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Giving tree spreads holiday warmth

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

Area firefighters, volunteers, and the families of 48 local kids came out to the Sutton Lake Fire Station December 17 to receive stacks of presents, food, hugs and good vibes.

Now in its 13th year, the Twin Lakes Grocery and Liquor Store’s Teen

Giving Tree project has been collecting gifts for over a month to give to kids.

Program founder Vicki Ambrosio and Kimmy Sample passed out stacks of wrapped presents, some of which were too tall for teens to see over as they carried them away. Ambrosio said she

See **TREE**, Page A5



City Council to hold special meeting on Flock Cameras

FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE

On Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., the Florence City Council will hold a special meeting in person at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street. The purpose of this meeting is for the City Council to gather community input regarding the City’s use of the Flock Safety Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) camera system.

No final action will be taken at this special meeting. However, a regular City Council meeting is to follow beginning at approximately 6:45 p.m. During the special meeting, the City Council will hear a presentation from staff addressing the Purpose and operation of the Flock ALPR system, Current use of the system and applicable City policies, Data retention, access controls, and privacy safeguards and Costs, funding sources, and contract considerations.

Then, the City Council will provide an opportunity to hear community input regarding the City’s use of the Flock Safety ALPR camera system.

Speakers are asked to address whether the City should continue, modify, or discontinue use of the Flock ALPR system. Each speaker will be limited to three minutes. There will be no limit on the number of speakers. Following public input, staff will respond to questions or concerns raised by community members and the City Council may discuss and

See **MEETING**, Page A5

Storm, outages and downed trees keep crews busy



By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

Florence was just one of many Oregon Coast towns kept busy Dec. 17 and 18 as high winds and rain caused damage and outages.

Eric Chambers, director of community services at Central Lincoln Public Utility District (CLPUD)

said calls started coming in around 11 p.m. on December 16 reporting downed trees and outages around Florence. Those calls continued through the night.

Chambers said at the peak of calls, around 11,000 meters were without power. By noon the following day, about 1900 remained out. Chambers noted that there are over 45,000 meters in the service area.

The following morning, Dec. 17, crews were still working to restore power in areas near Woodland Drive, Canary Road and parts of Dunes City.

Florence Police Chief John Pitcher said officers

See **STORMS**, Page A5

Workers removed a fallen tree from the railroad tracks between Florence and Mapleton after Oregon Department of Transportation personnel removed its top half from the westbound lane of Highway 126.

Local newspapers are local history

By TONY REED
Editor, The Siuslaw News

Dear readers,

Here at the close of 2025, I want to give you all a situation report on what’s been happening here at the Siuslaw News.

Every reader with Facebook probably knows the paper is again downsizing to save costs

so we can continue to bring you news and information about local government, school boards, community events and sports.

If Covid taught us anything, it’s that we are all digitally connected and can avoid duplication by doing work remotely. Our parent company, Country Media Inc., sustains 10 papers in smaller

communities along the Oregon coast. Our office is in Salem, while our publisher/Chief Executive resides in Tillamook, our graphic artist is in Willamette, Wash., and Gary, our advertising

See **HISTORY**, Page A6

The newspaper archives about two weeks ago



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Siuslaw News
2 Sections | 16 Pages
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Broker/Owner

Happy Holidays

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Coincidental turn of events

By BOB HORNEY
Siuslaw News

I’ve always tried to be a “positive thinker” or, in other words, to “think positive” even when the odds seem stacked against me. Fast forward, I think that was a valuable personal asset when I agreed to facilitate the American Cancer Society’s Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group back in April 2002, I went in with the expectation that we would become (somehow) an important life-saving voice in Florence. I had no plan on how to do that but figured we would find the right combination of whatever it would take and we would be that voice. Low and behold, word came to me from a member of our small group that his urologist, Dr. Bryan Mehlhaff would like to attend our group’s monthly

meetings. Dr. Mehlhaff was the every piece I was looking (and hoping) for – and then some. As I mentioned last week, he wasn’t just a urologist – he was “the” urologist at Oregon Urology Institute who specialized in the exact disease that our group was all about – Prostate Cancer.

Once we connected, the group started getting information from an expert who knew what he was talking about and I was freed up to spend the majority of my time advertising our existence and getting more men to our meetings instead of trying to pull together information for the men. We now had our expert with us and doing the latter was his mission. With our message being early detection saves lives, our goal was convincing men to get screened for prostate cancer which rarely announces itself while curable. I submit that we

were a perfect duo.

The availability of Dr. Mehlhaff’s expertise was drawing men from the Newport area south to Bandon and inland to Mapleton and beyond. Come with questions – leave with answers!

In another fortunate encounter, I started my PSA testing here by meeting Dr. Maureen Bradley who immediately ordered another PSA test and then referred me to urologist Dr. Peter Bergreen. When Dr. Bergreen saw that my new PSA was still 4.1 (same as a year earlier) he proceeded to perform the DRE since the 4.1 was ready to break into suspicious territory. He said the DRE wasn’t perfect, but he didn’t think there was a malignancy. This patient (me) asked how we find out for sure. Biopsy. Do it! Prostate Cancer! Get it out! January 30, 2002 prostate removal by urologist Dr. Peter Bergreen assisted

by urologist Dr. Bryan Mehlhaff. So, we now had a man leading the group who survived prostate cancer because his PSA test resulted in a referral to a urologist. That was critically important because I didn’t just talk the talk, I had walked the walk... living proof that the PSA blood test can lead to early detection. We still need the biopsy to confirm it.

Now I connect with a young urologist who totally understands the value of PSA screening. He has come along at the precise time! We needed his voice and research to get men on a path for early detection of a “gotcha” disease. His message and my personal experience walk hand-in-hand. Life saved from prostate cancer – 25 years from diagnosis – and counting!

Several years following surgery, my PSA was

“still” low but bouncing around. While facilitating the group meetings, I would ask the question... What should Bob do? The group was divided – Radiation – Watch it. What do you say, Dr. Mehlhaff? If your PSA goes up 3 times in a row, it is time for radiation. That is the expert speaking and I’m listening. Within a few months, my PSA made those three advances and Dr. Mehlhaff got me scheduled for radiation at their newly installed radiation facility. In fact, the timing was such that I was the very first patient to receive radiation at their facility. I started in December 2007 and ended the sessions on Valentine’s Day 2008. Members of the support group met me (and Marianne) at Best of Thai to celebrate.

Other individuals I need to highlight are all the men and their

wives who attended the group meetings. Not only did we learn from Dr. Mehlhaff, but we learned from each other. These men and women freely shared their experiences as patient and patient support. This was so important because at different points there were choices to be made – what kind of treatment – what to do now with these side effects – is there anything else I can do now? In many cases other members of the group have already been there and could help by providing information.

So many men shared their experiences not only at the meeting but with their heartbreaking and heartwarming stories in the Siuslaw News. One supportive factor we all could count on was having Dr. Mehlhaff put it all in perspective. His presence at our meetings was absolutely invaluable!

Stay tuned for more.

POLICE LOG

Florence Police Department responded to the following calls between December 11 and December 16

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 11**

At 12:12 a.m. officers on patrol observed

David Paul McManus

February 22, 1966 - December 7, 2025

David Paul McManus, 59, passed away on December 7, 2025. He was born on February 22, 1966, in Lewiston, Idaho.

David is survived by his brother, Steve McManus (Laura); his close friend, Cindy Burley; his stepdaughters, Christina and Samantha; grandchildren Elijah, Everly, Isaiah, Makaila, Tayla, and Malachi; and his nephew Kyle and niece Stephanie. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dave and Margaret McManus.



David had a deep love for the outdoors, especially in Oregon. He spent countless hours fishing, hiking, and camping, and found joy in the natural beauty of the Oregon coast. For the past 15 years, he made his home in Florence, Oregon, where he embraced the coastal lifestyle he cherished.

No funeral service has been planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ronald McDonald House in Eugene, Oregon, in David’s memory.

