts on taking this medication? — V.H.

ANSWER: IBS is a functional disease of the intestine. The cause is not certain, and there are several factors involved in IBS, including abnormal movement of the intestine; changes in pain sensitivity; unhealthy bacteria in the gut; and often sensitivities to certain foods. The hallmarks of IBS are changes in bowel habits (diarrhea, constipation or both) and abdominal pain, which is often but not always improved after a bowel movement.

Xifaxan (rifaximin) is an antibiotic that is not well-absorbed in the body, so it only kills the bacteria in the gut. It is intended to preferentially kill harmful bacteria in the gut, improving the microbiome and decreasing bacterial products

that cause symptoms of bloating and diarrhea. I have several patients who take it occasionally when other therapies aren't working, and their experience has been favorable.

When used wisely, it can help people with their symptoms. Of course, patients in whom it doesn't work aren't going to use it again, but it does work well for some people. The \$811 cost with insurance is much better than the \$2,500 to \$3,200 cost for a course of treatment without insurance.

People do not take it for a long time; my patients typically take a course one to four times per year. If it helps you, I hope you find it worth the expense, but I don't know whether you are fortunate to have this much money to spend on prescriptions that are over and above your insurance costs.

Severe weight loss with IBS is not common and should be considered an alarming symptom. I have seen many patients who were diagnosed with IBS, sometimes for years, before another comprehensive evaluation is performed. This sometimes lead to the diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis). If you have not had a recent evaluation, including an endoscopy and/or a colonoscopy as well as stool studies, it may be time to repeat these.

DEAR DR. ROACH: What are the benefits of washing your hands? — W.L.A.

ANSWER: Not getting sick is the main one. Regular handwashing reduces respiratory illnesses (colds, flu and pneumonia) by about 20%. Handwashing reduces foodborne gastrointestinal illnesses by about 30%.

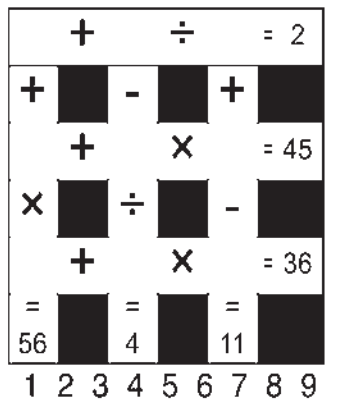
You also reduce the likelihood of passing on germs to others. People are the most contagious right before symptoms start for most respiratory diseases. Health care professionals wash their hands (or use hand sanitizer) before and after every patient. It only takes 20 seconds for it to be effective.

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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Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 9-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. Center — I — — — — Interfere — E — — — —
- 2. Semi or pic-up — — U — — — — Racer's path — — A — — — —
- 3. Love interest — — — M — — — — Snowy particle — — — K — — —
- 4. Football pass — — — R — — — — Of the backbone — — — N — — —
- 5. Washington's por. — — — — L — — — — Blanket — — — — T — — —
- 6. Cartoon canary — — — E — — — — One score — — — — N — — —
- 7. Actress Symone — — — — N — — — — Composer Maurice — — — — L — — —
- 8. Actress Day — — — — I — — — — Frat houses — — — — M — — —
- 9. Human being — — E — — — — Preacher — — — — A — — — —
- 10. Humpbacked or Orca — — A — — — — Undivided — — — — O — — — —

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Even Exchange
Donna M. Pettman

- 1. Middle, Meddle
- 2. Truck, Track
- 3. Flame, Flake
- 4. Spiral, Spinal
- 5. Quill, Gullit
- 6. Twenty, Twently
- 7. Raven, Ravel
- 8. Doris, Dorms
- 9. Person, Parson
- 10. Whale, Whole



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Price Reduced

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4990 Mitchell Loop Rd. - \$585,000

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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

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13904 Stagecoach Rd. - \$584,000

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1940 Willow St. - \$299,000

3 bdrms, 2 baths, 912 SqFt. Single-level home with functional kitchen, fenced yard, storage shed, spacious outdoor living. #3727-676065880



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5170 Grand Ave #19 - \$129,000

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89510 Hwy 101 #23 - \$60,000

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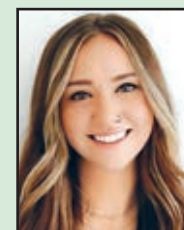
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