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March offers message of hope



SUBMITTED by NORA KENT

The words “We’re ready” embodied the spirit of the approximately 120 community members who gathered for the People’s March on Saturday, January 18th at Florence United Methodist Church. The march was sponsored by Florence ORganizes and Florence Indivisible in solidarity with the National Women’s March. They joined with 300 other cities nationwide to strengthen unity and build community.

The new Methodist Pastor Deborah Anderson led a prayer with a response of “In the midst of our distress and uncertainty, God is here” Attendees then listened and were inspired by words from “Lady Liberty.” Judy Dolmach played the character with humor -“ I just flew in from New York and are my arms tired”. She then shared the message by Emma Lazaras on the plaque under the Statue of Liberty, following with her own missive:

“The light from this lamp is needed now more than ever. I

See **MARCHING**, Page A7

Port Adds to Property Base

USED WITH PERMISSION FROM KCST RADIO

Siuslaw Marina and RV park at the Cushman bend on Hwy. 126 sold this week to the port of Siuslaw for \$1.2 million, port manager Dave Huntington says the purchase will generate needed additional revenue. The port expects to hire two to three full time employees to run the RV Park and Marina.

“We feel very strongly that it’s a great opportunity and asset not only for the port but for the Community and users for years to



Cold Shelter hosting nightly guests

By TONY REED
Siuslaw News

Several January mornings have found Florence residents scraping frost from their car windows, an indication that temperatures have dropped into the freezing range overnight.

As promised, an overnight warming center has been set up in the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship church at Highway 101 and Heceta Beach Road, has opened its doors to overnight guests, due to the low temperatures.

According to data from Florence Municipal Airport, overnight temps have dropped into the high 20s, and as low as 21 degrees on Jan. 20. Daytime highs have been in the 40s and low 50s, reaching 54 on Jan. 22 by mid-afternoon.

FUUF Vice President Lydia Swagerty said Jan 22 that the shelter has hosted 5 to 8 people per night and as many as 13 at a time.

Since the shelter location is about a mile north of greater Florence, rides have been provided to people hoping to stay warm overnight.

Swagerty explained that drivers cruise the city around 5 p.m., looking for pre-marked

pick up locations where people can wait for rides..

Once at the shelter, they check in, check their belongings, set up their beds and are treated to a warm dinner.

Swagerty said local restaurants and kitchens have been donating everything from stew, chili and soups, as well as staple foods.

She said guests have been extremely respectful of volunteer staff and appreciative of the shelter.

She said it’s also become obvious to her

See **SHELTER**, Page A7

Inspire Culinary Academy graduates three

SIUSLAW NEWS STAFF

Mayor Rob Ward and others were on hand in December to congratulate three graduates of Inspire Culinary Academy as he presented their certificates. The Florence Presbyterian Community Church hosted the graduation of Justice Scites-McNeely, Ian Young and



From left, Danielle Hine, Director Graham Ross, Ian Young and Justice Scites-McNeely

One arrested for alleged sexual abuse

FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Dec. 27, Florence Police Dept. received a report of a possible sex abuse of a juvenile and initiated an investigation. From that investigation, Keith Berkner, 42, was developed as a suspect in the case. On 1/22/25 a search warrant was executed on Berkner’s residence, where Berkner was placed into custody and later

transported to Lane County Adult Corrections.

As of Jan 23, he remained in custody with no bail shown for charges of sodomy in the 1st degree and Sex abuse in the first degree.

This is an ongoing investigation and anyone who has information connected to this case is encouraged to contact Detective Garrett Litterell at 541-997-3515.

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Introducing Reilly the Therapy Dog

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Volunteers would like to introduce to our community Reilly and Kathy Murphy who do Pet Therapy at the Medical Center. Reilly is a three-year-old black Labrador. Kathy and Reilly are

volunteers who visit the hospital about once a week. Kathy says Reilly loves to come to the hospital to visit staff and patients. Many say how Reilly’s visits made their day. It is an amazing thing to experience.

Kathy and Reilly are registered through Pet Partners. Many different animals can be qualified for Pet Therapy. But before visiting the hospital a pet must pass the Pet Partners’ requirements. Some of the requirements are the following: a Handlers Course online, animals and owners are tested on obedience skills and Aptitude testing. Also, pets should enjoy meeting people, and other pets. Pets must be at least one-year-old; house trained and have current vaccinations.

For more information about Pet Assisted Therapy. See (Pet Partners.org) or the Pet Partners of the Oregon Coast (oregoncoasttherapyanimals.com) To learn more about Pet Assisted Therapy (PAT) and volunteering at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center call Malissa Glass at mglass1@peacehealth.org and Kathy Pearson at 541-997-9012 or email at jpearso1@charter.net.

Electrical Safety in our Homes

By **BOB HORNEY and CHIEF MICHAEL SCHICK, WLFEA**

Chief Schick and I published an article for last year’s Fire Prevention Week in early October. It concentrated on Smoke/ Fire Alarms. Consider the information that follows as...Paul Harvey’s: “The Rest of the Story.”

As far as feeling safe in my home, nothing concerns me quite as much as a fire breaking out. Marianne and I are trying our best to remain very vigilant about taking necessary precautions when cooking, using Space Heaters, running extension cords, etc. so we don’t unintentionally become the cause of such a catastrophe. And, as I review the information that is available, I am reminded that part of that “cause” can be the result of negligence...putting off correcting a deficiency...like forever.

So, Bob, spit it out! Ok, we’ll start with this: Make sure your circuit breaker panel(s) is easily accessible, and all circuits are clearly labeled. I get a passing grade on easy access to the panel(s) but flunk the latter. Two notes to consider: We live in a SilverCrest Manor 7 Manufactured Home. Like many others, our home has 2 circuit breaker panels; one, located on the back of the house, is for parts of the kitchen and certain outdoor electrical outlets. Another, located inside the house, is for the rest of the house plus certain areas of the kitchen. Yes, it is still confusing after 23 years living in this home.

Why is it still confusing? Because I haven’t taken the time and made the effort to make sure “all circuits are clearly labeled.” In many cases, I have to flip circuit breakers until I find the right one. And, if it is in the kitchen, I have to find out “which” circuit breaker panel has that breaker.

I won’t ask for a show of hands, but I am rather certain that I am not alone in this situation. What is different this time is that I see the importance of knowing which breaker to flip in case of a fire. I hope everyone reading this sees it the same way. I also hope that someone reading this and knows me will ask me at some point if I have labeled my breakers...

Moving on with maintaining an electrically safe home... Regularly inspect electrical outlets and cords for any signs of damage or wear. Replace or repair frayed or broken cords immediately.

Use only one high-wattage appliance per outlet at a time and consider using power strips with surge protectors if you need more outlets. Or, consider having more wall outlets installed.

For 2-legged childproofing, use outlet covers to prevent young children from inserting objects into electrical outlets. That applies to your own offspring, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other visiting children.

For 4-legged childproofing, take extra precautions with extension cords and anything electrical that they may tip over or cause by other means to malfunction.

Ensure all appliances, like toasters, heaters, and irons are turned off or even unplugged when not in use. Always unplug them by pulling on the plug, not the cord.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) should be used in kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoor areas to prevent electric shocks.

And this one...Unless you are very knowledgeable in electrical work, avoid DIY Electrical Work. In other words, hire a licensed electrician to handle electrical repairs and upgrades.

Finally, knowing the

demographics of Florence, many of us could possibly benefit by hiring a professional electrician to perform an annual electrical inspection of our homes. It is to our benefit to stay AHEAD of electrical problems that may develop. That ounce of protection may eliminate the need to call Chief Schick’s great firefighting teams to our home!

Now I turn this over to Chief Schick for his additional comments and suggestions for eliminating potential electrical concerns in our homes. Great information as usual. Please...read on.

CHIEF SCHICK:

Fires involving electrical wiring can be very challenging for us. If you can’t see a fire the mistaken conclusion can be that there isn’t a fire or that it has gone out. Unfortunately, in some cases, overloaded or improperly installed wires can produce enough heat behind walls to start a smoldering fire but it’s hidden from view. The Fire Department can use special thermal imaging cameras, TICs, which show us if any abnormal heat patterns are present. If necessary we can expose the area to determine if there is a problem and mitigate it before it becomes much larger. That’s why it’s very important to call us if you have an outlet that was sparking or if the wall feels unusually warm around an outlet. The improper use of extension cords can also be very dangerous. Avoid pinching cords between walls and furniture, do not run cords under carpets or across doorways, and avoid overloading your extension cord. If you absolutely need an extension cord, you might consider having a qualified electrician install an additional wall outlet where you need them.

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Pet of the Week



ATARI

Atari is a fun-loving goof looking for his forever home. He’s a large husky mix who loves adventure. Atari would like to be in a home where he can mostly be with his people, as he can feel lonely alone. He’s a big fan of playing and loves other dogs his size. If you are looking for a new adventure buddy, look no further. Come to the shelter and meet Atari!

