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Florence City Council Reaffirms Immigration and Non-Enforcement Policy with Resolution

FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE

On Monday, February 2, 2026, during their regular meeting, the Florence City Council passed Resolution No. 1, Series 2026, a resolution of the City of Florence related to the City’s Immigration and Non-Enforcement Policy.

In light of recent national events, the City of Florence and the Florence Police Department have received inquiries regarding immigration related enforcement at the local level.

On January 8, 2026, the City Council met for a Work Session to consider a proposed statement addressing how the City may respond should immigration related facilities or activities occur within the City of Florence. The purpose of this session was to review existing State or Oregon laws, draft language proposed by members of the City Council, discuss its alignment with the City’s adopted values and work plan, and determine whether there was consensus to move the proposal forward for possible formal action. After a presentation from the City’s Attorney on federal, Oregon, and local law, the City Council requested to reaffirm the City’s policy on Immigration and Non-Enforcement.

Resolution No. 1, Series 2026, begins with stating the Florence City Council adopted foundational values emphasizing compassionate public service and leading by example in its 2025-2027 Work Plan, <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/City-Council-Goals-Work-Plan>.

“A primary goal of the City of Florence is to sustain and improve the livability and quality of life for all residents and visitors,” the resolution

See **POLICY**, Page A6

Council votes to keep Flock Cameras

By **TONY REED**
The Siuslaw News

After months of meetings, work sessions, public comments and a work session, the Florence City Council voted 3-2 to continue using Automatic License Plate

Reader cameras, continue its current contract with Flock Safety, and make legal adjustments if changes are made to ALPR laws at the state level.

The meeting began with about 40 people attending, many holding small signs opposed to the use of the

cameras.

As he has done several times during public meetings, Police Chief John Pitcher explained how the department uses the cameras.

Pitcher said he’d spoken to Senator Floyd Prozanski, who’s among state legislators and

others working on laws, guidelines and restrictions related to the cameras. Prozanki is also active in creating measures that would limit the powers of immigration officers and allow residents to sue for

See **CAMERAS**, Page A7

Correcting confusion on treatment center buyout

By **TONY REED**
The Siuslaw News

After County Commissioners approved a buyout agreement for former tenants at 4480 Highway 101 on Jan. 27 to allow for the site to be used as a drug-assisted opioid treatment facility, county staff noted an error.

Jason Davis, Communications Director at Lane County Health and Human Services, said that after the meeting, it was noted that the language in the attachment to the board order was

incorrect.

He clarified that the buyout agreement was not with Worker’s Compensation, as the sign on the front of the building would indicate, but instead with Nova Health, the name that preceded Best Med Health Clinics.

According to its LinkedIn

See **CENTER**, Page A6

Two previous uses of the building at 4480 US 101 were Workers Compensation and Best Med Health clinics



Work completed on 35th Street

FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE

In the last two weeks of January, the contractor completed all of the construction for the 35th Street Safe Routes to School Improvement Project.

This includes the concrete construction work, asphalt repair work, and minor repairs. The road surfaces have all been restored to their original

See **35TH**, Page A6



Joggers take advantage of beautiful weather and new sidewalks along 35th Street. Tony Reed photo

Florence Police Department updates

FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE

The Florence Police Department is making assignment changes that community members may notice.

School Resource Officer Hailey Coons has been assigned as the Department’s new Detective. Officer Coons joined the Florence Police Department in 2018 and has served

See **UPDATES**, Page A6



Pictured are Officer Snyder, Detective Sgt. Coons and Chief John Pitcher at the Feb. 2 City Council meeting. Tony Reed photo.

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Who Is YOUR Health Care Advocate

By BOB HORNEY

Health Care Advocate, what is that? If this was your first reaction to the question, please follow along and I'll hopefully answer your question totally and explain why I am asking the question in the first place. Hang on – here we go!

Those of us who live in a small coastal community like Florence quickly learn that health care isn't something you simply "receive." It's something you navigate. And for many people in Florence, that navigation can be overwhelming, confusing, or even intimidating. After more than twenty years serving on

PeaceHealth committees and watching neighbors, friends, and fellow patients try to make their way through the system, one truth has become impossible to ignore: Every patient needs a strong advocate – either themselves, or someone who can stand at their side in total support.

