



Surrounded by a curtain, July 22, the light inside the lighthouse waits to be turned back on.



Inside the lens, the light shines bright again, casting a beam for 21 nautical miles.

Historic lighthouse relit after repairs

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

After months of being dark, the curtain was rolled back, and the light inside Heceta Head Lighthouse was relit on July 23. The historic lighthouse has been dark since mid-March, when it was discovered that the mechanism that rotates the Fresnel lens was worn down.

The light was turned back on in the morning without any fanfare.

“We are so happy to have this iconic light-house back up and

running, and I invite everyone to come see it in person,” said Park Manager Hylah Furnish. “Maintenance is a constant at Oregon State Parks, and caring for a historic lighthouse adds unique challenges, requirements, and costs.”

The historic lighthouse was turned off because the supporting assembly needed new carriage wheels. The wheels hold the majority of the weight of the lens and rotating steel frame-work. Staff found that the old ones were worn to the point of causing

misalignment in the machinery.

Since no one manufactures parts for light-houses, a machinist had to be found to engineer new ones from stock metal.

Furnish previously said the roadbed, which is essentially round tracks, had also become worn.

“Over time, they’ve developed a weird beveled angle,” she said, “so, instead of a smooth, solid 50-degree angle, it wore out in two different directions.” She said the

See **RELIT**, Page A5



The Heceta Head Lighthouse hosted a steady stream of visitors in the days before and following the relighting. Tony Reed photos

City Council approval allows pump station work to start

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

At the July 20 regular meeting, the Florence City Council approved two contracts that will kick off construction of the Coast Guard Rd. stormwater pumping Station project.

The two-part request included an agreement with The Automation Group (TAG), inc, for \$170,961 for the electrical equipment installation and integration of the Coast Guard Rd. stormwater pumping station project. The second request was to accept a proposal from Ray Wells Inc. for \$431,205 and allow the city manager to enter into a contract for construction of the Coast Guard Rd. stormwater pumping station.

In 2022, extreme coastal weather exposed rapid slippage along the banks of the Siuslaw River. When it was estimated that further slippage could threaten nearby homes and the Coast Guard station,

See **COUNCIL**, Page A5



Mayor Rob Ward, left, congratulates Jacob Mann, whose parents Sara and Shawn were also present. Tony Reed photo

Mann receives “If I were Mayor” recognition

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

The Florence City Council recognized Siuslaw High School graduate Jacob Mann on July 20 after his video entry in the “If I Were Mayor” contest ranked

second in the State of Oregon. Mayor Rob Ward said about a dozen videos were submitted, and the council chose Mann’s entry to send to the state.

The video begins with Mann saying mayor isn’t just a title, but a

commitment.

“Most Oregon mayors are volunteers, meaning they lead because they love this town,” he said. “As mayor, my job wouldn’t be to rule from just a desk, but to listen

See **MAYOR**, Page A5

Hundreds turn out for Block Party

FROM CITY OF FLORENCE

The City of Florence held the 2026 Community Block Party on Friday, July 17. Approximately 2,000 people attended this annual celebration, which featured the closure of one block of Bay Street along the Siuslaw River. During the event, people

danced to 5 Guys Named Moe, a 12-piece band from Portland that has played every year since 2019. Community organizations brought games and activities for people of all ages, including face painting, rock painting, the BeauxBooth Photo Booth, cornhole, and more. The City provided rock painting with the Public Arts Committee

and the new Florence H2O on the Go, which allowed people to refill their water bottles and

See **PARTY**, Page A5

Although it’s held on the same block every year, the City’s Block Party seems to get bigger and bigger. Cameron Jagoe photo



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A VISIT TO THE ER – A CALL FROM MY INSURANCE

By BOB HORNEY

Yes indeed, my latest visit to the ER was followed a few days later by a phone call from my Medicare Advantage Health Insurance Plan. That was very strange since in all my visits to the ER over the years I had never received such a call.

The Health Insurance Representative (MA Rep) was very nice and polite and had just one question for me - if she got the right answer. Her question was: “Had I followed up with my PCP following my visit to ER?” My answer was “yes”, because I had

already made contact with Dr. Ale about my visit to the ER and being placed on Gabapentin. He had responded by acknowledging the reason for my ER visit, the addition of this new drug, Gabapentin, to my list of medications and that it was now under his supervision.

My (MA Rep) was very pleased to hear that I had exchanged information with my PCP within those first 7 days. With further questioning, she stated that Medicare now requires them (Medicare Advantage) to make these follow up calls within 7 days of the ER visit and they are following the Medicare rules. She

said that if I had not made contact yet, she would have assisted me in scheduling a visit with my primary care provider. However, with my response being positive, no more action was required.

The reason for this regulation is quite simple and clear: Medicare has found that people with multiple chronic conditions have significantly better outcomes - fewer complications, fewer repeat ER visits, lower mortality – when they receive timely follow up with their primary care provider after an ER visit.

Summing up the above information of requiring

Medicare Advantage to make these calls, here is the answer in three parts:

First of all, there is one important requirement to these calls: This new regulation applies only to members who have 2 or more Chronic Conditions as stated above. That’s me!

Secondly, plans have been required to do post-ER outreach for years, but enforcement varied because it lived in manuals, not regulation.

And finally, starting with the January 1, 2026 plan year, Medicare can enforce this requirement with regulatory authority, making it harder for plans to ignore or minimize

the obligation. (In other words, PUNISHMENT \$\$\$).

You’ve probably guessed that I used the MyPeaceHealth Patient Portal to contact Dr. Ale, and you would be absolutely right. I make so much use of the Patient Portal; contacting my PCP is one of the frequent uses. Actually, and factually, Patient Portal is not on the list of “What counts as a follow up.” The representative’s question only asked if I had contacted my PCP yet about my visit to the ER. She didn’t ask how the contact was made. But it does not have to be an in-person doctor visit and

a simple telephone visit qualifies. Just seeing those two qualifiers makes me certain that my Patient Portal contact would qualify.

In my message to Dr. Ale on the Patient Portal, I shared why I went to the ER, what was done while there and the results of that visit. With that information, Dr. Ale had all he needed to decide the next steps. Since the Gabapentin was doing its job, his decision was to wait and see me at my next appointment in August. And with us communicating on Patient Portal, he had every opportunity to examine my visit in detail.

POLICE LOG

Florence Police Department responded to the following calls from July 14 to July 20

TUESDAY, JULY 14

At 3:13 a.m., a caller reported a possible prowler in the 2100 block of 11th St. Officers arrived and reviewed video of the alleged subject. Officers determined the video was insufficient to show any potential crime, and that the subject may have just been passing by.

At 4:41 a.m., officers responded to the 1500

block of 10th St. for a report of loud music in the area. Officers located a truck in the area playing loud music and advised the driver to turn it down.

At 8:40 a.m., a citizen came into the police department to request help getting a bus pass. Officers were able to help.

At 10:52 a.m., a caller reported that they had been working on a job

site and dropped their Apple Watch. Caller said they had tracked the watch to a house, and spoke to a subject who said they were going to return it. When the subject did not come through, the call reported the watch as stolen. At last report, officers were following up.

At 11:38 a.m., Newport police reported a vehicle involved in a robbery had left their area. The vehicle was located by Flock cameras in Florence, and officers arrested the driver after conducting a felony traffic stop on Highway 126.

At 1:51 p.m., a resident reported finding a dog in the area of 8th and Kingwood. The black-and-white lab mix was taken to the Humane Society.

At 8:08 p.m., a caller reported finding an open knife in the bike lane in the 2100 block of Highway 101. Officers arrived, located the knife, and put it in storage at the police department.

At 8:30 p.m., officers responded to the 88,200 block of Rhododendron for a report that a vehicle had hit a building and left the area. Officers were able to locate the vehicle and arrested driver

Jeffrey Tornai for DUII.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

At 12:40 a.m., a caller reported seeing a bear in the 1400 block of 20th St., adding that they felt it appeared sick. Officers patrolled the area but did not see the bear.

At 10:07 a.m., officers responded to Miller Park for a report of juveniles with fireworks who may be bullying another juvenile. Officers spoke with two juveniles who denied doing so. Juveniles were advised.

At 1:18 p.m., a call reported a transient subject in front of a car on Highway 101. Officers arrived and contacted the subject, who said he tripped while crossing the street.

At 1:36 p.m., a caller reported that their bank card had been used at various locations in Florence without their permission. Case remains under investigation. Officers informed the caller of ways to protect their identity.

At 7:45 p.m., officers responded to the 600 block of Siano Loop for a reported dispute. Officers found a conflict occurring between roommates. As it was de-escalating, one attempted to hit the other. That roommate was cited for physical harassment.