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

OREGON COAST HUMANE SOCIETY
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Shelter hours are 10am until 4pm seven days a week.

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JAN. 13

At 1:34 a.m., officers made a traffic stop in the area of 6th and Kingwood in Florence and arrested Robert Ochoa for DUI.

At 8:37 a.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Highway 126 for a report of a disorderly subject.

At 8:44 a.m., officers responded to the dugouts at Miller Park for a report of criminal mischief.

At 9:45 a.m., officers responded to the 600 block of Highway 101 for a report of fraud. Officers investigated and found that the caller received a suspicious email. The

caller did not respond to the email.

At 12:17 p.m., officers responded to the area of 20th and Oak Street for a report of a found bicycle.

At 1:32 p.m., officers responded to the 100 block of Outer Drive for a report of criminal mischief. Officers found damage to a vacation home but saw no evidence that entry was made.

At 3:31 p.m., officers arrested a subject on a parole hold.

At 6:55 p.m., officers contacted an elderly subject in the 2500 block of Willow Ridge Court who

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POLICE LOG

could not find her way home. An officer provided a courtesy transport to her residence.

JAN. 14

At 6:09 a.m., officers responded to the area of the Florence Library for a report of a missing person. Officers investigated, and the person was located the following day.
8:43 a.m., officers responded to the 700 block of Maple Street or a report of criminal mischief. Officers found fuel lines had been cut on vehicles in the area.
At 11:57 a.m., officers responded to the 2000 block of Willow Street, and arrested a subject on a parole hold.
At 1:36 p.m., officers responded to the 1400 block of Highway 101 for a report of a subject refusing to leave. Officers contacted the subject and found he had a warrant for his arrest.
At 4:36 p.m., officers responded to the 1800 block of Oak Street for a report of a dog at large.
At 7:28 p.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Oak Street, for a report of domestic dispute.
At 9:39 p.m., Officers responded to the area of 18th and pine streets or a report of a dog at large.
At 10:06 p.m., officers responded to the area of the Florence Library for a report of a dispute.

JAN. 15

At 3:33 p.m., officers responded to the area of

9th Street by the library for a non-injury traffic accident.
At 4:16 p.m., officers responded to the 3500 block of Oak Street or a reported juvenile problem.

JAN 16

At 9:13 a.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of Spruce Street, for a report of possible mail theft.
At 10:25 a.m., officers responded to the area of 12th Street, for a report of possible fraud. Officers investigated and found no evidence that fraud had occurred.
At 10:28 a.m., a subject walked into the police department to notify officers of an active warrant for their arrest. The subject was cited and released with notification to appear in municipal court.
At 11:03 a.m., officers responded to meet a subject on 34th Street who wanted to report a cold case theft.
At 3:20 p.m., officers responded to the 2500 block of Oak Street or a reported juvenile problem.
At 4:43 p.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive for a report of harassment.

JAN 17

At 7:56 a.m., officers made contact with a subject in the area of Highway 101 and 39th to find he had a warrant for his arrest. The subject

was cited and given notification to appear in municipal court.
9:16 a.m., officers responded to the 600 block of Siano Loop for a report of possible identity theft. officers investigated and found that the caller's social security number was being used in another state, but the subject sustained no monetary loss from the ID theft.
At 12:45 p.m., officers responded to the 1900 block of 18th Street for a report of theft. Caller stated that a bag of recyclable aluminum cans was taken from the back of his truck.
At 12:59 p.m., officers responded to the 2900 block of Oak Street or a report of a minor in possession of marijuana.
At 8:22 p.m., officers made contact with a known subject in the 900 block of Highway 101. Subject was arrested on an active warrant.

JAN. 18

At 10:48 a.m., a code enforcement officer responded to the 1200 block of 10th Street or a report of prohibited camping.
At 12:17 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop at 101 and 35th. The driver was found to have a warrant for his arrest and was taken into custody.

JAN. 19

At 1:52 a.m., an officer made a traffic stop on 19th Street, and arrested Sai Sophan for DUI.

At 2:02 p.m., officers responded to a report of a hit and run causing damage to a vehicle in Florence. Officers were able to make contact with both parties, who exchanged insurance information.

JAN. 20

At 12:52 a.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Oak Street for a report of a burglary. Officers investigated and found it was not as reported.
At 10:04 a.m., officers responded to the 1800 block of 37th Street for a business reporting a theft. The business did not wish to press charges but wanted the subject warned that if he returned, he would be prosecuted for trespassing.
At 2:40 p.m., a caller reported that someone broke into an RV and the 4900 block of Highway 101. The caller said items were stolen from the RV and damage was caused to the interior.
At 4:11 p.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of Bay Street for a report of a juvenile shoplifter who reportedly brandished a knife at an employee.
From Jan. 13 to Jan. 20, officers also responded to 10 requests to check the welfare of subjects, made 9 trespassing notifications, and responded to 6 parking complaints. Officers also made 82 traffic stops.



Siuslaw News

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

Email letters to treed@countrymedia.net

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION:

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

TO SUBMIT TO THE SIUSLAW NEWS:

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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Lane County Dist. 1 Commissioner Ryan Ceniga
125 E. Eighth St.
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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
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ci.florence.or.us

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

CORRECTION

The Jan. 22 issue of the Siuslaw News incorrectly stated that the Stand Down will occur Jan. 22. The Stand Down will take place February 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused

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Prescribed burn gets local attention

Residents of Florence, Dunes City and even some areas of Reedsport were likely surprised to see a long column of smoke blowing toward the ocean from the forest near the Douglas/Lane County line Jan. 22. The fire was a prescribed burn, being conducted by logging companies in the Five Mile Crees area, just south of Siltcoos Lake. Personnel at the Coos Forest Protective Association said the burns were under control and there was no need for alarm. However, residents in some areas near the lake called area fire departments when they saw the smoke rising. The National Fire Situational Awareness map showed the fire area as red dots, indicating it was just south of the County Line.



Free Educational Medicare 101 Event

A free, open-to-the-public educational Medicare 101 event at the Florence Events Center will help explain the sometimes confusing and complicated federal health insurance program. The presentation by the locally based insurance advisor, Dana Dane, will be from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Thursday, February 6. Medicare 101 will explain what people turning 65 need to do to enroll in Medicare and how they need to review their insurance plans each year after that in order

to control their costs. The program will also cover how the different parts of Medicare work, including Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance), as well as Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans and Medicare Supplement health insurance plans. Participants also will learn how Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plans work, how to get help with the cost of prescription drugs and how Medicare works with the Veterans Affairs health care benefits.

Seating is limited. To register, call Dana by February 5th at 541-997-1410. Dana Dane Insurance Agency is located in Florence, a leading provider of Medicare, individual health, long-term care, and life insurance in Oregon. Founded by Dana in 1996, she is dedicated to helping individuals protect life's most important assets. Dana Dane Insurance Agency is not connected with or endorsed by the United States government or the federal Medicare program.

Safe Routes to School projects to receive \$31 million

Florence on the list for funding

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

On Thursday, Jan. 16, the Oregon Transportation Commission invested in new sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, curb ramps, and improvements that will make our school communities safer and more accessible for everyone. The commission approved 28 Safe Routes to School projects, with a total investment exceeding \$31 million. These projects focus on making travel safer within a two-mile radius of schools, prioritizing under-resourced communities to ensure a safer journey for all students.

"It's important to us to help students and their families get to school safely by foot or bike or mobility device," said ODOT's Public Transportation Division

Administrator Suzanne Carlson. "We are excited to support cities and counties who want to make these improvements in their communities. They're making an amazing difference around the state."

These projects are funded through ODOT's Safe Routes to School Competitive Construction Grant Program. ODOT received 89 applications for this round of funding, totaling \$138.2 million in safety improvements around the state. ODOT and the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee had to weigh available funding with projects that addressed the highest safety risks, removed barriers for students at low-income schools, and were likely to be completed within five years.

Here's an overview of some of the projects approved for funding:

- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will

receive funding to transform Mission Road—a rural highway that is the primary east-west road through Mission—into a more community-oriented corridor. By enhancing the road to better accommodate diverse travel modes, the project will improve functionality, access and safety for residents and students at the community's two schools.

- The City of Redmond will receive funding to improve safety for students, workers and families at Sage Elementary School. The safety improvements will include better marking of the existing crosswalk and traffic calming strategies to reduce speeding in the school zone.

- The City of Florence will receive funding to improve 35th Street, a vital roadway connecting U.S. 101 to Rhododendron Drive and access point to local schools. To address a lack of sidewalks along this road, the project will include new pedestrian paths to enhance safety and connectivity for all users.