Ruby Chapman

04/22/1935 - 10/30/2025

*In Loving Memory:
Mother And Friend
Ruby Chapman*

Ruby Anna Chapman was born April 22, 1935, in Wichita, Kansas. Then, as the second child in a family of six, her mother and father Birdie and Edward Kroker moved to Oregon to begin a new life residing in various locations throughout the state. Living in Foster, Oregon in 1952, she began a life-long romance of sixty-three years with George Robert Chapman II (deceased 2016). She lived her life on a Century dairy farm enjoying the beauty of the North Fork Siuslaw River with their four surviving sons; Robert III, Jesse, Dwight and John. With a maturing family, Ruby’s career as a ‘stay-at-home-mom’



kept her plenty busy prior to various achievements as a successful businesswoman, affectionately known as “Ruby the Realtor.” She also served the community at large as the President of the Florence Association of Realtors for many years. Additionally, she was recognized as the oldest person to graduate from Siuslaw High School at age thirty-six in 1976; now survived by brother Jerry and sister Carol, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, exemplifying a Godly lifestyle to all. Ruby went home on October 30, 2025.

“We’ll see you soon, Mom.”

A memorial Service is planned for Spring of 2026

Vivian “Losey” Stinger

April 14, 1932 - December 9, 2025

Vivian Jean “Losey” Stinger, 93, of Florence, Oregon, passed away peacefully December 9, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was born April 14, 1932, in Kelso, Washington, to Hal and Goldie Losey.



She grew up in Washington, where she met Daniel Stinger at a local dance. They were married on October 29, 1949, in Toledo, Washington. After driving through on their honeymoon Dan and Vivian decided to move to the Oregon coast where they would raise their five children.

Vivian’s favorite thing was Christmas. Her daughter Diana and her could spend hours shopping and decorating their homes for Christmas. She loved lights and could be known to have them hanging somewhere in her home year-round.

Her family was her life. She could spend countless hours talking about all of her kids!

Dan and Vivian created a close family that hosted many family gatherings. You could see the joy in their faces as they watched

everyone gathered around them having a great time together.

Vivian was preceded in death by her parents, all four of her siblings and her daughter Diana. She is survived by her sons; Calvin, Danny, Craig married to Leslie and Tony; her grandchildren; Angela, Misty (Justin), Eric (Susie), Matthew (Angela), Shaundra (Bruce), Jeffrey (Kimberly), Tiffany, Crystal (Justin), Heidi, Kaleb (Heather), 24 great-grandchildren; Madison, Chehalis, Shakina, Kya, Zachary, Dalton, Shantay, Jayden, Brianna, Madelyn, Keonan, Coleton, Hadley, Kylee, Zaelynn, Kydan, McCainley, Brynlie, Vaeya, Skylyn, Nikila, Taryn, Kynslee, Evelyn, Ezra, and four great-great grandchildren; Vivian, Buckley, Leighton and Zachary.

Vivian was the best Mom and Nana to more than just her own bloodline. She had a heart of gold and will be dearly missed and forever remembered by so many. She is now resting peacefully in all our hearts.

A Celebration of Life to be held at a later date.

a subject they knew to have warrants for his arrest. Dispatch confirmed multiple warrants from Florence Municipal Court and subject was taken into custody.

At 1:21 a.m., officers on patrol observed a subject known to have warrants. Subject was taken into custody for a warrant from Florence Municipal Court.

At 2:19 a.m., officers observed a vehicle in the car wash on Highway 126. Subjects told the officer they were having trouble with their vehicle but were able to get it fixed.

At 11:14 a.m., a subject came into the police department saying she was being harassed by a subject she only knew by a first name. Subject repeatedly asked dispatch for the last name of the subject, which could not be given without further information.

At 11:37 a.m., a caller

reported subjects throwing rocks at a business sign in the 1000 block of Highway 101, causing damage. Case remains under investigation.

At 8:34 p.m., officers observed a pedestrian crossing Highway 101 in an unsafe manner. Officers counseled the subject who argued, but agreed not to do it again.

At 9:41 p.m., officers took possession of a bicycle found in the area of 16th and Redwood.

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 12**

At 2:29 p.m., officers responded to the 1200 block of 7th Street for a report of harassment. Officers found an ongoing neighbor dispute, and a report was taken.

At 7:18 p.m., he called and reported a possible DUI driver in the area of 101 and 29th St.. Officers responded to the area.

At 7:54 p.m., a caller

reported an intoxicated driver in the area of Highway 126 just east of Highway 101. Officers located the described vehicle and conducted a field sobriety test. Officers arrested Mica Harmond for DUII.

At 9:34 p.m., a caller reported juveniles ringing doorbells and running in the 1600 block of 18th St.. Officers arrived in the area and located seven juveniles. Juveniles were counseled.

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 13**

At 12:32 a.m., officers observed a vehicle stopped in the roadway in the area of Highway 101 and 37th St. Officers were told the vehicle had overheated. Officers helped move the car off the roadway.

At 10:22 a.m., a subject turned in a found bank card. Officers were able to find a relative of the owner who informed them the card had been found. Owner came to the department to claim the card.

At 3:03 p.m., a caller reported finding a phone in Miller Park. Officers attempted to locate the owner of the phone but were unable to do so. Phone remains in evidence at the police department.

At 7:37 p.m., officers responded to the 1800 block of 37th St. for a report of a subject being disruptive in a business. Officers made contact with the subject who was aggressive, screaming and uncooperative. Subject was arrested for trespassing and disorderly conduct.

At 10:22 p.m., a caller reported a tarp in the roadway near Rhododendron and Wild Winds.

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14**

At 12:55 a.m., an officer on patrol observed a vehicle in the area of Highway 126 that was unable to maintain its lane and had expired registration tags. The officer stopped the vehicle, conducted a field sobriety test and arrested Johnny Green for DUII.

At 10:27 a.m., officers observed a subject in the area of 43rd and Oak Street known to have warrants for his arrest. Warrants were confirmed



Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday Dec 24th, 5^{pm}



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LETTERS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The plain truth is that we are destroying our planet, even though we know how to mitigate many of the human causes of its decline. Why would anyone choose to ignore the actions available to brighten our shared climate future? This is a moral issue, not a political one. Yet the Florence City Council refuses to hear it.

On December 12, in an extraordinary letter, the council doubled down on its avoidance of climate responsibility by notifying long-time advocate Mike Allen that he is barred, at this time, from making those requests. Mr. Allen, who has tirelessly pressed for climate action, is now denied access to council members or staff on the subject.

The city’s curt, single-page letter reflects years of indifference to Allen’s proposals: declaring a climate emergency, forming a task force, developing a plan of action, and establishing a youth committee. Despite support from 2,500 petitioners, this and past councils have stonewalled every effort. For now, they have banished him from raising “climate requests.”

As a homeowner, taxpayer, and investor in this community, I am outraged. Our leaders in Florence are in the minority. Globally, 89 percent of people agree that manmade climate change is harmful. Yet the council’s letter offers no justification for its position—only a declaration that they are done listening.

For years, Florence’s leaders

have ignored the long-term damage of climate change. Their letter to Mr. Allen makes no case for their stance, other than closing the door on him—and, by extension, all others who share his concerns. This silence reveals much: they do not value those who worry about climate issues, nor do they respect Mr. Allen’s service toward building a sustainable future. The tone of their letter reads like a final eviction notice.

The Florence City Council appears content to neglect its duty to protect residents, businesses, children, and the environment that drew many of us here. That should give every citizen cause for concern.

Darlene Norwood
Florence

16th Annual New Year's Day Peace Hike in Yachats

View the Future is proud to announce the 2026 16th Annual Peace Hike, an honored community tradition that brings residents, visitors, Tribal members, and partners together in reflection, unity, and hope for the year ahead.

Held each January starting at the Yachats Commons, the Peace Hike commemorates the cultural history and enduring resilience of the Tribal peoples who once lived in the lands we now call home. This year’s event continues that legacy, honoring stories of remembrance while celebrating the strength of community stewardship.

Participants are invited to join the hike, learn from cultural speakers, and stand together in honor of the past, present, and future. Community members, families, and visitors are all welcome. It’s asked that no photos, audio or video be recorded during the ceremonies

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ON JAN. 1

The day will be filled with ceremonies, reflections, and guided



trail walks designed to honor the past and bring community together:

8:30 – 9 a.m. – Doors Open at the Commons– Welcome - Yellow Bear (Yachats /community Drum) story. 9:00 a.m. – Mayor’s welcome Greeting -Origin of Hike – Physical Safety - Emotional Support Instructions. 9:30 a.m. – Opening Prayer – Story Telling -Amanda Story. 10:30 a.m. – Ceremonial cedar distributed - a fire will be lit at the Commons Park - the longer 2.2-mile Amanda Trail hike commences. 10:45 a.m. – Shorter trail walk commences, followed by the offering of cedar to the fire. 12:00 p.m. – Fire closing at the Commons Park. 12:00 p.m. – Amanda Gathering Area ceremony begins with a second fire, and cedar offering, prayers, songs, and stories from Tribal members.