No further action was taken.

At 9:40 p.m., officers returned to the residence on Siano Loop for a report of an intoxicated subject. Officers gave the subject a ride to another residence.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

At 7:45 a.m., a caller in Florence reported receiving unusual phone calls from someone claiming to be with the FDIC. The caller said it claimed to be investigating bank fraud and wanted to speak personally. The caller said they did not give any information or money to the caller, and officers agreed it was most likely a scam attempt.

At 1:57 p.m., a caller reported a person with two dogs walking in the middle of the road in the area of North Jetty and Rhododendron Drive, with two dogs on a leash. Officers arrived in the area but saw no one matching the description.

At 2:05 p.m., officers investigated a report of sexual abuse in Florence.

At 3:20 p.m., a caller reported a van speeding and passing dangerously on Rhododendron Drive. Officers responded to the area but could not locate the described vehicle.

At 3:59 p.m., a resident

turned in a bag that was found in the area of 9th and Hemlock. Inside, officers found an ID card and a BB gun. The ID belonged to Andrew Barnett, who was arrested the next day for robbery using a BB gun and other offenses.

At 4:17 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 1300 block of Highway 101 for a report of an intoxicated subject inside. The business wanted the subject to be given a trespassing warning. Officers warned the subject and gave them a ride home.

At 4:57 p.m., a caller reported purchasing tickets through a website that they later found questionable. The case remains under investigation.

At 6:32 p.m., a thrift store in Florence reported finding a firearm among donated items. Officers collected the gun and confirmed it was not stolen. The firearm was placed in storage at the police department.

At 7:05 p.m., a caller reported a subject walking in the roadway in the area of Rhododendron Drive and Woodlands Drive. Officers arrived to observe the subject in the roadway, reportedly flipping off cars, and made contact. Officers found the subject to be non-cooperative. The subject was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

At 7:24 p.m., a caller reported finding an ID card in the 1700 block of 12th St. Officers located the owner and returned the ID.

At 7:33 p.m., Eugene Police Department asked if a license plate associated with a felony hit-and-run vehicle had been flagged in the Florence area. Officers determined the vehicle had not been

See **POLICE**, Page A3

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Kristen Marie Larson (Dietrich)

August 15, 1967 - July 3, 2026



Kristen Marie Larson (Dietrich), 57, passed away suddenly on July 3, 2026, in Eugene, Oregon, due to a brain aneurysm.

Born on August 15, 1967, in Castro Valley, California. Kristen lived a life filled with adventure, compassion, and dedication to those she loved and cared for.

Raised in the Hayward Hills of California, Kristen attended All Saints School and later graduated from Hayward High School. Her passion for learning and helping others led her to pursue various educational achievements throughout her life. In January 1997, she completed a Certified Nurse/Acute Care Training Program. She furthered her education by earning a Pharmacy Technician Certificate from the Milan Institute in 2010 and obtaining an English Overseas Teachers Accreditation in 2011.

In 2001, Kristen moved to Florence, Oregon, following her parents, Nancy and Donald Beaton. It was during this time that she worked as a bus tour guide—a role that combined her love of travel with her engaging personality. At a conference related to her work, Kristen met Carl Larson, who would become her devoted husband. The couple shared many happy years together in Florence.

Kristen’s entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly when she opened the Black Cat Deli in Florence in 2006. Her warmth and dedication made the deli a beloved part of the community. Beyond her professional endeavors, Kristen was deeply compassionate and spent the last several years providing home care for individuals in Florence. She cherished every person she cared for and brought kindness and love

into their lives.

Travel was one of Kristen’s greatest passions. As a young adult, she enjoyed snow skiing, water skiing, and line dancing but found her true joy exploring the world. Her adventurous spirit took her to Dalian, China, where she taught English for several years after completing an at-home study course. During this time abroad, Kristen formed lifelong friendships and gained a “daughter,” Lydia—a young woman from southern China with whom she became inseparable. Kristen returned to the United States on one of the last planes out of China during the COVID-19 shutdown.

Kristen’s faith was an important part of her life. She attended All Saints Catholic Church in Hayward during her youth and later became a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Florence.

She is survived by her loving husband Carl Larson; her parents Nancy and Donald Beaton; Sister Cory Phillips (and nephews Austin, Mason & Hunter Phillips) and Sister Dana Person; Cathy & Bruce Guntrum of San Leandro, Ca.; Jim & Ann Flaherty of Florence; as well as many cousins who will cherish her memory forever. Kristen was preceded in death by Aunt Linda her father George Dietrich along with her great-grandmother and grandparents.

Kristen’s legacy is one of love, compassion, adventure, and resilience. Those who knew her will remember her as a kind-hearted soul who touched countless lives through both her personal relationships and professional care.

May Kristen Marie Larson’s memory bring comfort to all who were fortunate enough to know her.



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Jeannine M. Dante

1936 - 2026

Jeannine Marie (Worthylake) Dante, 89, passed away peacefully on June 23, 2026 in Claremore, Oklahoma. Jeannine was born in 1936 near Florence, Oregon to Clifford J. and Lorraine G. (Adams) Worthylake. She attended Siuslaw High School and married her high school sweetheart John A. (Jack) Dante in 1955. She worked for an accounting firm in Portland, Oregon while Jack was in dental school and later assisted in the dental practice in McMinnville, Oregon. She is most remembered for being a mother and grandmother which was the center of her world. She enjoyed gardening and home Bible studies with friends. In her later years she was an avid listener of her large audio book library.

She was preceded in death by her husband,



a son (Alan S. Dante) and one brother (James L. Worthylake). She is survived by her son Jon C. Dante (Liz), six grandsons (Tony, Erik, Michael, BJ, Miles and Mitchell), three granddaughters (Mary, Melissa and Michelle), 15 great grandchildren, one brother (Clifford E. Worthylake) and a sister (Judith A. McClellan) and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held in Claremore, Oklahoma on July 31st at Verdigris Assembly of God at 2:00 pm. An additional celebration is planned for August 22nd at Florence Cross Road Assembly of God in Florence, Oregon at 2:00 pm, where she has many friends and family. She will be interred with her husband at Fair Grove Cemetery, Ada, Oregon.

LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR

In today’s edition (7/22/26) along with all the local news of events, there are three letters to the editor; this section is always my favorite since I can hear directly from our community members about the issues they care about.

Passions are clearly running high as we approach the upcoming Nov. General elections, and in our democracy, we can agree and disagree about the same issue, in this case, the July 4th celebration in Washington DC.

Locally, we have an important and unprecedented election also: all the city council seats and the mayor position are open and almost a dozen Florence residents have thrown their hats into the ring, including myself. When I express my opinions publicly in the next months, I promise to look for that much discussed and elusive “middle ground”; I promise to use language based on my factual observations, experiences, research and nonpartisan news sources.

For example, I think all of us living here are Patriots but express those values in different ways; trying to disparage any of us solely by our political beliefs will not advance the conversation about how we propose to keep our local economy growing or encourage many of us to offer solutions others may not have thought of. We need diverse perspectives to solve multifaceted challenges.

I believe the vast majority of us want civility, respectful communication and a teamwork approach to our local issues. Perhaps future

letters could start a “middle ground” dialogue about our challenges and offer solutions?

Personally, I pledge to adhere to these values.

Renee Lo Pilato
Florence

DEAR EDITOR,

In response to the July 22 letter to editor stating that republicans overwhelmingly are proud to be American she misses the point. One can love their country and be repulsed by the Trump administration diminishing our standing in the world as a leader in sciences, standard of living, healthcare, rule of law and support of equal rights and freedom to speak the truth to lies and deceit.

Who can be proud that Trump has made a mockery of his election promises. He did not end wars, he started more. He is complicit in the growing genocide perpetrated by the war criminal Netanyahu. Who could be proud of the murder, starvation and mutilization that MAGA votes to support. Who can be proud of the fierce protection from prosecution of the disgusting traffickers of women and children. Who can be proud of the president that writes love letters to dictators while threatening our allies and labeling them with slurs and disrespect.

We have an administration that obsesses over masculinity and rightly so. They are not strong men. They are performers with no backbone and just hang on to the coattails of their malignant narcissistic leader who uses them as paws

for his own financial gains. They grovel before their leader in hopes of also getting their hands in the taxpayers cookie jar and gaining a profitable government contract and/or a pardon for their criminal activity.

Celebrating the 4th of July is recognition of the incredible bravery of our Founding Fathers to rid our land of a dictator. They listed their grievances against mad King George. Read them. Today they would be called ICE, DOGE, tariffs as taxes, unlawful detention and keeping our congress from voting for the common good, just for starters.

And by the way, the American revolution was fought to rid us of a dictator, not to support one. Read your history. Get out and vote!