This isn't about being demanding. It's about being safe. The system is complicated – even for the people working inside it – and from my perspective, getting more complicated. Those of us having to navigate the health care system for our own health or are helping a friend, neighbor, or family member

navigate it, quickly recognize that it is full of moving parts. Yes, moving parts like referrals, insurance authorizations, electronic records that don't always talk with each other, staffing shortages, and communication gaps that can leave patients waiting for answers they urgently need. These challenges aren't unique to Florence, but in a rural community, the impact can be sharper. When one link in the chain breaks, the patient is usually the one who pays the price.

I've seen people struggle not because they did anything wrong, but because the system is simply not designed for

passive participation. The system rewards the patient who asks questions, follows up, and keeps track of details. Here are two examples of what I'm talking about.

A few years ago, I injured my back (L2 and L3 compression fractures) and spoke to Renew Institute about their treatment with Kyphoplasty. My insurance company was taking a long time giving us a decision. So, I reached out to the insurance company. They said to have the doctor resubmit the request as "urgent" and they would respond right away. My doctor resubmitted it as "urgent" and insurance approved it

within minutes.

Also related to my back, my current PCP at the time didn't believe in prescribing opiates for pain. That was the only prescription they found after many trips to our ER that gave me relief from the pain. I reached out and spoke with the manager of the clinic who understood my plight and quickly transferred me to a PCP who would prescribe what I needed. He saw me right away and took the necessary steps to prescribe that pain relief for me.

Many of us in Florence were raised to believe that questioning a doctor was disrespectful. They may worry about being

labeled "difficult." But advocacy isn't about challenging medical expertise.

It's about making sure nothing gets lost in the shuffle.

Now, here's what advocacy looks like:

- *bringing a second set of ears to appointments
- *keeping a written list of symptoms, medications, and questions
- *requesting copies of test results and visit summaries
- *confirming who is responsible for the next step – and when it should happen

These are not acts of confrontation. They are acts of protection for the patient.

POLICE LOG

Florence Police Department responded to the following calls from January 27 to February 2

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

At 10:20 a.m., officers responded to the 200 block of Munsel Creek Road for a report that hey check has not been delivered to the mailbox. Officers investigated and found it was not as it had been reported.

At 11:11 a.m. call reported receiving a fake bill in the mail for \$2500 from an alleged credit collection agency. Subject did not pay the bill but wanted to report it to police.

At 11:54 a.m., officers responded to the restrooms on Bay Street for a report of a male subject screaming. Subject was gone when officers arrived.

Add 8:46 p.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Highway 101 for a reporting dispute occurring. Officer spoke to subjects at the residence who said it had been verbal only. No further action was taken.

At 10 p.m., officers contact the subject in the 1500 block of 12th St. and arrested him for a parole and probation detainer.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

At 12:10 a.m., a caller reported a possible DUI

driver in the area of Oak Street 35th 10 minutes before he called. Officers responded to the area but we're unable to locate the described vehicle.

At 12:09 p.m., officers responded to the 4500 block of Highway 101 for a male subject in a business yelling at vehicles. Officers made contact with the subject who had calm down and said he would move on.

At 11:04 a.m., a subject came into the police department to turn in a pistol and ammo for destruction.

At 4:48 p.m., subject came into the police department to report that he had received a notification that his PayPal account had been charged. Subject was in the process of purchasing gift cards when he realized it was a scam. Subject was referred to the Internet crimes division.

At 5:22 p.m., officers responded to the 100 block of Harbor Street for a male subject yelling and threatening people. Subject was taken into custody for warrants from Florence municipal Court and Multnomah County. He was also charged with disorderly conduct 2.

At 11:04 p.m., officers

responded to the 2300 block of 17th St. for a report of loud music. Officers listened outside the residence but could not hear music. No further action was taken.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

At 6:02 a.m., officers responded to the 4600 block Heceta Beach Drive for a report of illegal camping. Officers contacted one subject who had warrants from Clackamas county, Douglas County and Klamath County. Subject was taken into custody.

At 8:36 a.m., hey call reporting going into a business and accidentally leaving his wallet on the counter. The caller said he returned quickly but it was too late and the wallet had been taken. Case remains under investigation pending review of video footage.

At 9:36 a.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of Bay Street for a report that a subject had eaten at a business and left without paying. Business did not want to file charges. Subject was not located.

At 12:48 p.m., officers responded to the area of Kenwood near the substation for a report that is subject was leaving trash in the area. Officers contact the subject who was leaving the items, who said they were dropping something off for another party. Subject was advised to pick up the items or be cited for littering.

At 4 p.m., a call reported seeing a neighbor kick a package that

had been delivered to her address. Officers determined that no damage has been caused.