ONLINE POLL

LAST WEEK, WE ASKED:	
WHY DO YOU READ THE POLICE LOG IN THIS PAPER? RESULTS WERE:	
I like to see if anything is happening in my neighborhood	25%
I like to know what our local police deal with.....	25%
I enjoy the odd and funny calls.....	4.2%
All of the above	45.8 %

THIS WEEK WE'RE ASKING:HOW ARE YOU FEELING ABOUT THE UPCOMING YEAR?	
<div><div>• Confident and positive</div><div>• Optimistic but cautious</div><div>• Pessimistic and not hopeful</div><div>• I don't know how to feel</div></div>	

Go to our main page at thesiouslawnews.com to vote and see poll results

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
DECEMBER 24	DECEMBER 25	DECEMBER 26	DECEMBER 27	DECEMBER 28	DECEMBER 29	DECEMBER 30
Showers 50° 41°	Showers 49° 43°	Showers 51° 45°	Showers 53° 45°	Showers 53° 48°	Showers 54° 46°	Showers 53° 46°

DON'T FORGET TO RECYCLE



Siuslaw News

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The *Siuslaw News* welcomes Letters to the Editor and Guest View-points 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 SIOUSLAW NEWS:

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.

WHERE TO WRITE

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
TTY/TDD: 202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek
900 Court St., Suite 254
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
503-378-4582
www.oregon.gov/gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
202-224-5244 | 541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley
202-224-3753 | 541-465-6750
www.merkley.senate.gov

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

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State Rep. Boomer Wright
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Florence City Council Mayor Rob Ward & Councilors Bill Meyer, Sally Wantz, Robert Carp & Jo Beaudreaux
Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101, Florence, 97439
541-997-3437
ci.florence.or.us

Dunes City Council Mayor Ed McGuire & Councilors Rory Hammond, Tom Mallen, Susan Snow, Melissa Stinson, Robert Orr & Melisa Stinson
Dunes City Hall, 82877 Spruce St., Westlake, OR 97493
541-997-3338
dunescityhall.com

Come celebrate the retirement of local attorney, Jane Hanawalt

Jane moved to Florence in 2008, where she and her husband, Jimmie Zinn, initially owned and operated Crave’s Fine Dining restaurant in Old Town. In 2009, Jane founded the Law Office of Jane C. Hanawalt. In 2019, Jane’s law office became Hanawalt Ferguson, Attorneys at Law, and was purchased by employee Laurel Ferguson in 2020. Since that time, Jane has continued to provide quality and compassionate legal services. After five years of threatening to retire, Jane is finally stepping away from the law office (which will remain under the ownership of Laurel Ferguson!) to enjoy time with her husband and her springer spaniel, and more frequent visits to her children and grandchildren.

While Jane will continue to serve the Florence community as a member of the local Rotary Club, a board member of Siuslaw Outreach Services, and endless other possibilities, please join us in congratulating Jane on her official retirement!

An open house to celebrate Jane’s many years of hard work will be held at Hanawalt Ferguson, Attorneys at Law, 327 Laurel Street, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025. Light refreshments will be served. Please stop by to say hello and wish Jane well for her next adventure!

SIUSLAW NEWS STAFF

During the regular Dec. 17 meeting of the Florence City Council Interim/Acting Public Works Director August Murphy recognized Mike Wheeler for 10 years of service as the

“When Mike came to us over 10 years ago, he started in facilities, worked there for several years,” Murphy said. “In 2018, back then, it was incentivized to get into utilities if you can so he did.”

Wheeler came in as a storm utility operator and still comes at his job with a positive attitude.

NEW EMPLOYEES

Brea Blankenship, who has worked with the City for a few summers and is now the City’s HR IT Admin Assistant. HR Director Alex Ferguson said she is a Siuslaw High grad and her job is “mostly providing me support and to stop doing things that are a waste of time, and she’s very good at it, so that’s wonderful.”

Christine Stanescu is the City’s new Senior Accountant and as of this publication, has been with the city less than three weeks. Her hiring brings

the City finance department to four positions. Assistant City Manager Megan Messmer said Stanescu comes from the nonprofit world where she was a controller and finance manager

Savannah Mathis is the new Communications Officer but was at police dispatcher training and could not attend.

Florence recognizes employees



City Councilors and staff stand for a photo after receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

a press release by the Government Finance Officers Association, “The Government Finance Officers Association is pleased to announce that the city of Florence Oregon has received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for this budget... The Award recognizes the significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff who meet the high principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy a nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation.

BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

City manger Erin Reynolds said while she’s proud of many aspects of the City, she’s particularly proud of an award that highlights the teamwork of the Council and staff. Reynolds read from

These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity’s budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, and operations guide and a communications device.”

According to the release, there are over 1,900 participants in the awards program.

“This is the 11th year in a row we have received this award,” Reynolds said. “We first received it in 2015.”

Reynolds then recognized the staff who in turn recognized her for their part in the award. Staff then memorialized the award by taking a photo with the Council.

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the spotlight

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POLICE

From Page A2

from Florence Municipal Court and Douglas County. Subject was taken into custody. During his arrest, officers located suspected methamphetamine. A charge of unlawful possession was added.

At 2:37 p.m., a caller reported damage to a speed sign in the area of 35th and Rhododendron Drive.

At 11:59 p.m., officers observed a subject in the 1500 block of 12th St. known to have warrants for his arrest. Warrants were confirmed from Florence Municipal Court and subject was taken into custody.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

At 11:01 a.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive for a report of theft of items from a vehicle.

At 11:46 a.m., a caller reported a vehicle outside the city limits heading for Florence that was crossing over double yellow lines, speeding, and following with bright headlights. Officers were unable to locate the described vehicle

At 1:43 p.m., a caller reported that her purse had likely been stolen sometime before and that someone had attempted to use the cards that were inside. She said cards were canceled, but one local purchase had been

made. Case remains under investigation.

At 6:33 p.m., officers contacted a subject who was camping at the north end of the Siuslaw River Bridge. Officers attempted to determine the subject’s identity and were given false information. Upon confirming his ID, officers found he had several warrants from Corvallis, and Benton County, including one felony warrant. Officers arrested Kirk Opheim on the warrants.

At 10:21 p.m., officers responded to a reported road rage incident on Highway 101 near the Siuslaw River Bridge. Officers were unable to locate the vehicles.

At 11:42 p.m., officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in a vehicle on Munsel Lake Road. Officers contacted the subject and determined he had a warrant for his arrest from Oregon state parole. While taking the subject into custody officers found a “large amount of meth” and fentanyl. Subject was also found to be in possession of a bank card belonging to the caller who previously reported theft from a vehicle. Officers arrested Ross Spink, of Cottage Grove, for felony possession of meth, possession of a controlled substance. Spink remained in custody without bail on Dec. 18 for burglary II and parole violation.

Pet of the Week



CAPONE

Capone came to OCHS after his previous owner could no longer provide the care he deserved, and now he’s ready to start a brand-new chapter. This handsome guy has lived successfully with cats and kids, and he’s been well-socialized, making him an easy fit for many types of homes. From what we’ve seen so far, Capone is a super sweet, gentle boy with a loving personality and a big heart.

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

OREGON COAST HUMANE SOCIETY
2840 Rhododendron Drive • Florence • 541-997-4277
www.oregoncoasthumaneociety.org
Shelter hours are 10am until 4pm seven days a week.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

At 4:16 p.m., officers responded to the 1900 block of Willow Street for a report that a pit bull had gotten into the backyard of a vacant residence and was tracked. Confirm the house is vacant but found no dog nearby.

At 7:57 p.m., a caller reported receiving harassment and threats from another subject, along with use of racial slurs. Case remains under investigation

Call Florence Police Dispatch at 541-997-3515 to inquire about or claim any lost or recovered items.



Florence city councilor and business owner Jo Beaudreau picks up pieces of the Coastal Fitness sign that shattered across the roadway.



Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority personnel along with City of Florence Public Works, responded to a tree into a power line on Rhododendron Drive just north of 35th St. Tony Reed photos

STORM

From Page A1

and fire personnel were kept busy through the night dealing with fallen tree branches and power lines on a house.