Karen Mahoney
Florence

DEAR EDITOR,

I was so glad to read that the county parks doing the North Jetty parking lot restoration project are going to install vault toilets, bike racks, ADA parking, etc. As a retired park ranger I want to say that vault toilets are wonderful IF you have dedicated staff or volunteers cleaning them vigorously every day and retouching paint on a regular schedule. I have found that visitors respect well-kept facilities. If they are allowed to fall into disrepair, people cease to care. So please, please dedicate staff to keeping the new facilities in excellent shape. It will be well worth it

Jean Phillips
Florence

POLICE

From Page A2

recorded in Florence.

At 9:13 p.m., a caller reported subjects going through items behind a business in the 2000 block of Highway 101. Officers patrolled the area but were unable to locate anyone doing so.

At 10:37 p.m., a caller reported seeing a bear in the area of 31st and Pine.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

At 9:56 a.m., a caller reported having his wallet stolen in a business in the 1800 block of 37th St.

At 11:19 a.m., officers responded to a report of Robbery in the 1300 block of Highway 101 (See story, page A1)

At 11:19 a.m., officers responded to an address on Bonnett Way for a report of possible burglary. Officers found a window broken on the back of the residence where someone made entry. The homeowners were away, so officers could not determine if anything had been stolen until they returned. The home was secured, and the case remains under investigation.

At 12:06 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of 19th St. for a report of theft of gold chains. The caller alleged his ex was the only person who could’ve taken them. Officers contacted the ex, who denied doing so. The theft remains under investigation.

At 12:44 p.m., officers were investigating the previous robbery in the 1300 block of Highway 101 when they were attacked by dogs. Officers were familiar with the owner of the dogs and cited her.

At 3:24 p.m., a caller in the 3900 block of Highway 101 reported that bikes appeared to have been tampered with in the bike rack and that area kids were suspected of doing so. Officers took down the information.

At 8:15 p.m., officers at

the City’s block party on Bay Street were notified of an intoxicated subject. Officers located the subject and helped him get home.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

At 12:32 a.m., officers responded to the 2300 block of Highway 101 for a reported theft of merchandise. Officers were shown a photograph of the suspect and were able to identify him. Officers contacted the subject, who admitted the theft and gave the merchandise back. The caller did not want to press charges, but wanted the subject told not to return.

At 1:54 p.m., officers responded to the 1100 block of Highway 101 for a reported assault. Officers were told that a subject had pulled a knife and another subject had been cut trying to grab it away. Officers arrested one subject for assault 3, disorderly conduct, and unlawful use of a weapon.

At 1:21 p.m., officers responded to the 200 block of Harbor for a report of harassment. Officers found an ongoing dispute between neighbors sharing a common wall. All parties were counseled.

At 5:20 p.m., a caller reported that while she was in jail, subjects had gone into her residence and taken clothing and other items. Officers spoke to the apartment manager to obtain surveillance video.

At 10:36 p.m., a caller reported a subject in the area of Maple and 8th Street pushing a shopping cart full of unbagged merchandise. The caller thought the merchandise may have been stolen. Officers received no other reports of stolen merchandise, nor did they see a crime in progress. No further action was taken.

At 11:17 p.m., a caller reported hearing about 20 rounds of gunshots in the area of 35th St. and Rhododendron Drive. Officers arrived to find the area quiet. Dispatch received no other calls.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

At 3:26 a.m., a caller reported that her husband had been missing for some time. Officers used Flock cameras to locate his vehicle and responded to his last known location. Officers found the husband, who said he was not missing, but just did not want to go home yet.

At 8:39 a.m., officers responded to the area of 12th and Spruce for a report of a child seen near the roadway. Officers arrived to contact the child, who said they were playing hide-and-seek with a sibling and that everything was OK.

At 10:16 a.m., a caller reported a deer on a spike in the 3000 block of Pacific View Drive. Officers arrived to find a dead deer that had apparently impaled itself jumping over a spiked security fence. The property owner was contacted and notified.

At 3:25 p.m., a resident turned in a bank card found in the 2300 block of Highway 101. Officers were able to find the owner and return the card.

At 6:13 p.m., a caller reported her elderly husband had not returned home. As officers were responding, the caller recontacted dispatch to say the husband had come home.

At 11:41 p.m., a caller reported a subject walking in the roadway in the 4800 block of Highway 101. Officers located the subject walking in the roadway and advised him not to keep doing so.

MONDAY, JULY 20

At 1:19 a.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive for a report of a dispute occurring. Officers were able to separate all parties and determine the dispute had been only verbal. Officers gave one subject a ride home from the residence.

At 8:36 a.m., officers responded to the area of Spruce and Highway 126 for a report of a stolen vehicle. Officers spoke

to a subject who said his ex-girlfriend had taken his van. Officers searched the last known area of the van and were unable to locate it. Officers attempted to call the subject back, but the phone would not take calls.

At 11:26 a.m., a caller reported a robbery in progress near the Estuary Trail. Officers arrived and were told a subject wielding a tire iron had been chasing a homeless subject. The caller produced a photo matching the subject from the previous call, who had reported his van had been stolen by his ex.

Officers were able to determine that the couple had gotten back together in the van, but that she had thrown all of his belongings out during a previous fight. It was reported that the two believed the homeless subject had taken the discarded items, resulting in the foot chase. It was further reported that the two then took the homeless person’s belongings and left town.

Florence Police Department put out a bulletin to area agencies. Junction City Police Department located the van and the subjects and took them into custody. After transporting them back to Florence, the male subject was arrested for robbery and taken to Lane County jail.

At 10:43 a.m., a resident turned in a bicycle that had been found in the 1700 block of Highway 101.

At 2:55 p.m., a caller in the 1800 block of Highway 126 reported that a suit of armor had been stolen. The case remains under investigation.

At 11:30 p.m., officers responded to the 1400 block of Spruce Street for a report of a subject sleeping on the sidewalk under a blanket. Officers contacted the subject to find he had warrants from Florence Municipal Court and Springfield courts. The subject was taken into custody.



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OUR STAFF

Joe Warren | Director of Publication

jwarren@countrymedia.net

Office Manager

503-444-7924 | snofficemanager@countrymedia.net

Gary Winterholler | Multi-Media Sales Consultant

509-216-1658 | gwinterholler@countrymedia.net

Tony Reed | Editor

treed@countrymedia.net

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

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Letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large. In addition:

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

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Email 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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President Donald Trump

The White House
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Washington, D.C. 20500
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www.whitehouse.gov

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek

900 Court St., Suite 254
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
503-378-4582
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www.wyden.senate.gov

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www.merkley.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle (4th Dist.)
202-225-6416
www.hoyle.house.gov

State Sen. Dick Anderson

(Dist. 5)
503-986-1705
Email: Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov

State Rep. Boomer Wright

(Dist. 9)
PO Box 39000 Florence, OR 97439
503-986-1409 | 541-361-6042
Email: Rep.BoomerWright@oregonlegislature.gov

Lane County Dist. 1

Commissioner Ryan Ceniga
125 E. Eighth St.
Eugene, OR 97401
541-682-4203
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Florence City Council

Mayor Rob Ward & Councilors Mike Webb, Rich Olson, Chris Robert Carp & Jo Beaudreaux
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Dunes City Council

Mayor Ed McGuire & Councilors Duke Wells, Melissa Stinson, Susan Snow, Rich Olson, Chris Clemons, and Larry Farnsworth
Dunes City Hall, 82877 Spruce St., Westlake, OR 97493
541-997-3338
dunescity.gov



City recognizes Farmers Market Week

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

Mayor Rob Ward read a proclamation recognizing the Florence Farmer’s Market, inviting Market Director Jennifer Ledbetter and board members to the dais.

“Whereas, farmers markets strengthen communities by connecting residents and visitors with local food, regional agriculture, and small business,” Ward

read.

National Farmers Market Week is celebrated across the country in August to recognize the role farmers markets play in supporting local economies, food access, public health, and resilient regional food systems. Florence Farmers Market serves the Siuslaw region by connecting community members and Oregon coast visitors with local farmers and food producers, as well

as local educators and musicians, according to the proclamation.

Florence Farmers Market Week on the boardwalk will celebrate the market through vendor storytelling, children’s activities, food education, local matters programming, cooking demonstrations, music, volunteer and vendor recognition, and community participation.”

The final whereas stated that the City of Florence

recognizes the value of local food, public gathering spaces, small business vitality, food access, environmental stewardship, tourism and community connection.

Ward recognized Aug. 2 to Aug. 8 as Florence Farmer’s Market Week and encouraged support by residents.