At the commission meeting, Administrator Carlson shared that the program has funded 104 construction projects since 2019, with nearly half of those projects completed and the other half in construction or design.

Habitat Prom at Three Rivers

Get ready to sparkle and shine at the Prom of Your Dreams, an unforgettable evening benefiting Florence Habitat for Humanity! Join us on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Three Rivers Casino for a night filled with dancing, photo ops, and so much more! Tickets are on sale now at florencehabitat.org or at the Habitat Office. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this incredible event, supporting a great cause while having a blast. Enjoy live and silent auctions, and cheer on the crowning of the Prom King and Queen!

For more details and ticket information, visit the Habitat website. Let's dance the night away and make a difference in our community! See you there!



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Oregon to see nearly \$30 Million for wildlife and sport fish restoration

JEREMY C. RUARK
Country Media, Inc.

Oregon will receive \$29,680,565 in federal funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to support Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) projects around the state.

“These Federal investments, matched with revenue from hunting and fishing licenses, are the foundation of ODFW’s capacity to care for Oregon’s diverse fish and wildlife, according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Debbie Colbert.

“Opportunities for win-win solutions that benefit working lands, wildlife, and communities are numerous—and we are grateful for the long-term support of hunters and anglers who have committed millions of dollars to this program for multiple generations,” Colbert said. “Federal investments like these help us make a real difference for fish and wildlife conservation.”

The Wildlife Restoration Program—authorized by the Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) Act of 1950—provides funds to fish and wildlife agencies for projects to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitat.

The Sport Fish Restoration

Program—authorized by the Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson) Act of 1950—provides funds to fish and wildlife agencies for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic education.

Oregon’s allocations can be found below:

- \$21,783,103 for Wildlife Restoration. The program supports the operation and maintenance of 18 wildlife areas and 7 regional habitat programs which are designed to provide technical assistance and enhance wildlife habitats on public and private lands.

- \$7,897,462 for Sport Fish Restoration (SFR). The funding supports important fisheries, monitoring, access, and education programs throughout Oregon. SFR funds are also used to keep a finger on the pulse of several of our iconic salmon/steelhead populations, including those in the Rogue, the Oregon Coast, Deschutes, Willamette, and Umpqua.

Oregon Senators he federal funding Jeff Merkey and Ron Wyden

announced the federal funding Jan. 21.

“Our state’s lands and waters are integral to the futures of countless fish and wildlife, as well as many Oregonians’ quality of life and livelihoods,” said Merkley. “These federal funds will be used to manage and protect Oregon’s wildlife areas around the state, and to help Oregonians access and enjoy the great outdoors through our outstanding recreation opportunities.”

“Fish and wildlife are part of what makes Oregon the best state in America for recreation,” said Wyden. “That doesn’t happen by osmosis – it happens thanks to significant federal investments like these that support our state’s natural advantages and the benefits they create for our economy and environment.”

The Wildlife Restoration Program and the Sport Fish Restoration Program were reauthorized through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Merkley and Wyden supported.

Annual Valentines Day Group vow renewal in Yachats

The annual Valentine’s Day Celebration of Renewal and Commitment benefiting Yachats’ Little Log Church Museum will be held Friday, February 14th 2025 at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, located at 360 West 7th Street in Yachats.

The annual group renewal of vows originated in 1996 at the historical Little Log Church Museum and has been held at the Yachats Presbyterian Church for the last few years while the museum is undergoing major repairs and restoration. This year there will be two seatings – one

at 12 noon and the other at 5:30 p.m. on Friday. Both married and unmarried committed couples are invited to attend.

The ceremony will be facilitated by Mary Crook, an independent non-denominational minister, who has presided over the event since its beginning. Over the years couples have come from throughout Oregon and several other states to renew their vows. “For some it is a first-time experience, for others it has become an annual tradition,” says Crook. Music will be provided by local favorite David Cowden, who plays

keyboard and guitar. The theme this year will be “Hearts that Love.” Couples who participate will be given a special certificate as a memento of the occasion.

All proceeds derived from this event will benefit the Little Log Church Museum and will be allocated to its restoration project. The Friends of the Little Log Church Museum suggests a donation of \$20.00 per couple. Seating is limited, therefore reservations are required. To reserve a space for this memorable occasion, please call the Events Coordinator Mary Crook at 541-547-4547.

the spotlight

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



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ONLINE POLL

Last week, we asked

“WHAT’S THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACED BY RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT?”

46.4 percent said Housing/rental prices

7.1 percent said local employment/industry

25 percent said Local healthcare options

21.4 percent said “Other.”

This week, we're asking

HOW OFTEN DO YOU ATTEND/ WATCH CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING COMMISSION OR SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS?

Every time
Monthly
Almost never
When it’s relevant to me

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2 Weeks Ready Tips:

- Learn about the potential hazards in your area.
- Sign up to receive emergency alerts through the county’s Lane Alerts system.
- Know local evacuation levels, procedures, routes.
- Make a communication/care plan with your household and neighbors.
 - Share knowledge, resource, and skills.
 - Know where to go if separated.
- Have an emergency kit (for sheltering in place) and go bag (for evacuating).
 - Keep a go bag in both your house and car.
- Stay tuned for a PSA on “Preparing Your Go Bag”.

For more information visit www.WLEOG.org, www.ready.gov, and www.oregon.gov/oem. For a 12-week checklist on being 2 weeks ready, visit www.lanecounty.org/prepare.

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Schoolhouse Bingo Fundraiser Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Night

Looking for something fun to do for Valentine’s Day weekend? Grab your sweetheart or your pals and join C.R.O.W. on Saturday, February 15th from 5-9:30 PM at Three Rivers Casino & Resort, Events Center for “Schoolhouse Bingo!” All proceeds support youth in the arts, and this event is sure to be “way more fun than a pop quiz!”

The theme was chosen to coincide with C.R.O.W.’s upcoming production of “Matilda The Musical,” which will be performed April 25-May 4 at the Florence Events Center.

Bingo tickets are \$55 per person with a discount for a table of 8. Tickets include 10 bingo game cards, a dauber,



and a themed dinner with coffee/tea/iced tea and wine sponsored by Three Rivers. Additional Bingo cards will be available for purchase at check in. Doors open at 5 pm for dinner and check in. The event will run from 5 - 9:30 PM, with Bingo games beginning at approximately 6:30. This

event is for adults only, ages 18+.

Last year’s Bingo Fundraiser sold out very early, so don’t wait to purchase your tickets online at: <http://www.crowkids.com/bingofundraiser>. To donate a prize or ask a question, please contact crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com

FROM SIUSLAW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Join us for the 2nd annual Hispanic Heritage Night on Feb. 6 as we come together to honor the vibrant and diverse cultures that enrich our school community. This exciting evening will celebrate the beauty of Hispanic culture through music, food, and crafts!

The event will highlight cultural Performances that showcase the rich traditions of Hispanic heritage.

Enjoy interactive Activities for the whole family and savor delicious local cuisine.

Opportunities to connect with community members and celebrate our shared values.

This event is proudly supported by The Florence Community PTA and Title I, Family Engagement, demonstrating their commitment to fostering inclusive cultural education and strengthening family connections. The evening

is also brought to you by the dedicated educators of the Western Regional Educator Network (WREN), whose passion for inclusivity ensures a meaningful and high-quality experience for all attendees.

Don’t miss this opportunity to promote family engagement, cultural education, and community pride. Let’s celebrate the diversity that makes our school truly special!

Doors open at 5 p.m. at Siuslaw Middle School.

Grant opportunity available

Western Lane Community Foundation (WLCF) has announced that they are accepting proposals for 2025 Community Grant Projects beginning Feb. 1, 2025. All grants are awarded in the areas of arts and culture, health and wellness, social and community services, education, and environment. Grant requests and awards vary greatly in amount, with no minimum or maximum, but

generally range from \$500 to \$5,000 depending on the nature of the grant project and funds available for distribution.

In the 2024 grant cycle, 27 non-profit organizations received over \$117,000 in funds that represent WLCF’s ongoing mission of supporting projects or programs that provide needed services or facilities for which public funds may not be available or are insufficient.

Non-profit organizations

serving Western Lane County are invited to apply using the Foundant online application system and WLCF’s tutorials and guidelines, all found on the WLCF website at www.wlcfoonline.org. If any local organizations need help navigating the online system, please email WLCF at admin@wlcfoonline.org or call (541) 997-1274.

Applications are due Tuesday, April 1 by 11:59 p.m.

PORT

From Page A1

come,” Huntington said. Maintenance and cleanup has already begun. Future plans include upgrading and restoring the docks, boat, camp and RV park as funding becomes available. The timeline for repairs will depend in part on availability of grant funding. There’s a

lot to do on the property and it will be a long term endeavor for the port. Currently, there are a number of long term residents on the property who will be allowed to stay, but the port tentatively plans on phasing out long term rentals over time. Bill Meyer, vice president of the Port Commission, had this to say.