According to data from the Florence Airport’s weather station, winds were reaching 21 mph by 6 p.m. Dec. 16 and varying through the night with the highest steady wind speed recorded at 25 mph. However, the highest wind gust speed was recorded at 43 mph at about 11:15 p.m. Winds tapered off by about 5:30 a.m.

DAY II, THE STORM CONTINUES

The rest of the storm arrived with authority the next day, Dec. 18, taking

out trees and power lines, knocking power out to residents and businesses.

According to the Florence Municipal Airport’s weather station, winds ranged between 20 and 38 mph with the highest gusts reported as 66 mph at 12:35 p.m..

A tree that fell into power lines on Rhododendron Drive just north of 35th St. took out electricity to many residents, including businesses on Highway 101 north of 35th St. Power was restored to those customers about 2:30 p.m.

Throughout the day and evening, police, fire, public works, and utility personnel bounced from one location to another for reports of trees down, power lines down, a power pole on fire off Highway 101 and even a vehicle

trailer that had been blown off its hitch by high winds.

At about 6 p.m., CLPUD Communications & Energy Services Supervisor Megan Walters said it had been a challenging day for crews.

“We currently have two mutual aid crews assisting our crews with restoration efforts — one from Springfield Utility Board (SUB) and one from Emerald PUD. SUB has spent most of the day working on the large outage in Depoe Bay,” she said. “At this time, approximately 5,800 customers are without power. About 2,000 of those customers are in the Florence area, and there is a high likelihood that power will not be restored there tonight. Crews will continue working until 8 p.m. and will resume restoration efforts



at 6 a.m. tomorrow.”

She said crews were making significant progress despite the ongoing wind and rain.

“Damage to our equipment is extensive. In some areas, crews are able to restore power only to lose it again due to changing conditions,” she said.

“Many of our employees are also impacted by these outages and understand firsthand how difficult this is.”

As of press time Thursday night, winds were still gusting in the low 50s and reports of fallen trees were still coming in from around Florence, including a reports of a tree on a house north of town and another tree into lines causing sparks and fire.

MEETING

From Page A1

consider the comments received, ask clarifying questions of staff, provide direction to staff, and determine next steps in the process. Based on City Council discussion, decisions, and direction, staff will outline potential next steps, including timelines, policy considerations, and any future actions that may be brought forward for Council consideration.

WAYS TO TAKE PART

The Florence City Council meeting agenda and meeting materials will be published on the City’s website and posted to the meeting’s date in

the Agenda Center, <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/AgendaCenter>.

To be notified when the agenda and meeting materials are available, please subscribe to the City Council meeting email distribution list at www.ci.florence.or.us/newsletter/subscriptions.

If interested citizens are unable to attend in person, they may listen and view the meeting through the GoToWebinar platform, which will be linked in the Agenda.

Meetings are also shown live on Cable Channel 191. Members of the public may also choose to submit written

testimony in advance of the meeting.

Written public input may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Email: cityrecorder@ci.florence.or.us
- Mail: Florence City Hall, Attn: City Council, 250 Highway 101, Florence, OR 97439
- Drop Box: City of Florence drop box located at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101, to the right of the main entrance

Written comments received by 3:30 p.m. on January 5, 2026, will be distributed to the City Council prior to the meeting. Written comments received after that time

will still be accepted and made part of the official record but may not be distributed to the City Council in advance of the meeting.

For more information about Florence Public Safety and the City’s Flock cameras can be found at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/161/Police>.



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As 2025 comes to a close, Holloway & Associates, CPAs would like to thank our valued clients and the Florence community for your trust and support throughout the year.

We wish you a joyful holiday season and a bright, prosperous New Year – and are looking forward to serving you through the upcoming tax season.

Client reminder: Your 2025 tax organizer will be mailed out in January 2026.

Visit our website and subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter for updates on important tax changes and firm news.



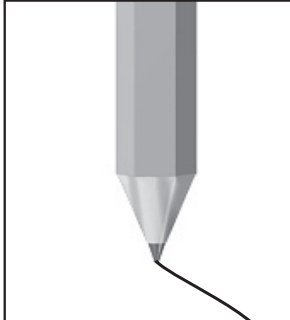
TREE

From Page A5

was happy to see some kids were unwrapping their presents at the event, rather than just taking them home.

Happy kids could be heard laughing as they ate pizza and compared presents.

More photos can be found on our website the-rinjournal.com



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FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



83591 SAUTER DR.

Like new home in the private Woahink Lake neighborhood of Sunset Cove. Great views of the lake and a shared community dock give you endless opportunities to delight in one of Florence’s most popular lakes. When you aren’t at the lake, savor your half acre lot that includes Fuji apple trees, blueberry bushes and an array of quality landscaping. The privacy of covered back patio will give you a space to enjoy all year long. Inside you’ll find a fully furnished home that exudes a modern color scheme and consistent decor throughout. The open floor plan with vaulted ceilings and electric fireplace is the perfect setting for the end of a day on the lake or a cozy evening in on a rainy day. Spacious primary suite with patio access and roomy walk-in closet on one side of the house and two bedrooms and full bath on the opposite side. A kitchen made for cooking and entertaining with a sizable island that opens to the great room. Come & see why the lake areas of Florence are desired. **\$799,000.** 12858/592431787



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HISTORY
From Page A1

representative works here in the Florence office with me. Gary handles the advertising for this paper and other Country Media publications.

I'm the editor, reporter, photographer, office manager, public relations department, chief cook and bottle washer, as it were. In fact, I've also been delivering our papers to local stores and the post offices in Mapleton and Westlake while our driver is away (whew).

A CHALLENGING BUSINESS

The overhead of renting commercial space is expensive and the costs of newspaper printing, shipping and local delivery continue to increase. Meanwhile, free advertising services like Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace continue to siphon a measurable amount of revenue away from local newspapers.

In response, some of our other papers have found it effective to transition to home offices, which is what Gary and I are doing now. I've spent the last month taking loads of furniture, office supplies, old newspapers and leftover promotion materials to the schools, Habitat for Humanity and yes, the transfer station.

You might ask why we don't just throw in the towel at this point. I'll get to that in a minute.

A NEW HOME

Whenever I've told people what we're doing, the same question seems to come up.

"What's going to

happen to the newspaper archives?"

I can assure you we gave that a lot of thought.

The archives are a collection of newspapers bound in large hardback covers, boxes of microfilm, tons of old photos, camera negatives, slides and copies of special publications. The Siuslaw News archives contain editions going back to the 1890s, some of which are degraded and fragile.

While the archives have value to this newspaper, we feel they will have greater value to the community. We wanted that information to be available to everyone, but also protected for as long as possible.

We contacted the Siuslaw Public Library and the Pioneer Museum and both responded. While the library wanted the archives, it simply had nowhere to put the seven-foot-tall shelves that held them.

However, the Kyle Research Library at Siuslaw Pioneer Museum said it would make room.

Library Manager Sharon Waite, who was born and raised here, recognized the value of the archives and shared the sentiment that they should be catalogued and protected.

The minute we got a path cleared through our building, museum staff and volunteers arrived with trucks, trailers and vans and hefted the entire archive away in two days. (I mean no offense to mention that, at age 57, I'm younger than any of these stalwart volunteers who arrived.)

Sharon said it will take awhile to catalog and arrange the bound volumes. They will not only



Museum volunteers wheeled the papers away.



They carefully loaded them into vans



Lastly, they took the massive shelves that contained over 120 years worth of local papers.

be safeguarded, but used by the Research Library. It's hoped that the oldest issues might be carefully photographed and stored to prevent further degradation.

I should also note that years ago, The Siuslaw News donated microfilm, historical items and documents to the museum. Those, in addition to the archives and the museum's information, artifacts and photos, will make the

most comprehensive collective of Florence history anywhere.

I want to take a moment here to thank the staff of the museum for their dedication to preserving the history of Florence and those who were here beforehand. We know and trust that they will take the best care of them.

THE REASON WE PERSIST

Now, back to my point

about not throwing in the towel.

As a reporter at another paper about 10 years ago, I was looking for some background information on a story I'd been covering. Knowing the issue began in the 1950s, I went to the city's museum to compile a timeline. Since it was of great interest to travel and commerce there, the museum had made copies of related documents and newspaper articles. I started with the oldest, noting significant dates and events that had shaped the issue. When I reached the newest, I found an article I'd written about a year before, stamped and dated for submission to the museum.