“We can’t force our farmers market to grow; believe me, we have tried,” said Ledbetter. “You set

the table and do the work, and it’s up to everyone else whether anyone comes. Nine seasons and they keep coming.”

She said that while last year’s farmers market hosted about 15 vendors per week, 2026 has seen about 24 vendors per week.

“Farmers, food producers, and community groups- no one recruited them. They came because you keep showing up,” she said, adding that a market

is not a store, but a community deciding to show up for itself.

“Here’s the thing about a market that belongs to its town- it only keeps running if the town keeps running it,” she said, inviting the community to the Port Boardwalk Aug. 4. “We are a small nonprofit, and we could use more hands on our board, on committees and at the fundraiser we have going alongside the celebration.”

Florence Marks Oregon Coast’s “10 Days of Tuna”

FROM FLORENCE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

“August is Oregon Albacore Month, and we’re celebrating with ‘10 Days of Tuna,’” said Stacey Gunderson, global sales and marketing coordinator for the Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA).

“We are delighted to support this important initiative here in Florence,” said Bettina Hannigan, president/CEO of the

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. “Commercial fishing vessels like the Aleta and the Teresa Lee operate out of the Port of Siuslaw in Florence, providing fresh Albacore tuna directly to the public and local restaurants during the summer season.”

“Each day for 10 days, from August 1-10, 2026, OCVA and Oregon Albacore Commission will post all about Oregon-caught Albacore tuna. Our

goal is to excite eaters about what makes Oregon Albacore special, help them find and buy local Oregon Albacore, and inspire them to incorporate Oregon Albacore into their meals both fresh in-season and year-round frozen, canned, or in pouches,” she added.

According to online sources, the Aleta regularly docks at Slip A-13 right in front of Novelli’s Crab & Seafood, selling

fresh, whole tuna straight off the boat. Likewise, the Teresa Lee is moored on A Dock during peak tuna seasons (typically July through September) to offer public dockside sales.

Florence eateries Novelli’s Crab & Seafood and The Krab Kettle offer fresh salmon, crab, tuna, and more in season. Novelli’s is a floating fish market on the West Marina docks. The Krab

Kettle is at 280 Highway 101 in Florence, next door to the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce office and art gallery. Both providers source directly from the local fleet and serve retail walk-ins and local restaurants.

“Because commercial fishing trips depend heavily on weather, ocean conditions, and migratory patterns, availability of their catch changes daily. You can check the daily status by calling the Port of Siuslaw Marina Office at 541-997-3040 to confirm which boats are currently in port with fish,” advised Hannigan. “Bring ice and coolers for your purchase. Whole albacore tuna are large fish. If you are buying whole fish to fillet at home, bring large coolers packed with ice.”

Each day for 10 days, from August 1-10, 2026, the Oregon Coast Visitors Association and Oregon Albacore Commission will post all about Oregon-caught Albacore tuna.

Gunderson says themes for the campaign include:

- What makes Oregon Albacore special
 - The Oregon Albacore fishery
 - How to buy Oregon Albacore from the boat, in stores, and in markets
 - Ordering Oregon Albacore in restaurants
 - How to cook Oregon Albacore
 - Economic benefits of Oregon Albacore
 - Sustainability of the fishery
- To learn more, join @thepeoplescoast and @oregonalbacore for the 10 Days of Tuna adventure and follow along to learn some fun facts, enjoy recipes featuring Oregon Albacore, and hear stories from the fishermen.
- The Krab Kettle can be reached at 541-997-8996. Novelli’s can be reached at 541-639-7689 or <http://novelliscrabandseafood.com>.
- For more information about events, attractions, food, or lodging in Florence, contact the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce at 541-997-3128 or visit FlorenceFun.com.



We Are Better Together

As we look to a new year, we’re celebrating what connects us as a community, and what we can do to bridge our divides. From events and local perspectives to cultural insights and conversation starters, we invite you to join us in making our community better, together.

Help rebuild our economy by supporting these and other local businesses!

ART ALLIANCE

Florence Regional Arts Alliance
120 Maple Street, Florence, Oregon 97439
541-999-0859

CHURCH

Cross Road Assembly of God
1380 10th St, Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-3533

ESTATE SALES

Cindy Wobbe Estate Sales
498 Hwy. 101, Florence OR 97439
541-999-0126
www.CindyWobbeEstates.com

EVENT CENTER

Florence Events Center
715 Quince Street, Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-1994

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Edward Jones-Andy Baber, AAMS
Financial Advisor
1010 Highway 101
541-997-8755

HUMANE SOCIETY

Oregon Coast Humane Society
541-997-4277

Shelter
2840 Rhododendron Dr.

Thrift Store
1193 Bay St.

NEWSPAPERS

Siuslaw News
4969 Highway 101, #4
Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-3441
www.thesiuslawnews.com

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Randy Paredes, Broker
100 Hwy 101, Florence, Oregon 97439
541-991-9107

West Coast Real Estate Services, Inc.
1870 Hwy. 126, Suite A,
Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-SOLD (7653)

SEPTIC SERVICE

Wally’s Septic Tank Pumping Inc.
541-997-8885

TIRES

Les Schwab Tire Center
4325 Highway 101, Florence, Oregon,
97439
541-997-7178

UPHOLSTERY

Buds Upholstery
4981 Highway 101, Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-4856

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Cell: 509-216-1658
gwinterholler@countrymedia.net



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- Support without judgment



FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



34 BONNETT WAY

Stunning 3-bedroom, 2.5 bath custom home offering 2,302 square feet of thoughtfully designed living space in the exclusive gated community of Fawn Ridge West, just a short stroll to the beach. This beautiful single-level home features an open-concept great room with a tray ceiling, cozy gas fireplace, custom built-ins and upgraded shutters, and a chef’s kitchen complete with a large island, butler’s pantry, drawer microwave, and stainless steel appliances—perfect for everyday living and entertaining. The luxurious primary suite offers two walk-in closets and a beautifully tiled roll-in shower, while the second full bath features a custom step-in bathtub for added comfort and accessibility. Quality craftsmanship continues throughout with LVP flooring, carpeted bedrooms, quartz countertops, custom cabinetry, and thoughtful design details that elevate everyday living. Step outside to enjoy two inviting patios surrounded by extensive professional landscaping, creating the perfect setting to relax and enjoy coastal living. An oversized three-car garage provides ample space for vehicles, storage, and all your coastal gear. Experience the comfort, quality, and coastal lifestyle this exceptional home offers, make an appointment for your private showing today. **\$995,000** CB#12948/MLS#622410183



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Florence, OR 97439



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RELIT
From Page A1

machinist who made the wheels was able to locate another machinist with the necessary equipment.

Etched into the new carriage wheels is “Welch’s Machine Works,” along with the date 7-20-2026 and “Materials C510 Phosphor Bronze Full Hard.”

Park Ranger Ben Ervin said the repairs and installation of the new carriage wheel and roadbed (track ring assembly) went remarkably smoothly, and that OPRD personnel had been activating the rotating assembly to monitor it and ensure that it was working well.

“It went in much better than any of us expected,” he said, noting that the installer had to use custom jacks to slightly raise the lens assembly.

The light has been off since mid-March, and a curtain has been used to shield the lens from sunlight while repairs were being made.

As a point of interest,

Ervin used a timer to determine the lighthouse makes one revolution every 80 seconds.

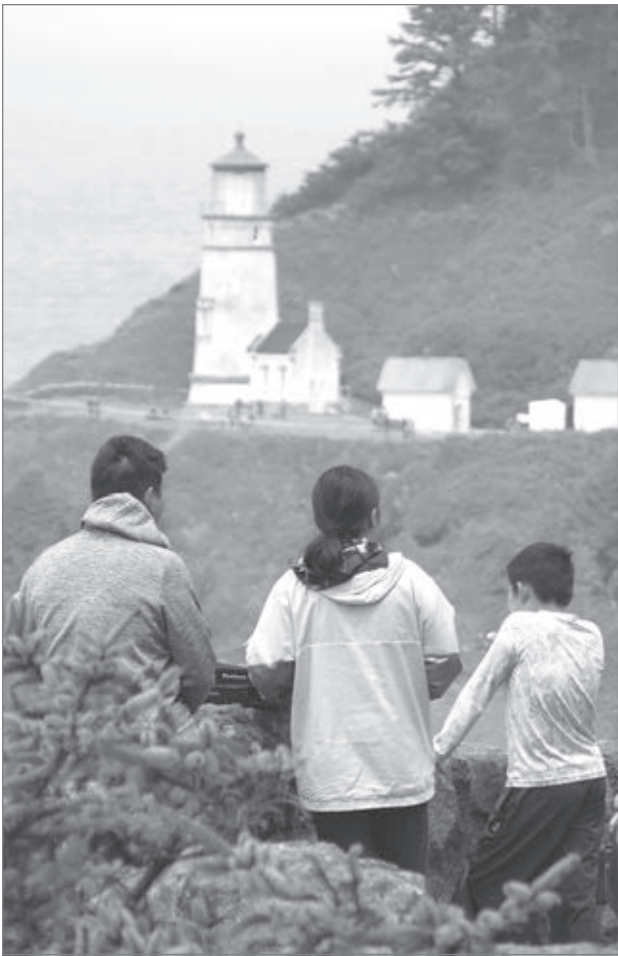
The cost of the repairs came to about \$35,000, according to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department.