At 2:37 p.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of 12th St. for a report of a subject making threats to others. When officers arrived, the subject had calmed down. Officers counseled the subject and no further action was taken.

At 10:55 p.m., officers responded to the 2400 block of Highway 101 for a report of a subject yelling at customers. Officers found the subject to be the same from the previous call. The subject was taken into custody for disorderly conduct 2.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

At 1:08 p.m., officers responded to the 4800 block of Highway 101 for a report that is subject had thrown water on another subject who was asking for change on a street corner.

At 2:11 p.m., officers responded to the 3300 block of Highway 101 for a report that a subject was refusing to leave a business. Subject was gone when officers arrived.

At 6:44 p.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of Highway 101 for a report that drugs or paraphernalia had been left inside a donation box. Officers took the items for destruction.

At 7:10 p.m., a caller reported that a known stolen vehicle had just been seen on Bay Street, painted a different color. Officers arrived to search the area but were unable

to locate the described vehicle. At 7:24 p.m., a caller reported seeing someone leave an ATM card in the 1300 block of Highway 101. The caller said that the subject drove away before they could flag them down to return it.

At 9:56 p.m., a color in the 900 block of eighth Street reported their dog has gone missing. While in route, officers were informed that the dog came home.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

At 10:10 a.m., a caller reported subjects flying a drone in the 800 block of 1st Street, and scaring geese. Officers make contact with the subjects and advise them to stop.

At 12:09 p.m., and officer made a traffic stop in the 3000 block of Highway 101. Driver was found to have a misdemeanor warrant from Florence, and was taken into custody.

At 2:04 p.m., officers responded to the 900 block of Highway 101 for a report of a male subject stealing beer from a business. Officers were able to locate the subject and arrested him for Theft 3.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

At 3:20 a.m., officers responded to the 1400 block of 10th St. for a reported dispute. Officers were told that a male subject had stolen a Bluetooth speaker from a female subject. Subjects how to resolve the issue and officers arrived, but the male subject was talk to leave the residence.

At 11:57 a.m., a business in the 700 block of Highway 101 reported a subject stole \$12 worth of items. Officers were familiar with the subject and to contact them to issue a citation.

At 12:04 p.m., officers responded to the 1500 block of 12th St. for a reported verbal dispute between a male and female. Subjects were separated and no further action was taken.

At 2:47 p.m., a caller in the 2300 block of 24th St. reported that their neighbor had taken their cat.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

At 8:56 a.m., a business in the 100 block of Highway 101 reported that a subject had damaged a room.

At 10:07 a.m., a caller reported losing AirPods in a business in the 700 block of Highway 101. Officers attempted to re-contact the subject by phone but I've had no answer.

At 11:10 a.m., a subject came into the police department to turn on ammunition for destruction.

At 1:15 p.m., officers responded to the 1400 block of W. 10th St. for a report that a smoker had been stolen. Officers were told that a neighbor witnessed the theft, and the case remains under investigation.

At 2:56 p.m., a caller in the 1200 block of 7th Street reported that someone had hit his mailbox. Officers investigated but found no evidence of a crime.

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Patton Project Film premieres in Eugene

You are cordially invited to the very first film screening of the collective Patton Veterans


Project (PVP) for Oregon! Thanks to a lot of hard work across the Roseburg VA catchment (especially

Maria Kalnbach & the University of Oregon) the films, 5 in total, are very well done, eclectic, and

quite thought provoking. The screening is free and will occur on Wednesday, February 11th @ 6 p.m., via the Eugene Art House.

Kathrine Marie (Sullivan) West

March 24th, 1952 - January 31, 2026



Kathrine Marie (Sullivan) West was born in Coos Bay, Oregon on March 24th, 1952, in the McAuley hospital. She passed away in her home surrounded by her family on January 31, 2026. Kathy grew up in Empire, Oregon, and moved to Mapleton, Oregon in 1960 to begin the 3rd grade. She lived the rest of her life in Mapleton, a community she loved and was proud to be part of. Kathy married her husband Carl West on June 26th, 1971, while working at Neilson's Insurance Agency for the next 2 years. She then proudly stayed at home to raise her two amazing daughters Amy and Carrie. Once both the girls started grade school, she began her 24-year career at Siuslaw Valley Bank. She retired in 2007 as an Assistant Vice-President and Security Officer of the bank, in addition

to serving as the Mapleton Branch Manager. In her free time, Kathy enjoyed spending time with family, tole painting, travelling to warm places, going to sporting events and working in her yard. She was a member of the Mapleton Lions Club for over 30 years and believed in giving back more than you receive. She was preceded in death by her parents William and Hattie Sullivan. She is survived by her sisters Carol Ann Norwood (Jim) and Susan Hazard (Wayne), her brother Mike Sullivan (Joanne) and daughters Amy West and Carrie McNeill (Aaron). She adored her granddaughters Addison, Macy and Claire McNeill and her nieces and nephews. She will be missed immensely but will always be in our hearts. Donations in her honor can be made to the Mapleton Food Share.