There it was- my writing- in a museum. It reminded me that what small newspapers do for their communities is important now and will be for years to come.

It's humbling to note that newspapers are journaling history. You see, in 20 years, if someone wants to research a Florence-specific topic,

they won't be able to Google it. That information will exist only in the minds of retired Gen-Xers, a few Baby Boomers and the newspaper archives.

As long as our stories, articles and photos remain on paper, they will be cut out and put in scrapbooks, taped to family refrigerators and submitted to the museum. We take that seriously, knowing that in the future, most of the world's information and photos will be sustained only by electricity.

Going forward, I'm humbly asking for help from the community.

To submit local articles, letters to the editor, human interest stories, photos, concerns, tips or questions, you can email me at treed@countrymedia.net. I don't have my new office phone set up yet but it will be included on our website and in print as soon as I do.

From all of us here at Country Media- Thank you for supporting your local newspaper. We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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<div>1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #654</div> <div></div> <div>1993 Golden West double-wide. New roof in 2024. All appliances included. 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1080 SF \$310,000</div>	<div>3315 RHODODENDRON</div> <div></div> <div>Breathtaking river and dune views from almost every room. Covered patio & hot tub. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2094 SF. \$635,000</div>	<div>87987 WOODLANDS DR.</div> <div></div> <div>Near scenic North Jetty. Open layout fills home with natural light. .56 acre offers large yard and privacy. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1248 SF \$349,500</div>	<div>18156 HIGHWAY 36 • BLACHLY</div> <div></div> <div>Coastal ranch on 22 creekfront acres. NW designed custom home. Shop w/ full bath. 2 + Bed/3 Bath, 2952 SF \$950,000</div>	
<div>1960 LINCOLN, NORTH BEND</div> <div></div> <div>Well loved and cozy home! Custom kitchen, spacious bonus room, covered deck space. Thoughtful touches throughout. 3 Bed/1.5 Bath, 1200 SF \$419,997</div>	<div>4948 OCEANA DR.</div> <div></div> <div>Surrounded by lush vegetation for privacy. Hardwood floors throughout. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1568 SF \$469,900</div>	<div>507 ROBIN LANE</div> <div></div> <div>Great opportunity in Florentine Estates. Double garage. 2 Bed/2 Bath. 1620 SF \$385,000</div>	<div>211 HARBOR ST. #22</div> <div></div> <div>Largest of the 1 BD units. Granite counters in kitchen and big pantry. Designated parking. 1 Bed/1.5 Bath, 960 SF \$389,000</div>	<div>2131 WILLOW LOOP</div> <div></div> <div>Impeccably maintained Willow Dunes home. Fully fenced w/ low maintenance landscaping. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2199 SF \$739,500</div>
<div>2014 ROYAL ST. GEORGES DR.</div> <div></div> <div>Charming townhome w/hdwd floors and fireplace. In sought after golf course community. 1 Bed/1 Bath, 921 SF \$399,500</div>	<div>5938 VIEW LOOP</div> <div></div> <div>2 level chalet w/Mercer Lake access plus oversized garage & workshop. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2110 sq. ft. \$484,000</div>	<div>87803 SANDRIFT ST.</div> <div></div> <div>Cozy Idlewood cottage on a corner lot. Dead end street w/ private backyard. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1084 SF. 3 car garage. \$399,999</div>	<div>83591 SAUTER DRIVE</div> <div></div> <div>Like new home in private Woahink Lake neighborhood. Shared community dock. Sold fully furnished. 3 Bed/2 Bath. 2008 SF \$799,000</div>	<div>TL 5700 FAWN VIEW LANE</div> <div></div> <div>Construction beginning soon on this Fawn Ridge East home! Floor plan can be customized. \$767,000</div>
<div>3636 OCEAN VIEW DR.</div> <div></div> <div>Eye catching custom built home in Rhodo View Dunes. Wrap around porch. 3 Bed/3 Bath, 2482 SF. \$649,900</div>	<div>TROON CIRCLE #500</div> <div></div> <div>Construction beginning soon! Sandpines gated community. Golf & pond views. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2157 SF. \$824,500</div>	<div>5270 NOPAL ST.</div> <div></div> <div>Brand new offering former model home- never lived in. Quiet neighborhood. 3 Bed/2 Bath. 1404 SF \$398,000</div>	<div>1080 BAY ST. #19</div> <div></div> <div>Bay Bridge Condo with River views. Covered porch. Dedicated parking space and storage unit. 2 Bed/2 Bath. 1048 SF \$439,000</div>	<div>1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #694</div> <div></div> <div>Cozy home with LVP flooring, ductless heat pump & large living room. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1539 SF \$329,997</div>
<div>1260 10TH ST. #11</div> <div></div> <div>Clean and well maintained studio unit. Perfect for full time or a coastal getaway. Central location. 341 SF \$135,000</div>	<div>1150 HEMLOCK ST. #D-14</div> <div></div> <div>Conveniently located townhouse. Low maintenance yard and move-in ready. 2 Bed /1.5 Bath, 1004 SF \$269,997</div>	<div>21 TWIN TREE CT.</div> <div></div> <div>2 story luxury home w/ incredible views of the ocean. Tongue and groove vaulted ceilings. 5 Bed/2.5 Bath, 3378 SF \$1,299,999</div>	<div>1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #673</div> <div></div> <div>Triple-wide manufactured home. Manicured landscaping. Two workshops and RV port. 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1836 SF \$398,000</div>	<div>514 LEMWICK LANE YACHATS</div> <div></div> <div>3 story home w/ magnificent blue water views. Expansive living area. Close to the 804 walking trail. 2 Bed/3.5 Bath. 3152 SF \$995,000</div>

							
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Tide Table

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

High.....3:29 a.m.....6.9
Low8:46 a.m.....3.6
High.....2:20 p.m.....7.3
Low9:12 p.m.....0.0

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

High.....4:02 a.m.....7.0
Low9:37 a.m.....3.3
High.....3:09 p.m.....6.8
Low9:48 p.m.....0.5

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

High.....4:36 a.m.....7.2
Low10:35 a.m.....2.9
High.....4:07 p.m.....6.3
Low10:28 p.m.....1.1

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

High.....5:14 a.m.....7.5
Low11:41 a.m.....2.4
High.....5:18 p.m.....5.7
Low11:12 p.m.....1.9

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

High.....5:55 a.m.....7.8
Low12:51 p.m.....1.7
High.....6:44 p.m.....5.4

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

Low12:05 a.m.....2.7
High.....6:43 a.m.....8.1
Low1:59 p.m.....0.9
High.....8:19 p.m.....5.4

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

Low1:09 a.m.....3.5
High.....7:37 a.m.....8.4
Low3:04 p.m.....0.1
High.....9:45 p.m.....5.8

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Low2:19 a.m.....4.0
High.....8:34 a.m.....8.7
Low4:03 p.m.....-0.6
High.....10:54 p.m.....6.3

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

Low3:31 a.m.....4.2
High.....9:33 a.m.....9.0
Low4:57 p.m.....-1.2
High.....11:50 p.m.....6.7

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

Low4:37 a.m.....4.1
High.....10:30 a.m.....9.2
Low5:48 p.m.....-1.5

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

High.....12:39 a.m.....7.1
Low5:35 a.m.....3.8
High.....11:24 a.m.....9.2
Low6:35 p.m.....-1.7

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

High.....1:23 a.m.....7.4
Low6:30 a.m.....3.5
High.....12:16 p.m.....9.1
Low7:18 p.m.....-1.6

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

High.....2:04 a.m.....7.5
Low7:21 a.m.....3.1
High.....1:06 p.m.....8.7
Low7:59 p.m.....-1.2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

High.....2:44 a.m.....7.7
Low8:12 a.m.....2.9
High.....1:56 p.m.....8.1
Low8:38 p.m.....-0.7

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

High.....3:22 a.m.....7.7
Low9:04 a.m.....2.6
High.....2:46 p.m.....7.3
Low9:14 p.m.....0.1

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

High.....3:58 a.m.....7.7
Low9:58 a.m.....2.5
High.....3:37 p.m.....6.5
Low9:50 p.m.....1.0

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

High.....4:34 a.m.....7.7
Low10:56 a.m.....2.3
High.....4:35 p.m.....5.8
Low10:26 p.m.....1.9

Vikings boys staying even



Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Six games in the books, and Siuslaw's boys basketball team remained on an even keel, alternating between wins and losses for the first two weeks of the season.