“We know that the the port has a good reputation for operating a

campground, so it’s a wonderful fit and the fact that it’s also going to preserve some lodging for the local residents.”

The Port has been discussing this purchase with owner Marge Hanson for some time after co-owner Kirby Hanson died. The purchase includes 11 separate tax lots and numerous title searches, which the court has been working on for.

GRADUATES

From Page A1

Danielle Hinz from the 12-week program where they learned about all aspects of food

preparation. Six originally signed up for the class but three finished.

According to Inspire founder of Graham Ross, two of the grads have started their cooking careers locally.

“Ian Young is employed at NOSH,” he said. “Justice Scites-McNeely is employed at Three Rivers Casino [and] Danielle Hinz - is deciding which segment of the food service industry she wants to pursue.”

“We are moving into our own location and it is currently being renovated by Habitat for Humanity volunteers,” Ross said. .

(added a couple of

pictures of the Habitat Team). Location is 180 Laurel Street in Old Town (previously the Bodega). The Florence Elks Lodge graciously allowed Inspire to use the Elks Lodge kitchen.

The next class is scheduled to start on March 3.

“The class size is (8) students ranging from 16-24 year old,” Ross said. “The program is designed for those 16-24 year-olds that are not enrolled in school. Students can be of any economic situation with scholarships available up to 100% paid.”

For more information about enrollment, call Ross at 585-662-7373



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 virtual 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!

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www.florencechamber.com

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**Siuslaw News**

The Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Supports The Warming Center with \$2,299 Donation

The Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) has made a significant contribution to the Warming Center, presenting a check for \$2,299 to Linda Stent, a representative from the organization. The funds were raised by FUUF congregants and friends through their weekly Sunday offerings in November and December.

In addition to the generous financial donation, FUUF members continue to demonstrate their commitment to the community by opening their sanctuary doors to provide shelter for the unhoused during the coldest nights this winter. As per the Warming Center’s guidelines, FUUF will host those in need during life-threatening cold weather when

no other faith-based or nonprofit organization in Florence has stepped forward to assist.

Lydia Swagerty, Vice President of the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, expressed pride in her congregation’s actions, stating, “Our community is made up of caring, active citizens who feel a deep responsibility to support our neighbors during these critical times.”

FUUF is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, compassionate environment for all, and their ongoing efforts to support The Warming Center reflect this commitment.

For further information, please email Florence.Unitarian@gmail.com or florenceemergencycold@gmail.com



SHELTER

From Page B1

that most of the local people experiencing homelessness know and care about each other.

FUUF’s mission is

to “host those in need during life-threatening cold weather when no other faith-based or nonprofit organization in Florence has stepped forward to assist.” The Cold Weather Shelter Committee was able to get permission from the

Florence City Council to use yet undetermined locations inside city limits on nights when FUUF may be unable to host due to other obligations.

FUUF also provided a \$2,300 donation to the shelter to help with its costs.

MARCH

From Page A1

shine it on you to inspire your actions that protect the rights of those who seek freedom and safety. Let’s shine our own lights brightly and proudly as we march together in solidarity and community. And remind our community of what really matters”

Marchers lined up with the FOR Community banner leading the way, followed by US flags and Lady Liberty, men carrying signs with a quote from former president Barack Obama, “This is what a feminist looks like,” the Feminism, Suffrage and Peace flags, rainbow Pride flags, and climate action banner. All other folks and their signs followed. The march began singing a song written by Holly Near after the assassination of Harvey Milk (the first openly gay man to hold office in California) – Singing for our Lives.

The group sang, chanted and processed to the old town, making a loop to cross the highway and back to the Methodist Church for the program in the fellowship hall. Marchers were greeted with homemade soups and sides as they settled in to listen to local singer/ songwriter Sunny Sundstrom and everyone sang along to John

Lennon’s “Imagine”.

The rest of the program continued with local poet Edith Cronk reading her poem “The Widening Circle” reminding us that “loving each other with Compassion, joy, laughter, gratitude and forgiveness For all our differences is to become Part of the rhythm of the universe. The rhythm of life.”

Local community members Lourdes Castillo Howard, Mai Hardley, and Pam Ramussen performed Michael Jackson’s song “Heal the World”. City Councilor Sally Wantz’ shared her challenges for living in a life long relationship with another woman and then stated “We marched today in solidarity of our rights to marry the person we love and to have the same benefits ... and sometimes the same angst ... as a marriage between one woman and one man. I thank The Siuslaw News – then & now for bringing stories like ours to the community. We must support a free press.”

The last speaker was Siuslaw School Board Vice Chair Maureen Miltenburger, who encouraged folks to get involved with the schools– go to meetings, run for the school board. The program concluded with Carol Bourland leading a lively NIA dragon dance.

Some folks had enough energy left to go to the



“We Won’t go Back” rally held at the corners for Highway 101 and 126 sponsored by Florence Indivisible. This rally is held every Saturday at 1pm.

THE PEOPLE’S MARCH WAS UPLIFTING FOR THOSE WHO JOINED.

Kimberly Fleenor commented- “There was a strong sense of community and although there was diversity of groups, there was a sense of oneness, that we are not alone. There was a feeling of hope, not despair.”

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FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



83399 SPRUCE LANE

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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 - 1:30 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

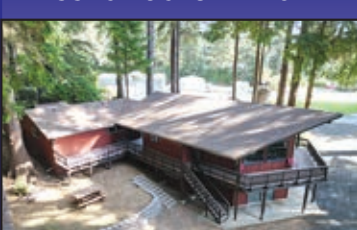
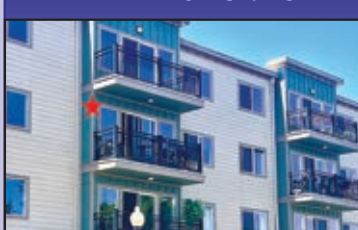
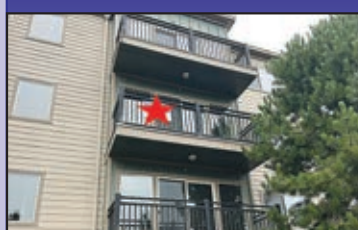
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NEW PROPERTIES AND UPDATES FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 29, 2025

83499 S COVE WAY NEW  Stunning home in South Shore. Expansive deck and a tram to your private boat dock on Woahink Lake. 3 BD/3.5 BA 3131 SF. \$1,375,000	4040 NANDINA DRIVE NEW  Sandpines East opportunity. All appliances included. New carpet. 240 SF casita en-suite perfect for guest quarters/office. 2 Bed/2 Bath, 1491 SF \$455,000	1680/84 22ND ST. NEW  Conveniently located duplex/investment opportunity. Homes are well maintained w/ long term tenants (please do not disturb). 2 Bed/1.5 Bath, 1040 SF each unit. \$475,000	1566 20TH ST. NEW  Peaceful neighborhood. Newer EPA-certified woodstove insert. Fully fenced backyard. Near Miller Park and schools. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1008 SF. \$341,000	
83299 KENDALL LANE NEW  Modern design meets cozy living. New roof, new paint, many updates. Adjacent lot also available. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 960 SF \$409,900	TL1600 KENDALL LANE NEW  In the South Lakes neighborhood, .31 acre lot offered with first right of refusal for the home next door. \$99,900	89492 SUTTON PLACE NEW  Stick-built home with great views and privacy on .75 acre. Lots of potential for future projects. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 864 SF \$269,000	428 SHERWOOD LOOP PRICE REDUCED  Top of the line manufactured home on .28 acre corner lot. Large double garage w/ shop. 2 Bed +office/den/2 Bath, 2011 SF \$448,000	1868 TAMARACK ST PRICE REDUCED  Cozy home with RV garage, loft & additional square footage. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1211 SF \$469,000
5412 BUCKSKIN BOB  Custom built Carter Brothers home is an architectural masterpiece. Siltcoos Lake front w/dock. 3 BD/2.5 BA 2296 SF. \$1,110,000	1301 20TH ST.  Bright open floor plan, modern kitchen. 2 fireplaces. Quiet dead-end street. Garage + workshop. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1797 SF \$495,000	9363 HIGHWAY 126  Fully remodeled cottage in the trees on .48 parcel. New mini split HVAC for heat/cool. 3 Bed/ 2 Bath, 1270 SF \$419,900	1009 ROYAL ST. GEORGES DR.  Nestled in Sandpines West, upgraded craftsman offers luxury and privacy. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2047 SF. \$565,500	4743 STONEFIELD CT.  New home located in beach area neighborhood. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1914 SF \$619,000
5346 BUCKSKIN BOB  Park-like grounds and views of Siltcoos Lake. .86 parcel. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2328 SF \$798,000	211 HARBOR ST. #32  Enjoy river views from this 3rd floor east facing condo. Large unit w/ secure parking garage. 1 Bed/1.5 Bath, 960 SF \$425,000	83399 SPRUCE LANE  Recent upgrades include new roof, gutters, exterior paint & water heater. Comfort, style & modern amenities. 4 BD/2 BA 1898 SF. \$450,000	87179 MUNSEL LAKE RD.  Cottage with Munsel Lake views & fishing a few steps away. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 1028 SF \$415,000	4 BONNETT WAY  New home in Fawn Ridge West gated community. Popular floor plan, can be customized. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2121 SF \$829,300
87660 WOODMERE WEST SALE PENDING  Sought after Idylewood neighborhood. Sheltered patio. Finished hobby shed. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1642 SF. \$550,000	211 HARBOR ST. #38  3rd story end unit with river views and full laundry. Upgraded primary bathroom. Secure parking garage. 1 Bed/1.5 Bath, 945 SF \$399,000	88416 1ST AVE. #401  Oceanfront condo. Amazing views from the highest floor. Resort has pool, hot tub, deli/store. 1 Bed/1 Bath, 497 SF \$225,000	1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #638  Converted park model & bunk-house. Expansive deck w/ hot tub and fire pit. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 312 SF \$217,400	176 NOB HILL ST.  C32' Keystone Challenger 5th Wheel with 3 slide outs. 10'x12' shed w/ electricity. 1 Bed/1 Bath, 375 SF \$189,900