Thanks to UO Professor Gerard Sandoval, who also created a powerful film entitled, Soldier, Interrupted, we will also have complimentary concessions! The Art House is a very unique theater if not familiar and I think the experience will be quite unique and most importantly, uplifting!

We are very excited to be able to bring this event to the Eugene community and encourage you to invite whoever you'd like to. We are looking to continue building PVP workshops throughout Oregon, especially in S. Oregon!

If you cannot attend, keep watching this paper for the announcement of a May showing in Florence.



LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

On the Question of FLOCK Cameras in Florence

With the hue and cry being expressed by citizens across the country about the use of ICE troops and the existence of FLOCK cameras in many of our towns and villages, it is no wonder that the citizens of Portland and Eugene, Newport and Florence should be concerned about the same things. It came as a surprise – shock, really – when the Florence City Council voted to reject a motion by Councilor Sally Wantz to remove the FLOCK cameras in current use in our city and to cancel the contract approving them. With their vote, Councilors Webb and Carp and Mayor Ward were demonstrating their opposition not only to the removing of the cameras but to the wishes of the audience in attendance at the session.

It is clear, based upon the temper of our time, that a good many people, probably most of them, are against any form of government behavior that puts the people in danger of being exploited or compromised and harmed in any way. The three councilors who voted to keep the cameras running have done us no favor.

Benjamin Franklin believed that a servant of the people must always put the opinion of the public ahead of his own. He had enough faith in the people to know that they could be trusted to choose what was best. The three men on the Council did not accept that philosophy. They voted for what they wanted and disregarded the public’s desire and concerns, at least those of the public in attendance. We live in a time when strong-armed policing efforts are frightening a great many law-abiding citizens. It is not good to give the people something more to fear.

Toward the end of the session there was a

sense of smugness, even arrogance, on the part of the men in question, as if they knew that the public would be upset with their decision but were not disturbed by the knowledge. In response to Councilwoman Jo Beaudreau’s concern about tourists she had talked to who were reluctant to visit Florence due to the cameras, Councilman Webb said that there is no worry about losing tourists, unless Ms Beaudreau meant “undesirable tourists.” It was subtle jab, but a jab nonetheless. Bad form.

Given the condition of our country today, the question must be re-considered. I ask the council to do so.

*George Durant
Florence resident.*

DEAR EDITOR,

Until I read the February 4th KLCC news article, I was totally unaware that PeaceHealth Hospital was not going to renew the contract for local emergency services with Eugene Emergency Physicians in June. Instead, in a purely financial decision, they will provide emergency physicians for our area hospitals through ApolloMD - an agency based in Atlanta, Georgia. There is no guarantee that the doctors employed by ApolloMD will be permanently retained or become residents of our communities.

I have required the services of the Emergency Room at our local PeaceHealth hospital three times. In addition, my wife was also treated in the Emergency Room once. Every time, the local doctor on duty quickly assessed and promptly identified the medical emergency and effectively dealt with it in a professional, caring, and sensitive manner. They did not perform their duties in a perfunctory, impersonal way but more in the manner of a person concerned for the welfare

of another member of the community in which they lived.

I am unaware of all of the financial ramifications leading to the decision for a change in our emergency services; however, from what I have read the decision is predicated entirely on the basis of cost. This should not be the sole determining factor in a decision that will ultimately affect patients in Springfield, Florence, and Cottage Grove. Community confidence, support, respect, satisfaction, and even pride in our local emergency physicians and their care for local patients should also be taken into consideration.

I encourage members of our community to acquaint themselves with this issue and to contact PeaceHealth headquarters in Vancouver, Washington to request that the decision to replace Eugene Emergency Physicians with an agency that is not local be cancelled.

The alternative could be emergency physicians who are not residents, temporary, and may only see emergency patients as dollar signs.