HISTORY AND NEAR FUTURE

While captains no longer need lighthouses to safely navigate along the coastline, the Heceta Head Lighthouse remains the brightest on the Oregon Coast, casting a beam 21 nautical miles (24 miles). According to hecetalighthouse.com, the cape owes its name to Don Bruno de Heceta, who in 1775 embarked on a secret voyage for the Queen of Spain to sail up the West Coast.

“Due to the onslaught of scurvy, Heceta and his crew turned back just before the Columbia River, but not before he noted the shallow waters and rocky headland that now bear his name,” the website says.

“On March 30, 1894, the lighthouse cast its first beam. The first eight



Until the morning of July 23, a white curtain surrounded the Fresnel lens inside the top of the lighthouse. Tony Reed photos

years were trying times for the three Lightkeepers and their families who lived in the little community of Heceta Head. Many Lightkeepers



Park Ranger Ben Ervin makes his way up the stairs inside the lighthouse.

Lightstation a sustainable community. Olaf started the vegetable gardens, a schoolhouse, and the Heceta Head Post Office. While just the gift shop and Lightkeeper’s house remain at the lower landing, both are still used today.

At the start of October, the Forest Service will

be replacing the roof and porch of the Lightkeepers’ House. The project will involve scaffolding and limited entry, and is expected to take four to six weeks.

Construction is expected to be completed in time for the annual Victorian Christmas Dec. 12 to Dec. 20.



PARTY
From Page A1

learn about sustainability

from the Environmental Management Advisory Committee. Plus, people enjoyed the sweet treat of BJ’s Ice Cream! Thank you to the sponsors that

made this event possible: Three Rivers Casino Resort, Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors, BJ’s Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlor, Oregon



Cameron Jagoe photos

Pacific Bank, Zolezzi Insurance Agency, Banner Bank, County Transfer & Recycling, TR Hunter Real Estate, Bay Street Condominiums, Coast

Radio KCST & KCFM, Collaborative EDO, Hanawalt Ferguson Attorneys at Law, Ray Wells, Inc., the Siuslaw News, and Jan & Mike

Chason. The City also thanks the community organizations who participated.

COUNCIL
From Page A1

the city opted to install a secant pile wall to stabilize the bank. Staff has been monitoring the loss of the bank area since that time, and results show varying amounts of ground slippage, depending on the weather.

On multiple occasions, City Manager Erin Reynolds has explained that the project aims to stabilize slippage along the end of Coast Guard Station Road at the river’s

edge.

At its June 1 regular meeting, the council approved the purchase of a 43,000-pound stormwater pump for the price of \$180,840 for the Coast Guard Road Stormwater Pump Station Project.

The slippage area also crosses onto US Coast Guard property.

Last June, federal personnel began installing piles using a large crane next to the Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River.

GET STARTED

Public Works Director August Murphy said the

action would get one of the city’s most needed projects underway. He said the project will integrate the new station into the City’s system and will be the first of its kind in the Stormwater Department.

“A detailed look into this proposal shows that it includes all of the wiring, structural components, panels, and emergency bypass equipment,” Murphy said. “That equipment then gets energized, commissioned, and integrated into our existing SCADA System.” SCADA (Supervisory Control and

Data Acquisition) is a combination of software and hardware that allows organizations to monitor and gather real-time data from critical infrastructure systems. Murphy said city staff will be trained on the use of the equipment, and a backup will be provided for security.

TAG has worked with the City many times and has assisted in helping avoid emergencies, Murphy said.

So far, the cost of the project has been within the \$882,841 estimate, leaving \$431,205 for construction, he said.

“To fund this project, staff has reallocated funds from another capital planning project in Stormwater, utilized savings in stormwater materials and services, and tapped into the stormwater contingency funds, to an extent.

With little discussion, the council unanimously approved the agreement.

LOW BID

Murphy said the only remaining thing to do to get the project started was to award it to the lowest bidder. He explained that in July, contractor Ray Wells’ proposal came in at \$431,205, the amount

left in the budget for construction. The proposal was one of five ranging from that low amount to \$514,000. Murphy said the company has performed such work for the city in the past with excellent results.

The work will include the installation of the previously purchased pump station and utility infrastructure and will result in the removal of the outfall near the Coast Guard station where the initial erosion and slippage occurred.

After no further discussion, the council approved the contract with Ray Wells Inc.

MAYOR
From Page A1

on the streets, presiding over the council to make sure every resident’s voice is part of our future.”

Mann said his vision is based on real-world experience, since his dad is a local contractor, through whom he has seen the housing crisis unfold, and the red tape that inhibits development.

“As mayor, I would make it easier for local contractors to provide the housing our workforce needs,” he said.

As an employee of Torex, an ATV rental business, Mann said he’s seen how tourism fuels Florence. He said as mayor, he would work to support recreational businesses while protecting natural resources.

Saying a town is only as healthy as its people, Mann noted that he’d enrolled in the high school’s CNA program to prepare for a career in nursing.

“As mayor, I would work to deepen the partnerships between Siuslaw High School and the Lane Community College Florence Center,” he said. I believe we should be growing our own nurses and healthcare workers, right here in Florence. By expanding local training, we support our aging population and provide our students with high-paying careers without them having to leave the town they love.”

He said that as a student, a worker, and a future healthcare provider, he is invested in Florence and would lead the city with the same dedication.

“I’m Jacob Mann, and

I’m ready to build a better Florence, together,” he said in closing.

Mayor Ward presented Mann with a check for \$300 from the Oregon

Mayor’s Association.

Ward thanked Jacob’s parents, Sara and Shawn, for raising him.

“You make Florence proud,” Ward told Jacob

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3861 NANDINA DR.



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\$669,000

938 N. 8TH ST. REEDSPORT



Great “starter” home, downsizing opportunity or investment property! Comes with storage shed. 3 Bed/1 Bath, 1056 SF.
\$285,000

83340 SPRUCE LANE



Chalet style home nestled on beautifully wooded & manicured .67 acre lot. Huge shop & RV garage. 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1252 SF.
\$699,000

84226 CLEAR LAKE RD.



Well loved custom home. Vintage homey feel. Only 1 mile to Woahink Lake and Dunes. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath. 2491 SF. RV garage
\$829,000

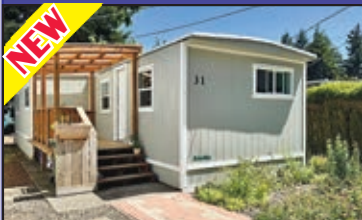
OPEN HOUSE
Aug 1st • 11am-1pm

83413 OSPREY WAY



Nestled on 1.17 lush, beautifully landscaped acres, this exceptional custom home offers the perfect blend of luxury, functionality, and coastal living. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 3183 SF.
\$849,000

5170 GRAND AVE. #31



Thoughtfully updated & expanded. Big evergreens around the park give a serene feel! 2 Bed/1 Bath, 675 SF.
\$110,000

83224 CLEAR LAKE RD.



Best of country living on 1.35 acres in the south lakes area. Spacious and comfortable home. 3 Bed/3 Bath, 2129 SF.
\$569,000

88082 LEEWARD DR.



Breathtaking woodwork, classic arched doorways and many high end touches. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath. 1904 SF.
\$735,000

5360 BUCKSKIN BOB



Charming lakefront cabin on .56 acre with boat dock! All new fixtures, flooring & paint. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1560 SF.
\$699,000

2235 10TH ST.