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Tide Table

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

High.....	12:35 a.m.....	6.4
Low	5:34 a.m.....	3.2
High.....	11:33 a.m.....	8.4
Low	6:26 p.m.....	-1.1

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

High.....	1:09 a.m.....	6.8
Low	6:20 a.m.....	2.7
High.....	12:18 p.m.....	8.4
Low	7:02 p.m.....	-1.1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

High.....	1:42 a.m.....	7.1
Low	7:06 a.m.....	2.3
High.....	1:05 p.m.....	8.2
Low	7:38 p.m.....	-0.7

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

High.....	2:16 a.m.....	7.5
Low	7:54 a.m.....	1.8
High.....	1:55 p.m.....	7.7
Low	8:14 p.m.....	-0.1

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

High.....	2:51 a.m.....	7.7
ow.....	8:47 a.m.....	1.5
High.....	2:48 p.m.....	7.0
Low	8:51 p.m.....	0.7

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

High.....	3:28 a.m.....	7.9
Low	9:45 a.m.....	1.2
High.....	3:48 p.m.....	6.1
Low	9:32 p.m.....	1.5

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

High.....	4:10 a.m.....	8.0
Low	10:51 a.m.....	1.0
High.....	5:00 p.m.....	5.5
Low	10:18 p.m.....	2.4

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

High.....	4:57 a.m.....	7.9
Low	12:03 p.m.....	0.8
High.....	6:31 p.m.....	5.0
Low	11:16 p.m.....	3.2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

High.....	5:55 a.m.....	7.8
Low	1:19 p.m.....	0.5
High.....	8:14 p.m.....	5.0

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Low	12:32 a.m.....	3.7
High.....	7:03 a.m.....	7.7
Low	2:30 p.m.....	0.1
High.....	9:37 p.m.....	5.4

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Low	1:56 a.m.....	3.9
High.....	8:13 a.m.....	7.7
Low	3:33 p.m.....	-0.3
High.....	10:35 p.m.....	5.8

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Low	3:12 a.m.....	3.7
High.....	9:17 a.m.....	7.8
Low	4:26 p.m.....	-0.5
High.....	11:19 p.m.....	6.1

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Low	4:13 a.m.....	3.5
High.....	10:13 a.m.....	7.9
Low	5:11 p.m.....	-0.7
High.....	11:57 p.m.....	6.5

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Low	5:05 a.m.....	3.0
High.....	11:02 a.m.....	8.0
Low	5:50 p.m.....	-0.7

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

High.....	12:31 a.m.....	6.7
Low	5:49 a.m.....	2.6
High.....	11:46 a.m.....	7.9
Low	6:25 p.m.....	-0.5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

High.....	1:02 a.m.....	6.9
Low	6:30 a.m.....	2.3
High.....	12:27 p.m.....	7.7
Low	6:57 p.m.....	-0.2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

High.....	1:30 a.m.....	7.0
Low	7:08 a.m.....	2.0
High.....	1:07 p.m.....	7.3
Low	7:27 p.m.....	0.3



Siuslaw’s Jacob Mann, top, smiles to the crowd as he holds down his opponent in the final match of the tournamwnt. Tony Reed photo.

Nick Lutz Memorial wrestling tournament a success

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

“This weekend was very special for our wrestling community,” Siuslaw wrestling coach Nick Wartnik said after the Nick Lutz Memorial wrestling tournament finished up at Siuslaw High

School.

The Vikings hosted a 35-team wrestling tournament on Jan. 17-18 in honor of the late Nicholas Lutz Jr., a 2005 State Champion at 189 pounds for the Vikings. Wartnik believes it’s the largest wrestling tournament ever held in

Florence, but it was a communal effort to bring it together.

“Kudos go to the many volunteers and staff who put in countless hours to make the event run smoothly,” Wartnik said. “In particular, I want to thank Megan Lade, who coordinated many

volunteers, and my coaching staff, who divided the work of setting up and cleaning up a huge production.”

It wasn’t just a logistical and scheduling triumph; the Siuslaw

See **WRESTLING**, Page A3

A night of basketball, family and fun upriver

MHS hosts annual basketball family night

Submitted by ZAC BURTT

The gym at Mapleton High School was packed with folks from all over the upper Siuslaw on Jan. 16 when the school hosted its annual Sailor Basketball Family Night.

To begin the evening those on hand were treated to a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner sung by Mapleton 4th-grader Charlotte Brady followed by a doubleheader sweep of Crow by the Mapleton boys and girls basketball teams (boys won 36-31 and girls 40-23).

See **FAMILY**, Page B3



Mapleton boys Head Coach Eric Wolgamott (kneeling) as his team and Assistant Coach Ryan Barrows look on. Photo by Heidi Sundstrom/Mapleton Media PBL. See more photos at thesiuslawnews.com

Vikings lose first league games

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Both Siuslaw’s boys and girls basketball teams started league play on Jan. 17 against Sutherlin, and unfortunately, neither team was able to come away victorious. The girls team lost 18-46, while the boys team fell to the Bulldogs 37-48.

GIRLS TEAM

The loss for the girls made it their 11th in a row, but a game against Sutherlin was always going to be difficult. The Bulldogs entered the Jan. 17 game with a 9-5 record, compared to the Vikings’ 1-13 record.

Despite a tough loss, Head Coach Aaron McNeill and his squad will keep pushing ahead in the pursuit of improvement day after day. There’s still plenty of time for the Vikings to put

together a strong game and get their second win of the season.

After the first day of league play, the Far West standings for girls basketball stood at:

1. Coquille
2. Sutherlin
3. Glide
4. South Umpqua
5. Douglas
6. Siuslaw

BOYS TEAM

For the boys, the game against Sutherlin marked a matchup between the top two teams in the Far West League. Though Siuslaw entered the matchup in first place, it was Sutherlin who came away victorious, and the Bulldogs snatched the top spot in the league from the Vikings.

See **VIKINGS**, Page B3

The top Hoop Shooters in the boys and girls age groups will qualify for the District Hoop Shoot in Sweet Home, Jan. 25.

We at the Florence Elks Lodge feel like all of the participants were winners! It was a great event and a special thank you to the community for coming out to cheer these athletes on! Coach &

Florence Elks member Adam Decker was a GREAT help in getting our gym ready & encouraging our participants. Thanks to our Lodge members who volunteered to make this such a fun and special event.

HOOP SHOOT RESULTS
January 11, 2025

GIRLS

Ages 8 & 9

1st -	Kairi Shibahara
2nd -	Sophie Lorenz

Ages 10 & 11

1st -	Moxie Tamaro-Holmes
2nd -	Emerie Decker
3rd -	Adalyn Jacques

Ages 12 & 13

See **HOOP**, Page B3



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Dunes City swears in mayor, councilors

On Jan. 8, from left, returning Dunes City Mayor Ed McGuire, and councilors Larry Farnsworth, Duke Wells and Chris Clemons were sworn in by Dunes City

Recorder Lila Timmons. Dunes City council meetings are typically held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, but January meetings were moved to the

second and fourth week to accommodate the holidays. Meetings are held in Dunes City Hall at 82877 Spruce Street in Dunes City and meetings start at 6 p.m.

Florence UU Fellowship will host its annual Blessing of the Animals Ceremony

Join us on Feb. 2 for a special service where Deborah Larson will lead us in a celebration to honor our companion animals for the wonderful blessings they are in our lives. Well-behaved dogs are welcome to attend

and come up to receive a special acknowledgement/ blessing.