*Bill McDougle
Florence*

DEAR EDITOR,

It’s been a privilege to live in Florence and teach in its schools.

My husband, John Jiggs Dodson, both teacher and coach taught the first year of the opening of the new high school in 1970.

Jiggs, now deceased, was very fortunate to have taught under the leadership of Glenn Butler and Dick Whitmore for whom the Classical Charter school is named.

Retiring from teaching in 1994, so many years have passed for me. During the years following, I continued in the support of our Florence Public schools and community.

Change is always with us and a new era of

models of curriculum for K through 12 grades came to Oregon in 1999.

The change came when the Oregon State legislature passed a bill that permitted and created the legal framework for public charter schools. Today, there are approximately 133 Oregon public charter schools and the number has increased 47% since 2013. For any group of teachers or parents to acquire permission for a public charter school, the process is grueling and requires hours of labor. A group of local concerned citizens began the process in 2022.

Now in 2026, I welcome and support Whitmore Classical Academy as a public charter school in District 97J. I am excited to learn that the curriculum for WCA is the Classical Education model.

I am appreciative and I thank the original group of local people, volunteer donors, our district superintendent, Andy Grzeskowiak, and parents who have made WCA possible. WCA will be the first public charter school in Oregon to be of the classical model.

May I ask the reader to investigate information regarding Oregon Department of Education and their Report Card, funding for Oregon public schools, public charter schools, and finally, Whitmore Classical Academy.

Thank you,

*Arlene Dodson
Florence*

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Siuslaw News

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

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Call 541-997-3441 - Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Email letters to treed@countrymedia.net

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- 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.
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Prevailing Wage Reforms sought

By NIGEL JAQUISS
Oregon Journalism Project

When the Oregon Legislature convenes for the 2026 session on Feb. 2, the Senate’s No. 2 leader on housing and development will introduce legislation to make small but significant changes to Oregon’s prevailing wage laws.

Sen. Dick Anderson (R-Lincoln City) says he has seen builders in his coastal district and across the state struggle with recent interpretations of Oregon’s prevailing wage laws. Those rulings

have resulted in fewer new units of housing and unnecessary obstacles to the provision of vital services such as child care.

“Oregon’s housing crisis is well documented, and as vice chair of the Housing and Development Committee, I’ve seen firsthand how prevailing wage mandates inflate project costs and stall development,” Anderson tells OJP.

“My bill aims to provide targeted relief by ensuring that the language in statutes will make sure affordable housing at multiple levels is being built

without prevailing wage triggers.”

Current Oregon law exempts “affordable” or publicly subsidized housing that is privately owned and less than five stories tall from having to pay prevailing wages. That exemption can make a big difference: Studies have shown that a requirement that contractors pay prevailing wages can add 10% to 20% to overall project costs.

But as OJP has reported over the past year, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, the agency that interprets and enforces prevailing wages laws, has increasingly nullified the affordable housing exemption for a number of reasons: the inclusion of commercial space, such as child care facilities; the previous use of a building set for renovation into affordable housing; the installation of adjacent public infrastructure, such as streets and utilities; and the characterization of money raised by state bond sales and loaned to private developers. (A dispute remains over whether money from the state’s Low Income and Fast Track, or LIFT, bond program constitutes “funds of a public agency,” which triggers

prevailing wages.)

Anderson pointed to the Oregon Journalism Project’s reporting as a catalyst for Senate Bill 1566.

“OJP’s investigative pieces on prevailing wage and its impact on housing have been some of the most thorough and impactful reporting out there,” Anderson says. “They’ve underscored why targeted reforms are needed to balance worker protections with the urgent need for more affordable homes.”

Anderson’s bill would change current law to make clear that commercial uses are allowed in affordable housing without jeopardizing the exemption of the entire project and that the previous use of a building is irrelevant to whether it qualifies for an exemption. It would also increase the maximum height under the affordable housing exemption from four to seven stories in certain counties and clarify that the installation of streets, sewers and other utilities shouldn’t force an adjacent project to pay prevailing wages as BOLI determined on a massive Willamette riverfront project in Eugene.

In Anderson’s district,

an affordable housing project that would have included space for child care was halted because of a BOLI determination that the child care space would have required the payment of prevailing wage for the entire project. He and others believe the appropriate response is for BOLI to specify that affordable housing developments can include up to 50% commercial space on their ground floors.

“These common-sense clarifications will help developers build more units affordably while also addressing child care shortages—two priorities that directly support working Oregonians,” Anderson says.