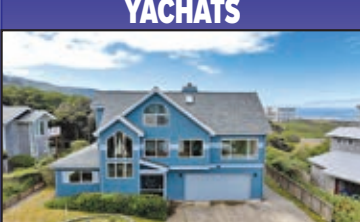
Mid-Century classic w/space for everyone. 4 Bed/3 Bath, 2348 SF.
\$479,000

9959 SWEET CREEK RD



Stunning 1587 SF riverfront home + 588 SF remodeled income producing bungalow. Brand new deep water dock.
\$850,000

514 LEMWICK LANE
YACHATS



3 story home w/ magnificent blue water views. Expansive living area. Close to the 804 walking trail. 2 Bed/3.5 Bath. 3152 SF
\$935,000

1445 YEW ST.



Coastal Highlands home has received a full make over. All work has been done-now it's your turn to enjoy! 3 Bed/2 Bath. 1526 SF.
\$459,900

4567 ARCH ST.



Fully furnished coastal getaway w/ additional 528 SF finished garage area. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 567 SF.
\$550,000

PRICE
REDUCED

5323 LEAVITT LP.



Beautiful waterfront retreat on Woahink Lk. Expansive windows. Multiple outdoor living spaces. 3 Bed/3 Bath, 2450 SF.
\$1,200,000

1021 PRESTWICK CT.



Spacious cape-cod style cottage in gated Golf Course community. Upstairs bonus room w/ a half bath. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2367 SF.
\$739,000

21 TWIN TREE CT.



2 story luxury home w/ incredible views of the ocean. Tongue and groove vaulted ceilings. 5 Bed/2.5 Bath, 3378 SF
\$1,275,000

4080 CADDINGTON LN



Nearly new single level home in Fairway Estates. Quality craftsmanship throughout. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2020 SF.
\$699,900

112 SAILOR LANE



Cozy and well-loved travel trailer in Coast Village. Enjoy all the amenities of this popular location.
\$210,000

PRICE
REDUCED

88830 SHORELINE DR.



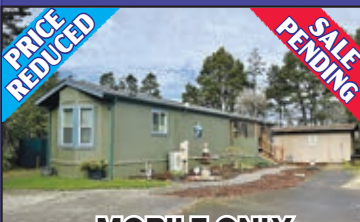
Oceanfront fixer w/beach views and miles of sandy beach. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 3335 SF.
\$799,000

1080 BAY ST. #19



Bay Bridge Condo with River views. Covered porch. Dedicated parking space and storage unit. 2 Bed/2 Bath. 1048 SF
\$399,500

3760 HWY 101 #1



PRICE
REDUCED

SALE
PENDING

• MOBILE ONLY •

Live large in cute little park model on the Oregon Coast. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 840 SF
\$108,000

WOOD LAKE WAY S.



Quality craftsmanship and custom features throughout. Designed & built by Brian Lacouture. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2442 SF.
\$875,000

88282 ELMONT DR.



Spacious triple wide manufactured home w/ large detached garage on 1/2 acre lot. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2240 SF.
\$499,000



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Tide Table

Siuslaw River Entrance saltwatertides.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29	
High.....	12:16 a.m.....7.3
Low.....	7:19 a.m.....-0.9
High.....	1:58 p.m.....5.8
Low.....	7:07 p.m.....2.7
THURSDAY, JULY 30	
High.....	12:54 a.m.....7.3
Low.....	7:50 a.m.....-1.0
High.....	2:26 p.m.....6.0
Low.....	7:47 p.m.....2.4
FRIDAY, JULY 31	
High.....	1:31 a.m.....7.1
Low.....	8:19 a.m.....-0.9
High.....	2:54 p.m.....6.2
Low.....	8:26 p.m.....2.0
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1	
High.....	2:10 a.m.....6.8
Low.....	8:48 a.m.....-0.6
High.....	3:21 p.m.....6.5
Low.....	9:07 p.m.....1.7
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2	
High.....	2:52 a.m.....6.4
Low.....	9:18 a.m.....-0.2
High.....	3:49 p.m.....6.7
Low.....	9:52 p.m.....1.4
MONDAY, AUGUST 3	
High.....	3:39 a.m.....6.0
Low.....	9:49 a.m.....0.4
High.....	4:19 p.m.....6.9
Low.....	10:41 p.m.....1.1
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4	
High.....	4:33 a.m.....5.5
Low.....	10:23 a.m.....1.1
High.....	4:53 p.m.....7.1
Low.....	11:39 p.m.....0.8
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5	
High.....	5:38 a.m.....5.0
Low.....	11:03 a.m.....1.9
High.....	5:35 p.m.....7.3
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6	
Low.....	12:46 a.m.....0.6
High.....	6:58 a.m.....4.6
Low.....	11:53 a.m.....2.6
High.....	6:27 p.m.....7.4
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7	
Low.....	1:59 a.m.....0.2
High.....	8:34 a.m.....4.6
Low.....	1:02 p.m.....3.2
High.....	7:32 p.m.....7.5
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8	
Low.....	3:12 a.m.....-0.3
High.....	10:05 a.m.....4.8
Low.....	2:26 p.m.....3.5
High.....	8:44 p.m.....7.6
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9	
Low.....	4:17 a.m.....-0.9
High.....	11:12 a.m.....5.3
Low.....	3:47 p.m.....3.4
High.....	9:53 p.m.....7.9
MONDAY, AUGUST 10	
Low.....	5:14 a.m.....-1.4
High.....	12:02 p.m.....5.8
Low.....	4:56 p.m.....3.0
High.....	10:55 p.m.....8.1
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11	
Low.....	6:04 a.m.....-1.7
High.....	12:45 p.m.....6.2
Low.....	5:56 p.m.....2.4
High.....	11:51 p.m.....8.2
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12	
Low.....	6:49 a.m.....-1.8
High.....	1:24 p.m.....6.6
Low.....	6:50 p.m.....1.9
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13	
High.....	12:43 a.m.....8.0
Low.....	7:30 a.m.....-1.7
High.....	2:01 p.m.....6.9
Low.....	7:40 p.m.....1.4
FRIDAY, AUGUST 14	
High.....	1:33 a.m.....7.6
Low.....	8:08 a.m.....-1.3
High.....	2:37 p.m.....7.1
Low.....	8:29 p.m.....1.0

VETERAN'S VIEWPOINT

National Coast Guard Day August 4th

Applebee, CONTRIBUTOR
July 2026

Tuesday August 4th marks the day each year celebrated as National Coast Guard Day, originally established as the Revenue-Marine on August 4, 1790. It serves as a tribute to the men and women who protect US waters and uphold maritime law.

The name Coast Guard didn't come about until 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service was merged with the Lifesaving Service. The Lifesaving Service joined the Coast Guard in 1939, followed in 1948 by the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection. In 1967 the Coast Guard was transferred to the newly formed Department of Transportation and finally came under the umbrella of Homeland Security in March of



SWVHF Board member greets Veterans recently returned from Washington DC" photo provided.

2003.

While Coast Guard Day is primarily an internal activity for active-duty Coast Guard personnel, civilian members, reservists, retirees, auxiliariast and dependents, local community organizations

sometimes recognize and honor their service, such as Daughters of the American Revolution Oregon Dunes Chapter here in Florence. BMC Sam Blosch, Executive Petty Officer at our Station Siuslaw River stated that locally they

will observe it as a morale day with a BBQ at the Station. **Patton Veterans Project Films Come to Florence** The Patton Veterans Project, a program developed by General George Patton's grandson Ben Patton, is taking off from

an Oregon standpoint. A Florence workshop held in May resulted in the production of four Veteran-created videos, recently screened at the Egyptian Theatre in Coos Bay. They are now coming to Florence and will be screened at City Lights Cinemas.

Will Wagner, Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator for the VA has been working with Michael Falter of City Lights Cinemas to book the films in Florence. Planners anticipate heavy attendance from the local Veteran community, many of whom participated in the project. The western Lane region Veteran population is roughly more than twice the State average. Support is also being provided by Florence Band of Brothers and

See **TRIBUTE**, Page B2

Cort Waggoner named Northwest Conference Scholar Athlete

In July, the Northwest Conference office announced the annual NWC Scholar Athletes list, naming 220 student-athletes from Linfield University as honorees. Among those honored was Cort Waggoner, a political science major from Florence.

The NWC Scholar Athlete honor is given to student-athletes of NWC institutions who maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher at the end of the academic year and have participated in the varsity season. Waggoner participated



Crowned King of the Coast in 2024, Cort Waggoner went on to Linfield University after high school. Tony Reed photo

as a member of the football team(s) throughout the 2025-26 academic year.



Washed Ashore Jellyfish Sculpture Debuts at Driftwood Shores in Florence

Florence is now home to a permanent public art sculpture by Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea. The whimsical, 12-foot-tall jellyfish now welcomes visitors at Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center, where it is displayed beside the resort's aquatic center.

Constructed entirely from repurposed marine debris collected from Oregon beaches, the sculpture transforms discarded plastic and other ocean litter into a vibrant work of art with an important message. Every Washed Ashore sculpture encourages viewers to consider the impacts of marine debris, litter, and single-use plastics on ocean ecosystems and coastal communities.