Treats and ceremonial flower essences will be available for all to take home and bless those not able to be here on Sunday.

We will also highlight the Oregon Coast Humane Society, our community partner for the months of January-February.

Location: Florence
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - 87738
Highway 101 at Heceta
Beach Road Doors open at 9:30 a.m and service begins at 10 a.m.

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

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A black and white photograph of a large, two-story house with a gambrel roof, illuminated at night. The house has several windows, some of which are lit up. In the foreground, a generator unit is visible, and there are some bushes and a driveway. The overall scene suggests a home that is prepared for power outages.

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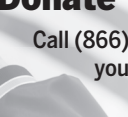
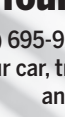




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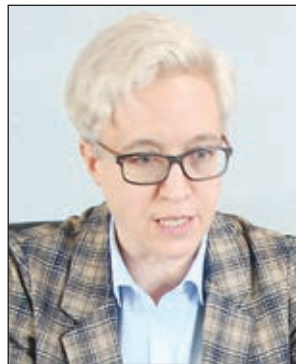
Governor announces legislative priorities

Jeremy C. RUARK
Lincoln County Leader

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek's priorities for the new legislative session focus on staying the course in addressing homelessness and housing supply, mental health and addiction care, and improving outcomes for Oregon K-12 students, according to a release from Kotek's office.

Kotek said she supports investments aligned with her recommended budget and looks forward to continued engagement with legislators on additional topics, such as a comprehensive transportation package, stable funding for the Oregon Health Plan, child welfare outcomes, addressing the public defense crisis, and wildfire suppression and community resilience funding.

“This legislative session carries a clear charge for all of us: to tackle problems with purpose and embrace opportunities for change together,” Kotek said. “As we talk today about big ideas, we can’t forget why we’re here: Oregonians who don’t know where they’ll sleep tonight. The person in our lives who wants mental health care and can’t get it. Children who are brimming with promise and who rely on us to get their education right. Hard working Oregonians who are wondering how they’re going to make ends meet. We’re here because we have the opportunity to make their lives better, now and in the future.”



Tina Kotek

**BUILDING ON
PROGRESS
TO ADDRESS
HOMELESSNESS
AND HOUSING
SUPPLY**

Kotek said her housing and homelessness agenda this session will build on her successful track record of getting people off the streets and increasing housing production.

The governor's priorities include legislation that supports increased production of "middle housing" options, stronger pathways to home ownership, and the establishment of a tribal housing grant program. She said she will also support setting up statewide shelter program standards and establishing a program that funds water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation infrastructure needed for new housing production.

**STRENGTHENING
MENTAL HEALTH
AND ADDICTION
CARE**

Kotek said her vision is to make mental health and addiction care accessible no matter where you live and what you can afford, adding that her behavioral health agenda will close gaps in the current system and expand access to the types of care that Oregonians need.

“To meet the growing need, Oregon needs a vibrant workforce,” Kotek states in the release.

“Organizations are not operating at full capacity because they do not have an adequate workforce to meet current demand, particularly for individuals with the highest level of acuity.”

Kotek said she is prioritizing investments in Oregon's workforce and increasing capacity, currently, and has directed her team to develop a new model of permanent supportive housing that can more effectively serve people with serious mental health needs who can live independently with enhanced on-site services.

**IMPROVING
OUTCOMES
FOR OREGON
STUDENTS**

The governor said her education agenda will better resource Oregon schools and hold them accountable for the outcomes that students and families deserve.

To create as much fiscal certainty for school districts as possible, Kotek said she worked last year to increase the current service level for the State School Fund by \$600 million, leading to a historic total investment of \$11.36 billion in the governor's recommended budget.

Kotek said her proposal will codify an updated process for calculating the State School Fund to provide more accurate and predictable funding for K-12 public education across Oregon. Increased investment must come with better outcomes for Oregon students, according to the release. The focal point of the governor's 2025 education agenda is deeper accountability for districts, schools, and the state.

STAYING THE COURSE

This session, the Oregon Legislature will pass budgets for the next two years. The governor said she supports the recommended budget she released in December that builds on the progress from her first two years in office.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

Other legislative priorities include stable funding for wildfire mitigation and suppression, and a transportation package that fully funds the operations and maintenance of Oregon's transportation system.

Kotek said she also will support legislation that advances Oregon's climate resilience, improves state government operations, and reduces consumer costs.

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WRESTLING
From Page B1

wrestlers also had their share of success over the weekend. Wartnik said that Siuslaw’s athletes competed “very well.”

“We crowned two champions in the girls tournament, Macali Lade at 120 pounds and Danin Lacouture at 140 pounds,” Wartnik said. “Both were dominant in all their matches.”

In addition to first-place finishes for Lade and Lacouture, Vikings wrestler Abby Riggs placed second at 115, nearly defeating last year’s 110-pound state champion Emma Lee Brissette in the finals. En route to the final, Riggs won her three matches by fall. Though she didn’t come away on top of the podium, it was still a strong showing.

One of the highlights for Wartnik was the performance of freshman Hailey Taylor. Despite being in her first year of high school wrestling, Taylor placed 2nd in the girls tournament at 105 pounds. Wartnik also shouted out freshman Aris Lade, who took first place in the boys JV 165 weight class, and junior Ali Ijaz, who placed second in the JV 157 weight class.

“She did an amazing job for her level of experience,” Wartnik said. “These three individuals deserve kudos.”

For the boys, senior Jacob Mann continued his dominant season, “destroying his opponents” on his way to a championship in the 215-pound weight class. In the final, Mann took down Elmira’s Jonah Cooper, the second-seeded wrestler in the tournament. Other standouts from the boy’s Vikings wrestling team were Chuck Nelson and Gage Mills, who each added 5th-place finishes.

The Vikings still have some meets left before the end of the season, but it won’t be long before state qualification time arrives. The Special District 2 Championship will be held at Elmira High School Feb. 22.



FAMILY
From Page B1

During breaks in action there was a Salty the Sailor Dance-off and a raffle with prizes donated by Westlake Resort, The Green Room, Old World Gingerbread Village, Homegrown Brewery and Public House, the Willamette Valley Jaguars, Fishing Guide Rick Barrows and the Hukilau.

Both Mapleton basketball teams have started the league season on a roll with the girls in first place at 5-0 (9-5 overall) and the boys 5-1 (8-6 overall).



Mapleton girls basketball players before their game vs Crow, from left, Lucie Burruss, Abbi Galvan-Mendez, Natalee Stevens, Helen Burruss and Morgan Milbrett.

HOOP
From Page B1

- 1st - Pearl Jensen
2nd - Cameryn Crockett
3rd - Sophia Stymans
- BOYS
Ages 8 & 9
1st - Seaton Atkinson
2nd - Kolby Bond
3rd - Michael Ory-Remer
Ages 10 & 11
1st - Lloyd Riggs
2nd - Tristan Hudson
3rd - Nick Duman
Ages 12 & 13
1st - Miles Decker
2nd - Kingston Riddle
3rd - Wyatt Frazee

Lecturing Knight Lisa Brenner -organized the event, Michael Ory-Remer and Exalted Ruler George Bandy. (Not all of the winners are pictured as many of them had to run off for more school activities!)

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VIKINGS
From Page A1

Following the loss, Siuslaw dropped to fourth in the Far West, slipping below South Umpqua and Douglas, who each won their first league games. Douglas beat Coquille 52-25 on Jan. 17, while South Umpqua beat Glide 52-39 on the same day. After the first day of league play, the Far West stand-

ing for boys basketball

stood at:

1. Sutherlin
2. South Umpqua
3. Douglas
4. Siuslaw
5. Coquille
6. Glide

Though it may look like a significant drop, the Vikings still held a better overall record (9-6) than both Douglas (7-8) and South Umpqua (7-6) ahead of Siuslaw’s Jan. 24 game against Coquille.

Results of the Jan. 24 game against Coquille and the Jan. 28 game against South Umpqua were not known at time of press time.