Tensions around prevailing wages—which understandably draw strong support from the trade unions whose members benefit from higher wages—have grown as the Legislature pumped more than \$1 billion of new funding into subsidized housing over the past decade—up from virtually nothing the decade before.

That means a lot more public money is going into affordable housing. Anderson and housing developers say BOLI’s interpretation of existing laws means that

the investment of those public dollars is far less efficient than it could be. Meanwhile, despite Gov. Tina Kotek making increasing housing production a top priority, the number of new housing starts in Oregon has declined in each of the past three years.

On the eve of the February session, as Kotek and her recently named Prosperity Council and Democratic legislative leaders have turned their focus to the state’s flagging economy, Anderson hopes his bill will garner bipartisan support although Democrats have typically favored expanding the scope of prevailing wage coverage. (Kotek, Senate President Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego, and House Speaker Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, did not respond to requests for comment.)

“The governor and Democratic leaders have rightly elevated economic development, and I see real synergy here,” Anderson says. “The Prosperity Council, with voices from labor and trades, is focused on growth—but we won’t achieve that if high construction costs continue to choke off affordable housing supply.”

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Senator convenes local grocers to address rising food prices

FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR DEB PATERSON

In response to constituent concerns about rising costs of living, Senator Deb Patterson (D-Salem) convened Salem-area grocers yesterday to discuss pressures on food costs and affordability.

“Oregonians are feeling squeezed by rising food prices. They want to know why coffee, beef, and other products have become so expensive,” said Senator Patterson.

The meeting included leaders from Kroger, Safeway Albertson, and the Northwest Grocery Association. They described how consumers are responding to economic pressures, how trade policies and supply shortages make food more expensive, and the important role that grocery stores play in their communities.

The grocers confirmed consumers are changing how they shop, revealing challenges for household budgets. Shoppers are seeking out more low-cost

items and are purchasing fewer items overall. Economic policies from the federal government are having a noticeable impact on families’ wallets and their grocery baskets. Food prices continue to rise faster than inflation—the cost of food rose 3.1% last year, compared to 2.7% for all goods.

Tariffs, supply shortages, and climate change are all contributing to higher food prices. Coffee and other basics have grown more expensive due to tariffs. Products like beef have had supply shortages, which drive up costs. Supplies of both beef and coffee struggle in drought conditions, which have worsened with climate change. All of these factors push prices up.

“Uncertainty from the federal government has created major difficulties for grocery stores,” Patterson said. “Tariffs have made food more expensive, and the disruptions to SNAP benefits last year hurt both shoppers and grocers.”

Grocery stores are community staples that are essential for a thriving community. They don’t just sell food—people also rely on them to dispense medications and fuel up their vehicles. Grocery stores are also key partners in addressing food insecurity. They regularly work with food banks and pantries to combat hunger.

“I am committed to working together to address affordability for Oregonians. I urge all policymakers to join me in seriously considering how we can tackle rising food costs,” Patterson said.

MEET LIAM

Liam is a volunteer and staff favorite, and we don’t know why he hasn’t been adopted yet. Every morning, he goes for a run with his favorite volunteer, and then he’s ready for some cuddle time. If you’re looking for a reason to get outside, Liam may be the perfect match for you! Stop by the shelter to meet Liam and all of the great dogs at OCHS!



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SN Siuslaw News

Romance, food, drinks and treasure this weekend

FROM FLORENCE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2026 Florence Wine, Chowder & Glass Float Trail Bigger Than Ever: 15 wineries and distilleries, 12 chowder competitors vying for the new trophy, and 35 glass floats hidden in shops and galleries around town. Valentine's romance meets coastal flavor and artistic flair during the Florence Wine, Chowder & Glass Float Trail Weekend, returning Friday through Sunday, February 13-15, 2026, along Oregon's Central Coast. "It's the best way to celebrate your three-day Presidents' Day Weekend and Valentine's Day, so

bring your special someone to Florence February 13-15 for a super-tasty getaway," said Bettina Hannigan, president/CEO of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. This popular destination weekend invites visitors to explore Florence through three signature experiences: a town-wide glass float hunt, regional wine tasting, and a crowd-judged chowder competition. Details, tickets, and updates are available at WineAndChowderTrail.com. New for 2026: the event features additional participating wineries and distilleries, along with expanded chowder sampling from local



restaurants. Throughout Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, participants can search for hand-blown glass floats hidden inside participating