After their 53-45 comeback win against Reedsport, the Vikings took a trip to Eugene for their next game against Elmira on Dec. 12.

Neither squad had home-court advantage, and the venue was McArthur Court on the campus of the University of Oregon. The game was part of the "Return of the Mac" initiative, which featured 19 boys and girls high school basketball games at the historic arena in early December. These games were some of the first competitive basketball games played in

See **BOYS**, Page B2

Siuslaw girls suffer losses, but scoring buckets

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

After grabbing a win against Reedsport on Dec. 9, the Vikings' girls basketball team couldn't replicate that feat in its next two games, losing both.

Siuslaw's 50-10 victory over Reedsport marked a significant milestone for the Vikings, as the 50 points they scored were the most for the program in a game since December of 2019. The Vikings have seen an offensive bump under new Head Coach Amanda Richards, and after averaging 22 points per game last season, the Vikings are putting up 30.6 through six games this December.

Though Siuslaw wasn't able to win the next couple of games after the Reedsport success, seeing the ball go through the net at a higher rate is a big positive from the

season so far.

The first loss of the two came against Elmira at MacArthur Court on Dec. 12. Playing at the University of Oregon, the Vikings faced off against a tough Falcons team that was seeking its fourth straight win. The Falcons proved why they had been flying recently, beating the Vikings 56-26. While not the result Siuslaw wanted, the game marked the fourth time in five games they scored more than 20 points. By comparison, in the first five games of last year, the Vikings scored more than 20 just once.

The next game out for Siuslaw was against Waldport on Dec. 15. The Irish are amid a fantastic start to the season, having won four of their first five. The Vikings gave the Irish a hard battle, and the game

See **GIRLS**, Page B3



Will Johnson- Crazy but a nice guy

Submitted By
DON HUNT

Asked to describe Will Johnson as a football player, good friend and teammate Micah Blankenship quipped, "He's a psycho, and I mean that in the nicest way possible."

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound Johnson wouldn't intimidate anyone while walking into a locker

room prior to a game, but once he puts on pads and a helmet and steps on the gridiron, Johnson unnerves opponents with his bone-rattling hits and jarring tackles.

"His fierceness and toughness are unmatched from what I've seen," said Andy Johnson, Will's father and one of the Vikings' assistant coaches. "Will has no off switch, and in

football that's not a bad thing."

To illustrate just how dominant Will Johnson was in the Far West League this season, consider that he was the only player nominated for defensive player of the year by the league's coaches. Not surprising, taking into account that he registered a jaw-dropping 131 tackles – an average of 13.1 per

game – from his strong safety position, including 77 solo stops and 54 assisted tackles.

The younger Johnson was nearly as dominant on offense as he rushed for 1,031 yards and nine touchdowns and collected 26 passes for 700 yards and 11 scores. He also returned a kickoff for a touchdown and launched a touchdown pass.

And he bagged the daily double by being named the Far West League's offensive player of the year.

"I had four coaches tell me this year that Will is the best high school player they've seen," said Sam Johnson, the Vikings' head coach and Will's older brother. "The

See **JOHNSON**, Page B2



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Community Briefs

Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF)

BURNING BOWL CEREMONY

The Burning Bowl can hold many meanings. For some, it is a time to release habits, worries, or experiences that no longer serve them. For others, it is a moment to set intentions, name hopes, or honor a promise to their deepest inner yearning. Whatever meaning it holds for you is welcome and valid. During this 7th annual ceremony on December 28th, facilitated by Rev. Katherine Hemmens, participants are invited to write words or thoughts they wish to let go of — or intentions they wish to affirm — and offer them to a sacred fire. This is a personal and contemplative practice; sharing aloud is not required. You may participate at your own pace and comfort level. All materials, including paper and writing supplies, will be provided. Whether you are new to FUUF, a longtime member, or simply curious, you are invited to be part of this powerful communal moment of reflection, release, and renewal. We hope you will join us on December 28th as we begin the new year together, grounded in intention and community. Doors open at 9:30; program begins at 10 a.m.

For more information, please contact: Sally Wantz ~ Florence. Unitarian@gmail.com

Sleep wellness seminar

Finding your rhythm and understanding your bio rhythms for better sleep. This seminar explores factors which may contribute to the development of sleep disorders. Discover how to regain vitality by synthesizing your natural bio rhythms to improve sleep and overall well-being.

Speaker Michael Stout RPSGT, CCSH, well who is the event at the Siuslaw Public Library's Bromley Room, Jan. 12 from 1 to 3 p.m.

JOHNSON

From Page B1

number of tackles he had was incredible, and the other stat I look at is that he had less than five missed tackles all season.”

What opposing quarterbacks, running backs and receivers might have noticed most was just how hard the younger Johnson hit them as he flew up from his strong safety position. His violent collisions sent

several opponents to the sideline over the past four years, and his hit on the South Umpqua quarterback this season sent him to the hospital.

“I’ve never intentionally tried to hurt anyone,” Johnson said. “But I’ve always played with a lot of intensity and emotion. That’s just how I’m wired.

“I definitely prefer defense, where I can let my emotions play out.”

Johnson’s intensity began surfacing in middle school. As an eighth grader, he hit the

Waldport quarterback hard enough that he got ejected from the game.

“I didn’t think it was that hard of a hit, actually,” recalled Johnson. “But he was a skinny seventh grader and he went flying backward. He was out for the rest of the season. The ref threw me out of the game for targeting, which it wasn’t.”

Johnson often let his emotions get the best of him during his first two seasons at Siuslaw.

“When something bad happened, I couldn’t get it out of my head for several plays and it affected how I played,” he said. “I was more apt to make a mistake. But during my junior and senior seasons I’ve been able to channel my frustrations into making positive plays.”

Johnson’s exploits have been equally impressive on offense.

All told, Will Johnson has nine cousins who have gained notoriety in athletics and academics. Each has graduated college. The family’s legacy of success got its start with Will’s grandfather, John Johnson, who was a star athlete and longtime coach at Marshfield High in the 1950s, ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s.

“No one has ever put any pressure on me except for me,” Will Johnson noted. “I looked up to my older brothers and cousins when I was young. They were like gods to me in my 6-year-old brain. That’s how good they were.

“Their legacies have made me work harder, and that’s a good thing.”

Is Will Johnson the best player to ever put on a football uniform at Siuslaw in the 96-year history of the school? He’s certainly in the discussion. The only truly comparable player is Sonny Tupua, the Vikings’ all-time leading rusher with 4,449 yards. Tupua, who starred for the Vikings from 2008-2011, also holds school records for single-season rushing yards (1,675) and touchdowns (24).

But Will Johnson’s name is also sprinkled all over the Siuslaw record book. He’s the all-time leader in career points (383). He ranks third in both career rushing (2,547) and receiving (1,577) yards and, when totaled together, no other Viking comes close. Johnson also registered 225 yards passing and 1,332 return yards during his career, for a

staggering all-purpose total of 5,681 yards.

The 143 points Johnson scored this season are the fourth most in school history, and he tied Tristan Hartzell’s yards-per-carry average record of 10.3. His average yards per reception this season of 27.9 puts him fourth on the all-time list.

But what really enhanced Johnson’s value was his defensive dominance. Total tackles for players have been lost in the archives over the years, but it would be shocking to learn if a former Viking approached the 131 tackles Johnson put in the stat book in 2025.

Johnson has been recruited by a number of mid-level colleges to play at the next level, but his plans for next fall are to attend Oregon State University and major in engineering. His career goal is to become a land surveyor. Football is now in his rear-view mirror.

“Track is still an option,” he said, “but as far as football goes, I worked so hard over the years, and my body has taken such a beating, I need a break. And besides, I don’t know if my mom could handle it.”



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Boys

From Page B1

the arena since Oregon stopped using the arena back in 2011.

Unfortunately, the game did not fall in Siuslaw’s favor. Elmira entered the game with a 4-1 record, and the Falcons looked like a tough matchup. Elmira ended up with the win, defeating Siuslaw 40-57.


Coming off that loss at Mac Court, the Vikings got to return home for their next game. Playing at Siuslaw High School, the Vikings hosted Waldport for another non-league matchup. Siuslaw got back to winning

against the Irish, beating them 54-39. That win brought their record to 3-3.