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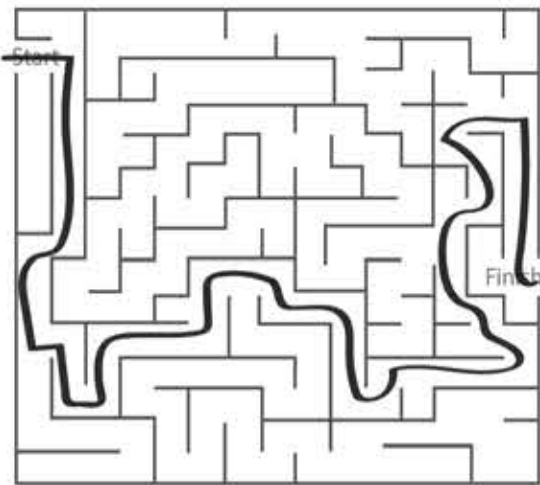
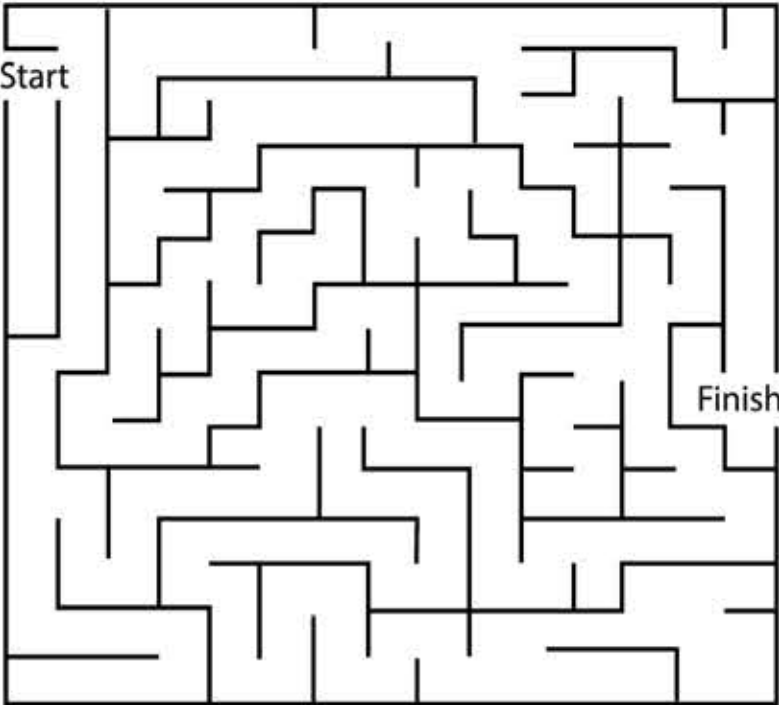
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JANUARY
27

1785: The University of Georgia is founded, becoming the first state-chartered public university in the United States.
1880: Thomas Edison receives a patent for his incandescent lamp.
2010: Apple announces the iPad.

Book FACT:

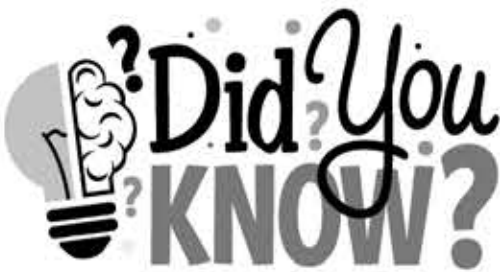
Having sold more than 600 million copies worldwide, this book series is the best-selling in history.

Answer: Harry Potter

NEW WORD
APTITUDE
a natural ability to do something

How they say that in...

English: Page
Spanish: Página
Italian: Pagina
French: Page
German: Seite



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Library card catalog

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

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

WORDS

- BARBECUE
- BASTE
- BLANCH
- BRAISE
- CARAMELIZE
- COOKING
- HOURS
- LOW
- MEALS
- PATIENCE
- PREPARE
- RECIPE
- REDUCE
- ROAST
- SEAR
- SIMMER
- SLOW
- SMOKE
- STEW
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Q equals R

RY SIUGLIQO, N'U YJXXIYGT HI
QGRT HSNY MIIO ME LQNHGQ
TRSZ NA IAG TRE. HNUG HI
SNH HSG QIRZT!

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Vision
MADRE
Swish
ULSTER
Weird
BRAZIER
Cuddle
TENSEL

TODAY'S WORD



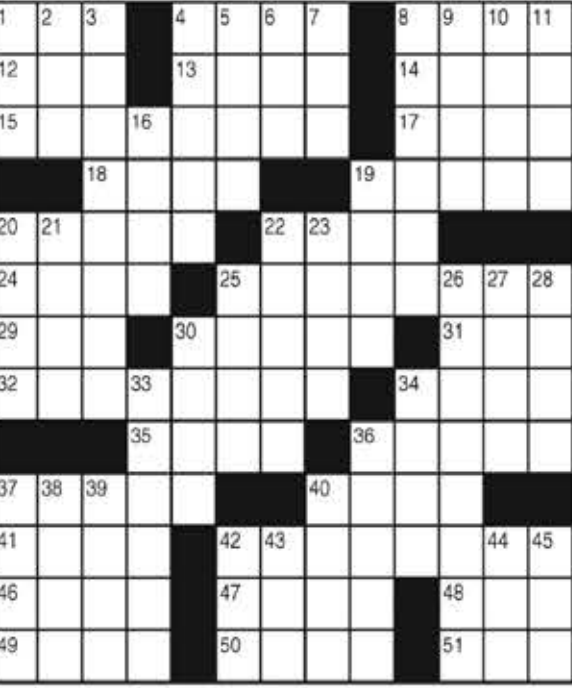
"How do you convince a man that some things belong in the _____?"

January 27, 2025 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Dime portrait
- 4 "Phooey!"
- 8 Chow
- 12 Singer Reed
- 13 Aachen article
- 14 Russo of "The Intern"
- 15 Top floor cooler
- 17 Roman poet
- 18 Farm fraction
- 19 Corrodes
- 20 Monk's home
- 22 Raw minerals
- 24 Paint layer
- 25 Skillet with low sides
- 29 Gearwheel tooth
- 30 Prefix with "logical"
- 31 Bathroom, to a Londoner
- 32 Refuse holder
- 34 Lacking slack
- 35 New Mexico resort
- 36 Desert flora
- 37 Passe
- 40 Achy
- 41 Breakfast chain
- 42 Village People classic
- 46 Air-show stunt
- 47 Sneeze syllable
- 48 Latin 101 word



DOWN

- 1 Ga. neighbor
- 2 Speck
- 3 Yellow turnip
- 4 Belittle
- 5 Teeming
- 6 Political strategist Navarro
- 7 Hamilton bill
- 8 Complain
- 9 Guns the engine
- 10 One
- 11 Hotel furniture
- 16 "Cold As Ever" rapper
- 19 Seized vehicle
- 20 Bank statement no.
- 21 Rude dude
- 22 Killer whales
- 23 Check
- 25 Designer Chanel
- 26 Table protector
- 27 Summer month in Paris
- 28 Terse denial
- 30 Roe provider
- 33 Treeless tract
- 34 Poi base
- 36 Some Pacific salmon
- 37 Pickling herb
- 38 "Hi, sailor!"
- 39 Implement
- 40 Garbage barge
- 42 Roast VIPs
- 43 "Caught ya!"
- 44 "I — Rock"
- 45 Eggy quaff

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Weekly SUDOKU



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from SLAKE to PRANK in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

SLAKE

PRANK

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What year was the first Barbie doll released?
- 2. MOVIES: What is the name of the island in the "Jurassic Park" film?
- 3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are baby rabbits called?
- 4. U.S. STATES: Which state is the home of Mount Rushmore?
- 5. INVENTIONS: When were emojis invented?
- 6. TELEVISION: In the TV series "The Walking Dead," what was the character Rick Grimes' profession previously?
- 7. CHEMISTRY: Which element is also known as quicksilver?
- 8. SCIENCE: What is the name for the pivot on which a lever turns?
- 9. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to the ancient city of Petra?
- 10. MUSIC: Which of Taylor Swift's songs was first to appear on the Billboard Hot 100?

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- 10. "Tim McGraw"
- 9. Jordan
- 8. Fulcrum
- 7. Mercury
- 6. Sheriff's deputy
- 5. 1999
- 4. South Dakota
- 3. Kias
- 2. Ida Nublar
- 1. 1959

Answers

BASEMENT

Today's Word

3. Bizarre; 4. Nestle

1. Dream; 2. Rustle

solution

SCRAMBLERS

PLANE, PLANK, PRANK

SLAKE, SLATE, PLATE

Answer

WORD LADDER



Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

As homework, I'm supposed to read this book by writer Dahl in one day. Time to hit the Road!

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Looking for a person to help in Operations of Funeral Home, Crematories and Cemetery. Must be able to lift and have valid Oregon driver's license and own reliable transportation to and from work. Must have a cell phone and be able and willing to assist in nights and weekend calls. Must be 100% dependable and serious inquiries only. Competitive wage and overtime paid. Please contact Alan Burns at Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home 541-997-3416

500

EMPLOYMENT

The Port of Siuslaw is hiring for a full-time position to perform maintenance, fueling and janitorial. Starting wage is \$17.50. See link to full job description and application form on the Employment tab at portofsiuslaw.com, or at the Port office located at 100 Harbor St. in Florence. For questions, call 541-997-3426.