Florence businesses. Each float discovery earns an entry for a drawing, held Sunday afternoon, for a chance to win one of more than 30 locally

crafted glass floats. On Saturday and Sunday, wine lovers can enjoy tastings at more than 15 locations, showcasing standout wines from regional vineyards and local distilleries in a relaxed, walkable setting. The weekend culminates on Sunday afternoon with the Chowder Trail, where attendees sample and judge chowders from 12 Florence-area restaurants and vote for their favorite. The glass float prize drawing will also take place on Sunday afternoon. Visitors are encouraged to extend their stay through Presidents Day on Monday, February 16, to explore Florence

attractions including Sea Lion Caves, Heceta Head Lighthouse, the Oregon Coast Military History Museum, the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. "This Presidents' Day Weekend event has become a major winter boost for Florence and our visitors," explained Hannigan. "It brings summer-level energy to the coast during the quieter season and supports local businesses across our community." Tickets and lodging information are available at WineAndChowderTrail.com and FlorenceChamber.com/lodging.



Public invited as monks bring sacred Tibetan New Year to Yachats

The Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Lincoln County Friends of Tibet, will host Tibetan monks from Gaden Shartse Phukhang Monastery at Yachats (say: YAW-hots) Commons (441 Highway 101 North) from Tuesday, February 17, through Sunday, February 22. The visit includes the creation of an Avalokiteshvara Sand Mandala, along with public ceremonies, workshops, and cultural events celebrating the Tibetan Lunar New Year. The centerpiece of the weeklong visit is the Avalokiteshvara Sand Mandala, a sacred art form depicting the celestial abode of the bodhisattva of compassion, believed by Tibetans to be the incarnation lineage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Using metal funnels, monks place individual grains of colored sand into intricate geometric designs

through a meditative process, open for public viewing daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The visit coincides with the lunar new year observance, Losar, celebrated February 18-20. Ceremonies include the Sand Mandala Opening and Heart Sutra Puja on Tuesday at 6 p.m.; a Tsok Offering ceremony on Wednesday at 6 p.m.; and the Green Tara Puja on Thursday at 6 p.m. Additional programming includes participatory workshops and cultural events. Friday at 10 a.m. features a Lojong (mind training) workshop, followed by the Avalokiteshvara Empowerment Ceremony for Great Compassion at 6:30 p.m. Saturday offers a Butter Sculpture Workshop, Tibetan Calligraphy Demonstration, and an evening Tibetan Cultural Night with chant, music, a Chöd ceremony, monastic debate, and

Q&A. On Sunday, February 22, monks will host Lunch with the Monks and a guided Meditation on Peace and Compassion at St. Luke by the Sea Episcopal Church in Waldport at 12:30 p.m. The visit concludes at 4 p.m. at Yachats Commons with the Sand Mandala Dissolution Ceremony, symbolizing the impermanence of all things. Attendees will receive packets of sand as blessings. All events are open to the public on a suggested donation basis, supporting education, housing, medical care, and sanitation at the monastery in southern India. For details, visit LCFriendsofTibet.org or contact LincolnCountyTibet@gmail.com or 530-748-9365. The Yachats residency is part of a three-week Oregon Coast tour, with additional programs in Lincoln City and Newport.

Public invited to renew vows in Yachats



The Little Log Church and Museum will host its 30th Annual Valentine's Day Celebration of Renewal and Commitment on Saturday, Feb. 14, marking three decades of honoring and strengthening committed relationships. The event will take place at the historic Little Log Church and Museum, 328 W 3rd St., in Yachats (pronounced YAW-hots), with two ceremony seatings scheduled for 12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m. Married couples and unmarried committed couples are invited to participate.

The ceremony will once again be facilitated by Mary Crook, an independent, non-denominational minister who has presided over the celebration since its inception in 1996. Over the years, couples have traveled from throughout Oregon and several other states to take part. "For some, this is a first-time experience; for others, it has become an annual Valentine's Day tradition," Crook said. Music will be provided by local favorite David Cowden on keyboard and guitar. The 2026 theme, "New Beginnings," reflects both personal

renewal and the continued restoration of the historic church. Each participating couple will receive a commemorative certificate as a keepsake of the occasion. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Little Log Church and Museum and support its ongoing restoration efforts. The Friends of the Little Log Church Museum suggests a donation of \$20 per couple. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. To reserve a space, contact Events Coordinator Mary Crook at 541-547-4547.