Through the first six games, Siuslaw is squarely in the mix in the Far West League. Though there haven’t been any league games played yet, Siuslaw sat fourth in the Far West League behind Douglas (5-1), South Umpqua (4-2), and Sutherlin (3-2) as of Dec. 18.

Siuslaw next played on Dec. 19 and Dec. 20 at the Kringle Classic hosted by Gold Beach High School. The results are not available at the time of press. Siuslaw will next be in action against North Valley on Dec. 27 after a week off for the holidays.

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Gingerbread house winners

**Submitted by
NAN HARVEY**

First Step Florence wishes to thank all who voted for their entry in the 2025 C.R.O.W. Gingerbread House Contest.

First Place: First Step Florence

Second Place: DeAnn Hawkins

Third Place: Kelsi Ferkey

As winners of first place we know many of you had to place your confidence in the mission that the project merely touched upon. With a trophy under its belt, and the next step being Shipping Solutions where it will be on raffle for the month of January, First Step will be adding to its coffers to begin the first phase of building this year. Its humble beginnings, responding to children showing up to school having had slept in a car overnight, the trailers, then the foldable house on the premises of the Presbyterian Community Church, the project has grown to 1.6 acres north of town and plans for modulars to be built and erected on the property. Family graduates from the program to date are a testimony to



the faith we have in the human need and desire to be self sufficient and feel the respect that derives therefrom. Thank all of you for your confidence in First Step from the volunteer design team of Harvey, Gregg and Jones.

2026 Realtor of the year and affiliate of the year

The Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors announced the 2026 Realtor of the Year and 2026 Affiliate of the Year at their Holiday Party on December 5, 2025. The Realtor of the Year award recognizes a Realtor® who is known for their involvement in the real estate industry both locally and within the state of Oregon, and as well as their involvement in their community. Jillian Burris of Re/Max South Coast was announced as the 2026 Realtor of the Year for the Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors.



Jillian Burris

American Family Insurance-The Tracy Baier Agency was announced as the 2026 Affiliate of the Year for the Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors. American Family



Tracy Baier

Insurance provides education for our members and is committed to supporting the fund-raising efforts of the Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors benefiting the community.

Florence Public Arts Committee launches call for Art Exposed ReVision Florence

From THE CITY OF FLORENCE

The City of Florence Public Arts Committee announces the launch of the next call-for-artists for the Art Exposed Rotating Outdoor Art Gallery. Since 2018, this program has installed public art throughout Florence for community members and tourists alike to enjoy.

Art Exposed ReVision Florence 2026-2028 will install six large-scale, colorful sculptures on Highway 101. Once selected, the art is scheduled to be installed in May 2026 and be on display through 2028. For Art Exposed ReVision Florence, artists are encouraged to submit unique three-dimensional pieces that demonstrate extraordinary creativity. Selected artists will be paid a \$1,500 stipend to display their art for a two-year period.

During this time, the art is available for sale. If a piece sells, the City of Florence retains 30% of the proceeds to reinvest in the Public Arts Program, <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/219/Public-ArtProgram>. The six locations for Art Exposed ReVision Florence stretch between the Siuslaw River Bridge and the intersection with Highway 126. Another eight Art Exposed locations are part of the Art Exposed Old Town gallery.

How to apply: Details of the call and locations are in the entry form. Applications will only be accepted through CaFÉ, <https://www.callforentry>.

org/, a well-known site for managing all types of art entries throughout the United States and internationally. Artists can register an account for free in order to apply to this and other calls by visiting CaFÉ online.

It is easy to register to apply and, by registering once, artists have access to “calls” from all over the world. There is a \$25.00 fee to submit an application for Art Exposed ReVision Florence. All artists over 18 years old are eligible for entry.

To apply to the Call-for-Artists, or for more information about the Art Exposed program, visit <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/382/Art-Exposed-Rotating-Outdoor-Art-Gallery>. The deadline for submission is February 15, 2026, at 9:59 p.m. (PT). Selection Process: After the call closes, the Public Arts Committee will review applications based on the criteria in the call.

The Committee will provide their recommendations for the public to review and provide feedback. Final selections of art pieces will be made during Public Arts Committee meetings in February 2026. Community 2 members are encouraged to attend the committee meetings and submit comments. More information is available at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/361/Public-Arts-Committee>. For additional questions, please contact Chantelle Meyer, City of Florence Economic Development and Communications Analyst, via email at chantelle.meyer@ci.florence.or.us.

January reception at Backstreet Gallery

Backstreet Gallery invites you to kick-start 2026 with the 2nd Saturday Reception on January 10, 3-5 p.m. Get ready to enjoy wine and delicious treats. While you appreciate the art, listen to live guitar music by Denny Weaver with his ‘80s and ‘90s. toe-tapping melodies.

Outside the Box is the January theme that inspired the versatile artist members to create their pieces. With 30-some artists, you’ll find a wide variety of art including, outstanding oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings—from subtle to vibrant colors, unusual woodwork, clay pieces from sculptures to utilitarian pieces, elegant jewelry with crystals and gems, gleaming glass sculptures, distinctive fiber weavings, masterful photographs, and unusual paper painting

collage, not forgetting to mention the books of more than one author. Expect unique pieces that may be outside each artist’s usual genre.

January is also a time

to refresh the Gallery. So, Backstreet will be closed on January 5 and will reopen on January 9. Otherwise, the Gallery is open daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hope to see you there.

GIRLS

From Page B1

featured a back-and-forth first half. There were seven lead changes in the game.

Unfortunately for Siuslaw, the game was decided by a back-breaking run by the Irish, which helped them pull away. With a 28-24 lead, the Irish amped up the pressure and put together a 10-0 run to take control of the game. After that point, Waldport outscored the Vikings 15 to six, bringing the final score to 53-30. Despite the sour result for the team, there were some great individual performances that helped Siuslaw hang around with a challenging opponent. The Vikings showed their willingness to put in the dirty work as well, cleaning the glass and bringing in 35 rebounds. Freshman Ryleigh Panschow led the way on the boards with nine rebounds.

In the scoring department, freshman star Pearl Jensen led the way for the Vikings, putting up eight points. Jensen also showed off her range, hitting two threes in the game. Other Vikings chipping in on the

scorecard were Avey Hulet (7 points), Maely Chiang (6 points), Aidell Cadet (5 points), Claire McNeill (2 points), and Mia Snider (2 points)

The Vikings looked to get back to winning ways at a tournament hosted at Gold Beach High School Dec. 19 and 20. The results from that

tournament are not available at the time of press. The Vikings are back in action after a holiday break on Dec. 27 against North Valley.

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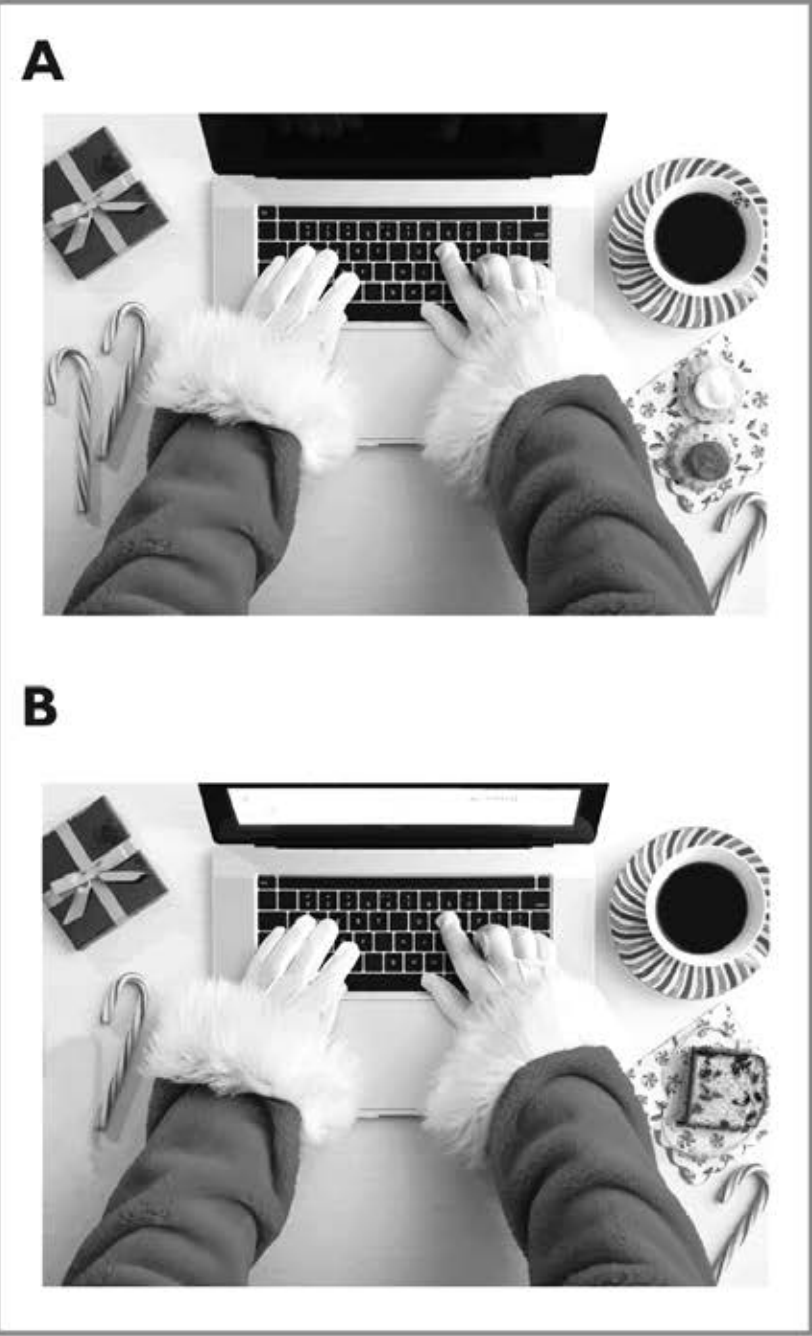
Answer: Holiday season