There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Driftwood Shores Resort & Conference Center, 88416 1st Avenue in Florence. The public is invited to attend and celebrate this unique addition to Florence's public art



collection. Additionally, Driftwood Shores is running a contest through social media to help name the jellyfish. Find out more at <https://www.facebook.com/DriftwoodShores>.

The jellyfish art installation was inspired by Driftwood Shores and a small group of local residents who share a passion for art, conservation, and the Oregon Coast. The effort was made possible through a \$20,000 grant awarded

to Driftwood Shores by the Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA), with additional support from the City of Florence, the Florence Public Arts Committee, members of the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC), and community volunteers.

"The new Washed Ashore jellyfish sculpture is a wonderful example of how partnerships can inspire both stewardship

See **JELLYFISH**, Page B2

WOW Authors Presentation

If you believe every woman has a story to tell and are interested in how the female voice proves to the world that women have the strength, wisdom, and courage to survive, then you will want to attend the first WOW tour.

On Saturday, August 1, The Florence Women of Words, (WOW), is hosting a Celebration of Female Authors. This first tour is hosted by authors Kay Loraine, D.L. Hayes, and P.L. Vosseller with a surprise guest author, one that all Florence residents know

if you've seen them on their motorcycle, laughed at their humor, or purchased one of their detective novels.

This free presentation will be from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Siuslaw Public Library.

The event will include except readings from the host's novels, discussion on inspiring female authors, with an exclusive Q&A for the audience to get those burning questions answered.

For more information, visit <https://womenof-wordswow.wixsite.com/women-of-words>.



WOW members: D.L. Hayes, Kay Loraine, P.L. Vosseller Celebrating female authors - Every woman has a story to tell.



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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 Mehlhoff 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

Cross Road Assembly of God

Sunday 9:00
1st Service in person
Sunday 11:00
2nd Service in person & Online

Children's Church
(0yrs-12yrs)
in person & Online

Corner of 10th & Maple
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JELLYFISH

From Page B1

and visitor engagement,” said Arica Sears, Deputy Director of the Oregon Coast Visitors Association. “Combined with Driftwood Shores’ participation in our Kind Traveler program, this project gives visitors meaningful opportunities to connect with and give back to the Oregon Coast.”

As Florence’s only oceanfront lodging and dining destination, Driftwood Shores is a natural location for the installation. The property sits between two of the community’s most popular public beach access points, where

thousands of visitors pass each year. The sculpture also reflects the local coastline, where jellyfish and Velella velella — commonly known as “by-the-wind sailors” — frequently wash ashore.

The installation is expected to become a centerpiece for future educational and community programming focused on marine conservation, environmental stewardship, and public art. Local volunteers are already helping advance that mission through beach clean-ups and outreach activities, including EMAC’s recent cleanup along Heceta Beach.

Florence’s sculpture is only the third permanent Washed Ashore jellyfish installation in the United States, joining sculptures at

SeaWorld San Diego and in Coos Bay, home of the Washed Ashore organization.

The striking jellyfish sculpture features bold shades of orange, white, and maroon, all created from reclaimed marine debris. Its bell is crafted from plastic water bottles and discarded fishing nets, while its flowing tentacles incorporate cut plastic fragments, small toys, buoys, golf balls, disposable lighters, and other items collected from Oregon beaches.

“Washed Ashore is thrilled to present this jellyfish sculpture to Driftwood Shores and the City of Florence. We hope it brings years of joy, educates about plastic pollution and changes some consumer habits along the way. It has been

an honor to work with everyone involved in making this happen and we look forward to an ongoing partnership with our neighbors in Florence.” — expressed Marilyn Wright, Exhibit Manager and Washed Ashore Artist.

“We are so happy that we could make this happen and welcome this imaginative Washed Ashore sculpture, representing such an important message, to Florence.” said Reg Marvin Jr., General Manager of Driftwood Shores. “We hope this remarkable jellyfish becomes a must-see destination along the Oregon Coast while inspiring visitors and residents alike to help protect our oceans and natural environment.”

TRIBUTE

From Page B1

Florence Elks Lodge 1858.

The film is scheduled for Monday, August 3rd from 1300 (1230 arrive, w/1300 show-time)1500, at City Lights Cinemas on Hwy 101 in Florence.

Honor Flight Changes Eligibility

Honor Flight, the program started in 2005 to celebrate American’s Veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation’s capitol, has recently changed its eligibility for the Veterans who can participate. Effective January 1, 2027, the organization has developed two tiers of priority, with the highest tier still accepting WWII, Korean and Vietnam era as well as

terminally ill Vets.

The change will open a new tier that will now include Veterans from current eras including Post-Vietnam peacetime service (May 8, 1975-August 1, 1990), Operation Desert Shield (August 2, 1990-January 16, 1991) and Operation Desert Storm (January 17, 1991-June 31, 1991). Because many of these Veterans served during overlapping periods, applications from these eras should be processed in the order they are received rather than by specific service era. Because the changes are not yet reflected on the organization’s website, newly eligible applicants should wait until after the effective date to apply.

There are currently 135 hubs of the Honor Flight across the nation with four here in Oregon, including

South Willamette Valley Honor Flight. Since 2005 nearly 240,000 Veterans have made the trip to Washington, D.C. for a multi-day visit of memorials and museums. Locally, the SWVHF which began in 2012, has honored nearly 1,300 Veterans, who are accompanied by Guardians at their own expense. For more information about the local program contact board member Steve Baggin at steve.baggin@swvhonor-flight.org.

Veteran Profile – Jurgen Krausse

Over the years I have interviewed numerous Veterans and found each story interesting. Some Vets had very active and exciting experiences while others simply expressed “I was just doing my job”, minimizing their experiences to some degree. This month’s Veteran Profile includes some of all the above, plus a level of intrigue I’ve not found previously.

When war broke out in Europe in the mid and late 1930’s Jurgen Krausse’s family lived in East Prussia. Because his family had three children, his father was exempt from combat service in the Nazi army, but still required to serve in a non-combat role. However, as the war digressed for the Axis, he found himself

in combat eventually, in the Battle of the Bulge, and he survived. Because Jurgen was too young, by just four months, to serve in Germany’s Hitler Youth Service, he was lucky the first time, as he would have surely ended up in combat as the war progressed.

Following the war the family was caught in the struggle of East vs. West one more as the Allies carved up Germany for post-war occupation. To escape being controlled by the Russians, the family migrated to the United States in 1956. As a teenager, Jurgen was drafted immediately into the US Army.

Jurgen was sent to Korea where he said he was lucky the second time, because it was after the Armistice had been signed and hostilities were over. Boot camp training and testing, possibly because of his dual-language capabilities, resulted in his MSO in Personnel service assigned to a Transportation Battalion at ASCOM, running vehicles between Inchon and Soule.

Determining that a military career was not for him, following his discharge in 1958, Jurgen found a career in the growing office machine industry. But following his marriage to an active rental property investor in the San Francisco Bay Area, he soon found himself actively involved in property management and maintenance as her holdings increased.

Jurgen retired to Oregon

in 1994. While he’s not a member of any of the veterans service organizations in Florence, he is a long-time member of the Elks, and attends Band of Brothers regularly. Unlike many Vets, Jurgen did not maintain any friendships with those he served with. In recent years though, he did become friends with another gentlemen from Waldport, who had served in the Germany’s Hitler Youth and then army, seeing combat.

He shared one rather interesting experience with me about a few years ago when he made application to join a group connected with the historic Afrika Korps. On their application, his full, formal name was listed as Adolf Herbert Jurgen Krausse. ‘HJ’ was the moniker for WWII Nazi ‘Hitler Youth’ and they rejected his application.

Thanks for your service to our country Jurgen, and thanks for sharing your intriguing story.