Auto Technician. Experience, knowledge, willingness to learn. Work environment is fun, challenging, team oriented. 401K plan, Paid Vacation and Holidays. Pay based on experience. Apply at 4515 HWY 101

613

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718

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00am - 12p.m.

Phone: 541-997-3441

Address: 4969 Hwy. 101, #4. PO Box 10 Florence, OR 97439

DEADLINES: All classified ads- lined, box, display, legals: Wednesday the week before by 5 p.m

ADJUSTMENTS: If your advertisement appears incorrectly, notify us immediately. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Such responsibility is limited to correct insertion of advertisement. No information on the classified pages will be released prior to publication.

Ads are in Area Code (541) unless otherwise indicated in ad.

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5929 N Mercer Lake Dr. - \$489,000



3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1296 SqFt. North Lakes home on 1.38 acres. Oversized 2-story garage with bonus room. New roof 2024. #3617-449947625

640 Pine Ct. • \$175,000



0.31 acre lot. In-town buildable lot at the end of a cul-de-sac. #3399-22580467

1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to slow cooking. Each number corresponds to slow cooking. (Hint: 22 = E)

A. 24 26 11 9 26 20
Clue: Not quickly

B. 14 10 11 14 6
Clue: Ceramic vessel

C. 15 18 17 10 22 23 15 22 18 16 24
Clue: Parts of a recipe

D. 14 11 5 22 10 22 23
Clue: With the top on

Answers: A. slowly B. crock C. ingredients D. covered

JUST REDUCED



Commercial building features paved parking and a 4,156 sq. ft. building on a .21 acre lot. Two story with main commercial space below and bathroom, lounge & storage above. \$560,000 List #1171/23549465

JUST REDUCED



Two bedroom, two bath home located on a 1+ acre lot south of Florence. 1654 sq. ft. of living space with a double attached carport space and detached 24x36 RV garage. Unique construction details. \$469,900 List #1241/24060312

JUST REDUCED



In-town 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 1282 sq. ft. of living space on a deep lot with a double car garage and bonus concrete parking pad for RV. Open living, dining, kitchen area has slider to one of the two back decks. \$379,000 List #1243/24195738

JUST REDUCED



Six acres on Siltcoos Lake with two home sites, 8 tax lots and room for improvements. Lower home is 3 bdrm, 1 bath with 1190 sq. ft. of living space. Private dock & a detached garage. \$1,599,000 List #1255/24398447

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In town lot measures 26'x150'. Has paved Maple Street frontage and back alleyway access. Flat lot is clear and ready to build. City Services available. Mainstreet District A zoning. \$74,500 List #1264/24079224



Two bedroom, 2 bath home with 900 sq. ft. of living space in a beautiful neighborhood just up the road from the Siuslaw River. Built in 2024. Covered parking area, covered back deck. .42 acre private lot. \$364,500 List #1271/185834075



Studio condo at Courtyard Condominiums is an upstairs end unit with 341 sq. ft. of living space. Unit has a kitchen & full bath. Complex has paved parking, and is located centrally to shopping, schools & healthcare. \$109,900 List #1272/562758289

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ASTROLOGY READINGS

AQUARIUS-Jan 21/Feb 18 Aquarius, if at first you don't succeed, you may need to change your approach to things. Enlist the help of others to help turn your ideas into results. PISCES-Feb 19/Mar 20 Develop a better strategy for saving money, Pisces. You need some extra funds to pay for larger expenses, and clipping coupons alone might not be the answer. ARIES-Mar 21/Apr 20 Express yourself with great confidence this week, Aries. You feel like you are in control and well organized. This is a recipe for success regarding the things you need to accomplish.	TAURIUS-Apr 21/May 21 Taurus, you have a clear mind this week to put plans in place. But you might need some inspiration to get started. Avoid procrastinating. GEMINI-May 22/Jun 21 There are many tasks that lie ahead this week, Gemini. It will be essential that you stay focused. One of the areas to consider is changing personal health for the better. CANCER-Jun 22/Jul 22 Cancer, you may find you're an asset and sought-after among friends and coworkers. Use social situations to your advantage to network even more.	LEO-Jul 23/Aug 23 Clear up some space at home so you can work more easily. Leo. Too much clutter in your home or work area can be a distraction. Disorganization can make tasks harder. VIRGO-Aug 24/Sept 22 Practice being smooth and professional in your manner, Virgo. This will be the best way to get good results at work. Others may be impressed by how you handle yourself under pressure. LIBRA-Sept 23/Oct 23 Libra, you might be very popular with superiors at work this week. Use this to your advantage to seek out a raise. Ask to head an important project	SCORPIO-Oct 24/Nov 22 Scorpio, you can do anything you set your mind to. Share your ideas with others and determine which concepts have merit. If nothing comes up, go back to the drawing board. SAGITTARIUS-Nov 23/Dec 21 Others admire your ability to be a good friend, Sagittarius. This week you will showcase your compassion and humility in myriad ways. It might garner you extra attention. CAPRICORN-Dec 22/Jan 20 Capricorn, happy news is coming your way this week. Share the good fortune with others in your life, either a spouse or a sibling. These people can use some sunshine as well.
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6007 View Lp. - \$629,000
3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 1932 Sqft. Wonderful tri-level home with Mercer views, deeded access, and RV parking. #3618-315828313



133 Shoreline Dr. - \$852,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2120 Sqft. New Construction in Shelter Cove! Quality craftsmanship and finishes. 3 bay garage with paved parking for boat storage. #3620-575874537



88416 1st Ave #136 - \$399,000
Oceanfront, 3 bdrm, 2 bath condo at Driftwood Shores! Fully furnished with granite counters, electric fireplace, and spacious deck. #3593-24667809



1601-536 Rhododendron Dr. - \$446,500
3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 1840 SqFt. Beautiful Greentrees West home with river views. 2 sun rooms, both living and family rooms. #3616-24495373



25 Yearling Ct - \$839,000
3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2,076 sqft living area. 3-bay, 780sqft attached garage. 0.33 acre cul-de-sac location. #3521-24314234



89402 North Ln - \$380,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 960 SqFt. North lakes area home on .5 acre. Nicely updated home with room for gardening. #3558-24445997



1600-92 Rhododendron Dr. - \$265,000
3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, 1370 Sqft. Coastal living in Greentrees 55+ park. Detached garage, ADA accessible, fenced yard with garden. #3619- 572821444



89454 Kezar Ln - \$375,000
2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, 930 SqFt. Mapleton 4.3 ac mini farm, mountain views, huge shop/barn. Private, upgrades in home! #3547-24091956



3760 Hwy 101 #17 - \$80,000
2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 924 sqft. Well cared for home with large windows on an extra-large lot in the Wayside RV Park. #3594-24076466



1601-516 Rhododendron Dr - \$295,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 924 SqFt. Gated community. Charming interior with bedrooms on opposite ends. Covered deck. Detached 2-car garage. #3591-24167720



5218 Dunewood Dr - \$865,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2120 sqft. New Construction Jan 2025, on 0.4 ac in the Reserve at Heceta Lake, with a 3-car garage. #3576-24348410



4817 Laguna Ave. - \$649,000
3 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 1065 SqFt. Four tax lots 0.23 ac each. Beautiful Siltcoos Lake view property in Westlake. #3609-24665428



3760 Hwy 101 #26 - \$80,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 924 SqFt. Updated home with newer heating, paint and flooring. Split bedrooms for privacy. Come see it! #3610-24660244



85287 Hemlock St - \$849,000
6 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, 4414 SqFt. Ideal for multi-generational living on almost 19 acres. New paint, carpet, lighting and flooring. #3563-24062108



87735 Hwy 101 #10 - \$35,000
1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, 420 sqft. Furnished single-wide, minutes from the beach. \$566/month covers water, septic, and garbage. Park approval required. #3597-24496802



4881 Gloria Gayle Way - \$539,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1440 SqFt. 2015 built with a large kitchen, gas fireplace, and 24x28 garage with sauna on .43 acre. #3606- 24477118



11801 E Mapleton Rd. - \$699,900
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2418 SqFt. Secluded living on 2.75 acres with a quarter mile of river frontage on the Siuslaw River. #3603-24320221



1980 Willow Lp - \$410,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1300 SqFt. Secluded flag lot minutes from Old Town. RV and boat parking on a quarter acre. #3611-24430582



100 Rhododendron Dr - \$949,900
3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 1952sqft. Riverfront home with 3-car garage and RV parking pad. Potential for a boat ramp and dock. #3537-24452689



865 Western Way - \$535,000
3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, 2640 SqFt. Florentine home with chef's kitchen, and 40'x28' garage with 14' RV door. #3584-24217975



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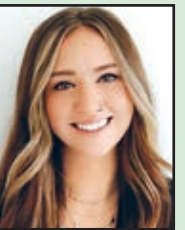
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