“How they say that in...”

- English: Ribbon
- Spanish: Cinta
- Italian: Nastro
- French: Ruban
- German: Band

What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Cake on plate 2. Missing candy cane 3. Missing design on inside of cup 4. Computer screen is lit up

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DEC
22

- 1807: The Embargo Act is passed by the U.S. Congress, forbidding trade with all foreign countries.
- 1808: Ludwig van Beethoven conducts and performs at the Theater an der Wien, Vienna.
- 1937: The Lincoln Tunnel opens to traffic in NYC.

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

WORDS

- ACHES
- ANTIBIOTICS
- CHILLS
- CONGESTION
- CONTAGIOUS
- COUGH
- FATIGUE
- FEVER
- GERMS
- HEADACHE
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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.

	+	5	+		= 20			
+		+		-				
	-		-		= 1			
-		+		÷				
	+		÷		= 7			
=		=		=				
14		15		5				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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

1. Initiate	— — — — T	Gawk	— — — — E
2. Cronkite or Mitty	— — L — — —	Cafe server	— — I — — —
3. Courtroom event	— — — A — —	Warble	— — — L — —
4. Acrylic or oil	— A — — — —	Tip	— O — — — —
5. Bump	B — — — — —	Ocean voyage	C — — — — —
6. Narrow your eyes	— — — — N — —	Use a water gun	— — — — R — —
7. Make contact	— — U — — —	Flambeau	— — R — — —
8. Margarine's rival	— U — — — —	Good, , best	— E — — — —
9. Pilfer	— — — — L — —	Condensation	— — — — M — —
10. Mountain top	— — E — — —	Pie shell	— — U — — —

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The Garden Bug

The English name for this tree derives from the old French *franc encens*, which means "pure light." The aromatic compounds made within its tissues resist fungus and insects, and resin leaks out to solidify around wounds in its bark. Sparse forests of these trees grow in the dry ground of the southern Arabian Peninsula. It is there that the "Incense Road" was formed, bringing trade and wealth to this area for centuries. To grow a frankincense tree of your own, it is best to purchase it as a potted plant, rather than growing seeds.


- Brenda Weaver

Sources: Koehler's Medicinal Plants (1887), laphamsquarterly.org, advicefromtheherblady.com

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Fun Fact

The fugu, also known as the **puffer fish**, contains tetrodotoxin, which is said to be deadlier than arsenic, cyanide and anthrax combined. It has no known antidote. In Japan, only licensed chefs are permitted to serve fugu, and self-preparations are outlawed. Chefs must undergo two years of specialized training before the exam.



Source: www.byfood.com

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STREAMING SOURCE



Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of Dec. 29, 2025.

29-Dec: "A Royal Residence" (Docuseries) — Acorn TV

29-Dec: "The Naked Gun" (PG-13) — Prime Video

30-Dec: "Ricky Gervais: Morality" (Comedy Special) — Netflix

30-Dec: "Book Club: The Next Chapter" (PG-13) — Peacock

30-Dec: "Evil Influencer: The Jodi Hildebrandt Story" — Netflix

31-Dec: "Together" (R) — Hulu

31-Dec: "Dr. Pimple Popper: Breaking Out" (Season 1) — Hulu

1-Jan: "Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" (Season 1) — Netflix

1-Jan: "Shetland" (Season 10) — BritBox

3-Jan: "Selling the City" (Season 1) — Netflix

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Even Exchange

answers

1. Start, Stare	6. Squint, Squirt
2. Walter, Walter	7. Touch, Torch
3. Trial, Trill	8. Butter, Better
4. Paint, Point	9. Steal, Steam
5. Bruise, Cruise	10. Crest, Crust

to your good health

WITH Dr. Keith Roach



Lynch Syndrome Patient Is Unsure Whether To Stop Colonoscopy

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 79-year-old female who is currently on biannual infusions for osteoporosis and high cholesterol. In 2018, I was diagnosed with Lynch syndrome with an MSH6 deviation. The genetic testing was done after I had breast cancer, endometrial cancer, and a colectomy for three years in a row. Yearly colonoscopies have been included in my preventive care.

In 2022, during my colonoscopy, I experienced excessive vagal tone and needed atropine to restore my heart beat. Since this time, I have been given Robinul prior to the procedure, which has prevented another incident of bradycardia. My gastroenterologist isn't recommending any more colonoscopies due to this cardiac issue and my age.

I have always been told that colonoscopies are necessary to prevent cancerous polyps from occurring. Is the risk of a colonoscopy under these circumstances greater than the risk of my getting colon cancer due to Lynch syndrome? — F.M.

ANSWER: People with Lynch syndrome are at an increased risk for a variety of cancers, especially of the colon but also other parts of the gastrointestinal tract (stomach, small intestine, pancreas and bile duct). People with Lynch syndrome are also at an increased risk for endometrial and ovarian cancer (in women), prostate cancer (in men), and other cancers including skin and brain cancer. Gastroenterologists know that cancer of the colon can arise without a polyp.

For people with Lynch syndrome, a genetic analysis is recommended. The exact gene may help determine the optimal beginning time and frequency of a colonoscopy. The decision of when to discontinue screening via a colonoscopy is not agreed upon by experts, but clearly when the risk of performing a colonos-

copy is greater than the expected benefit, it's time to stop. This is less about reaching a certain age than it is about underlying medical conditions.

You have a slow heart rate during sedation for the colonoscopy, and it sounds as though your doctors have found a way to do the colonoscopy safely. Your lifetime risk of colon cancer, given your MSH carrier status, is estimated to be 20%, but at age 79, you have outlived much of your risk. Most cases of colon cancer in Lynch syndrome occur before age 80.

In my opinion, both the risks of a colonoscopy and the risk of developing colon cancer are low, which means that it is difficult to make a recommendation as to which way you should go. Stopping is reasonable, but if you feel strongly that you want to continue, this is also reasonable.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 80-year-old female who had shingles 30 years ago for six weeks. It subsequently came back permanently (herpetic neuralgia). I take 2,500 mg of gabapentin daily, which mostly controls the pain but does not help the tingling and numbness in the soles of my feet. Do you have any suggestions? — P.S.V.

ANSWER: I am sorry that you had this complication, which is one of the most known painful conditions. Gabapentin is an effective treatment for many people with painful neuropathies of any kind. A dose of 2,500 mg is very high but is often needed to get control of the pain; however, many people cannot tolerate this dose due to the fatigue and sleepiness that it often causes.

In my experience, some people can get pain relief from gabapentin without getting relief from the numbness and tingling. It is possible that even higher doses might help (the maximum dose is 3,600 mg), but before trying this, your doctor might consider a second type of treatment for neuropathy, such as a tricyclic agent or an SNRI.

These drugs were developed for depression but can be used for neuropathy symptoms. Sometimes, multiple medicines allow for better symptom relief with less side effects than very high doses of just one medicine.

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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