Listed below are the contacts for each all three Veteran Service Organizations in Florence:

American Legion Post 59
<https://americanlegion-post59.com/>
PH# 541-991-3240

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 23
<https://davwebsites.dav.org/or/23/SystemPages/Home.aspx>
PH# 541-968-9512 (note new number)

Veterans of Foreign Wars post 3232
<https://vfw3232.org/>
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“Reflections on the Life of the Spirit” study group
Info and meeting location: 541-590-0779
Zoom link on Facebook: Florence Baha’i Community

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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

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Facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchFlorence
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2nd Service in person & livestreamed
Wednesday kids/youth night is at 6:30 NOT livestreamed.
<https://www.florencecrossroadag.org/church-online>
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Cathleen Kohler and Tamarah Phillips Featured at Backstreet Gallery

Celebrate two distinctive styles from pastel artist Cathleen Kohler and acrylic/oil painter Tamarah Phillips. You're invited to the 2nd Saturday Gallery Tour, August 8, 3-5, p.m. as the Gallery honors the two Featured Artists, and singer/guitarist Josh Mottley entertains while you enjoy wine and treats. Expect to be captivated by Cathleen Kohler's lovely pastels. The soft pastel strokes may achieve bold effects or a soft, serene aura. Texturing and layering of the colors draw the viewer into a tranquil scene. Her work is reminiscent of the Impressionists who have influenced her distinctive style. Her beautiful Giclee prints are also available. Whether Cathleen's pieces are mystical roads and rivers that lead to

special places, a still life, charming animals, or interesting buildings, the visual result is quite special. She is a member of FRAA and Pastel Artists of Oregon (POA), where she has been juried in to many of their shows. Arts and crafts have always been a part of her life. Tamarah Phillips' extraordinary paintings of colorful florals, with unusual patterns, often surround an otherworldly, mysterious, beautiful woman. The unique color palette sets a sensual mood for her mystical scenes. All of her pieces have incredible, vivid colors and quite noticeable texturing. "Each piece captures a moment in time, a snapshot of my inner growth



and outer exploration. I craft a journey of self-expression, weaving the highs and lows of my life into vibrant narratives," explains Tamarah. "Battling cancer has been a pivotal chapter in my life, teaching me to embrace fearlessness and seizing every opportunity. With each stroke of my

brush, I celebrate life's victories and navigate its challenges, inspired by the transformative power of art." Backstreet Gallery is located at 1421 Bay Street, open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you August 8.



Whitmore Classical Academy Announces Office Administrator

From SIUSLAW VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL

Whitmore Classical Academy is pleased to announce that Lisa Brandow has been hired as the inaugural Office Administrator for the school. "Lisa Brandow will be the face of our school and the heart of our Whitmore Classical Family.

Lisa comes to us with a background in customer service, education and music. She exudes warmth, enthusiasm, professionalism and an attitude of 'How can we make this happen.' She also has tremendous creative skills and is proficient at creating efficient systems and utilizing technology, to create administrative efficiencies. "We are very excited for her to begin on August 1," stated Jennifer Waggoner, Executive Director. Brandow most recently was the Visitor Services and Office Support Manager for the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. She has worked as a Music teacher, classroom aid and

instructional Assistant. She has her Bachelor of Arts from Puget Sound Christian College. She and her husband, Mike, have lived in Florence for almost three years and have one grown son. "Working in schools and with students has always been where my heart is. I woke-up this week excited for all the possibilities this job will provide-including fun things like dress up days. It will be really special to be part of brand-new school and support the mission 'To develop students in mind and character through a classical

education that emphasizes the principles of virtuous living, traditional learning, and civic responsibility,'" Brandow stated. Whitmore Classical Academy strives to be mission aligned in every aspect of operations. Each member of the WCA team will work toward this mission as well as personify the WCA core virtues including Perseverance, Respect, Courage, Integrity, Gratitude, Curiosity and SelfControl. Whitmore Classical Academy is a public, tuition-free Classical Education charter school, opening this Fall for

grades K-3 and will expand a grade each year until complete with grades K-8. Visit www.whitmoreacademy.com for up-to-date information.



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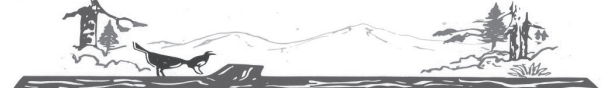
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*Promotional offer includes 20% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. AZ R002 344027, CA 1026766, CT HC00716201, DC 420222E-F1, FL CB0006678, IA C07720, IL PCS 51004, LA 266044, MA 210209, MD MCH07025, MI 2624488, MN 26230059, MS 26200269, NC 26200269, ND 26230073, NH 1800264, NJ 2621922, NY 4204, NV 20445-24, NV 15VH2385000, NM 408983, NV 88990, OR 26204, PA PA 170565, RI GC 4154, TN 10581, UT 101565, VA 27020594545, VT 1740000001, WA LEAF1-F1-18PQ, WI No. 227-000, WV WV 005692. Promotion exp. 8/31/2026.

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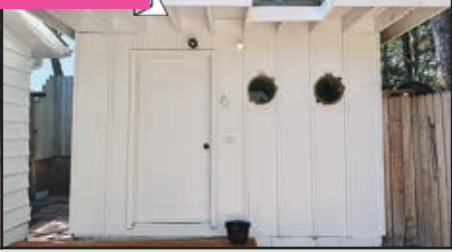


New Listing



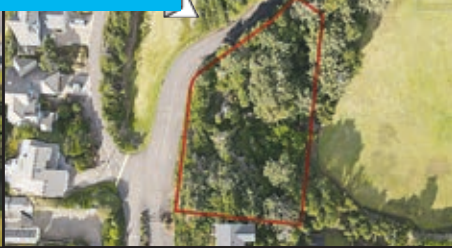
Tahkenitch Lake - \$99,000
1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, 500 SqFt. Rare Tahkenitch Lake float house. All the comforts of home...almost. #3807-165615744

New Listing



1600-662 Rhododendron Dr. - \$295,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1416 SqFt. Move-in-ready Greentrees home featuring bonus room, greenhouse, workshop and fenced back patio. #3814-342508208

Price Reduced



Shoreline Dr #121 - \$229,000
0.56 acre lot. Large lot in Kila-Ha-Nee, with potential for ocean views. Approved septic and City services. #3604-24210302

Price Reduced



83269 Clear Lake Rd. - \$834,900
3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 2835 SqFt. Beautiful two-story craftsman on private acreage with bonus room, office, garage, RV parking, and garden. #3759-330687265

Price Reduced



Arago St #2902 - \$85,500
0.14 acre lot. Beach lot! Ocean view potential. Geo and septic info ready. Build your dream. #3747-187887753

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1308 Bay St. - \$125,000
The Jolly Egret. Business opportunity in 600 sqft Old Town building with endless potential. Includes fixtures and inventory. #3693-767741951



5129 N Loftus Rd - \$950,000
3 Baths, 4000sqft. Newly built commercial building. 4 potential office spaces, ADA compliant, massive storage/work area. #3538- 24223879



10784 Hwy 126 - \$84,900
1259 SqFt Commercial building. Prime Mapleton investment! Three income streams, Siuslaw River views, brand-new roof, endless potential! #3756-349361667



4990 Mitchell Loop Rd. - \$450,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2665 SqFt. Custom ranch style home with open living, sunroom, and garage with RV parking. #3695-161538459



87511 Tiernan Rd. - \$399,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1866 SqFt. Secluded property with mature fruit trees, custom kitchen, bonus room, shop, and river access. #3714-272688773



179 Outer Dr. - \$287,900
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1100 SqFt. Peaceful Coast Village home with natural light, cozy spaces, garden paths, and convenient amenities. #3716-756515536



1699 27th St. #5 - \$74,900
2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, 924 SqFt. Well kept manufactured home in Ocean Breeze Park with sunroom, fenced backyard, and alley access. #3723-583761940



1791 Willow Lp. - \$375,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1400 SqFt. Move-in ready home backing to nature with updates, privacy, and in-town location. #3764-175253689



11445 E Mapleton Rd. - \$729,000
3 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 2440 SqFt. Five-acre riverfront property offering privacy, versatility, large shop, and endless potential. #3738-363944680



88426 2nd Ave. - \$649,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1810 SqFt. Whimsical beach retreat, proven Airbnb income, ocean views, one block to sand. #3742-457960361



1070 Bay St #22 - \$397,500
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 984 SqFt. Bay Bridge condo with river and dune views, pellet stove, patio, storage shed. #3743-159787344



89510 Hwy 101 #16 - \$70,000
1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, 412 SqFt. Cute, lake view home in Buck Lake Park with sunny front deck and backyard garden. #3754-208663674



89555 Shore Crest Dr. - \$439,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1512 SqFt. Meticulously maintained, spacious home with floor-to-ceiling windows, and an abundance of parking. #3732-270810465



1601-534 Rhododendron Dr. - \$365,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2280 SqFt. Manufactured home with attached garage, sun porch, workshop and covered RV/boat storage. #3729-220740617



129 Evergreen Ln. - \$350,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1172 SqFt. Florentine Estates fixer with flexible layout, workshop garage, and private setting ready for updates. #3760-474192263



87748 Terrace View Dr. - \$649,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1416 SqFt. Coastal living with ocean views, plus possible rental income from renovated lower-level. #3734-446288655



290 Harbor St. - \$1,450,000
5 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 2201 SqFt. Restored 1894 Old Town cottage with new garage, ADU, luxury upgrades, modern comfort throughout. #3724-327759244



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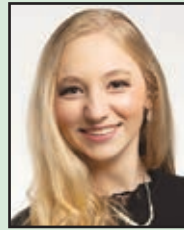
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