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Coast Radio’s popular on-air auction returns

Bargain hunters and community supporters alike will want to tune in this Friday as Coast Radio’s popular on-air Auction returns, offering listeners the chance to score big savings on more than 100 items valued at over \$30,000 — all while supporting their local radio stations.

The live auction takes place Friday, February 13, beginning at 9:15 a.m. and running until all items are sold, typically by mid-afternoon. Items will be sold live on air to the highest bidder during Coast Radio’s twice-yearly fundraiser.

“It’s our twice-yearly fundraiser, only we aren’t looking for donations,” explained Coast Radio General Manager Jon Thompson. “Listeners can support their local radio stations and our staff by bidding and winning quality items and services.”

The complete auction list is available online at www.kcst.com. Printed copies can also be picked up at the Coast Radio studios, or listeners may request a copy by emailing rweil@kcst.com.

Whether you’re a local resident or just visiting the area, anyone is eligible to bid and potentially save hundreds — even thousands — of dollars while supporting local radio.

Bidding is simple, and it can be even easier by pre-registering. Interested bidders can call the station at 541-997-9136 during

regular business hours prior to the auction. “It does not cost you anything, nor does it obligate you to anything,” said Thompson. “By pre-registering, you receive a unique bid number to use each time you bid, avoiding the need to repeat your name and phone number for every call.”

According to Thompson, discounts typically average 40–50 percent, though some items sell for even less.

Among the big-ticket items expected to draw strong interest are a \$7,000 heating and cooling system and installation from Integrity Heating; a \$2,500 sofa and a \$1,500 power lift recliner with heat and massage from Florence Home Furniture; and a hotel, golf, and dining package valued at more than \$800 from Three Rivers Casino Resort.

The auction also features an extensive selection of additional items, including gift certificates to many of the area’s best restaurants; tools; a dining set; new sink faucets; paint; gift baskets; certificates for car repair, groceries, tax services, flooring, golf, and home repair, gardening, and maintenance services. Also included are baskets from Capt’n Meier’s Liquor Store, flowers, and attraction passes for Sea Lion Caves, C&M Stables, City Lights Cinema, and Wildlife Safari. Lodging certificates include stays at the River House Inn, Best

Western Pier Point Inn, and Hotel Florentine, a unique boutique hotel and recent addition to the area.

The auction airs on KCST 106.9 FM and KCFM AM 1250/FM 104.1/FM 103.1, with regular programming on both stations suspended during bidding. “We keep three items active on the block at any one time,” Thompson said. “We describe them, invite bidders to call, and after a few minutes, we close them out.”

The station operates a dedicated phone room with multiple lines and operators to take bids and record sales.

Winning bidders must pick up their items at the Coast Radio Studios, located at 4480 Highway 101, within ten days during regular business hours. Payment can be made by cash, local check, or debit or credit card.

With a wide range of items typically valued between \$50 and \$1,000, the Coast Radio Auction offers something for nearly every budget — and a fun way to support local broadcasting.

FRAA hosts Art Lab Weekend

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) invites the community to experience a vibrant weekend of creativity, culture, and coastal flavor at Art Lab, taking place Friday, February 14, from 12:00–5:00 pm, and Saturday, February 15, from 11:00 am–3:00 pm, at FRAA’s Creative Center, 1458 1st Street, Old Town, Florence.

Art Lab is a hands-on arts experience featuring live art demonstrations, interactive activities, and a welcoming, creative atmosphere for all ages. Guests are encouraged to observe artists at work, ask questions, and try creative processes themselves. Refreshments will be provided, making it an easy and enjoyable stop for individuals, families, and visitors alike.

In addition to the art experiences, Art Lab coincides with several Florence Area Chamber of Commerce-sponsored events, adding even more reasons to make a weekend of it. Participants can enjoy the popular Wine Walk, featuring RainSong Vineyards, explore the Glass Float



Trail, and cap off the weekend on Sunday with the Chowder Trail where FRAA’s Creative Center will host five chowder tastes.

“Art Lab is about bringing people together through creativity and community,” said Tracey Miller, FRAA President. “By pairing hands-on art experiences with beloved local events, we’re creating a weekend that celebrates Florence’s vibrant arts and culture scene.”

Art Lab is open to the public, family-friendly, and designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and connection.

FRAA’s Art Gallery at 120 Maple Street, is also participating by hosting Bluebird Hill Cellars and a Glass Float.

For more information about Art Lab and upcoming FRAA programs, visit Florence Regional Arts Alliance or follow FRAA on social media.

35TH

From Page A1

condition. The final step was to install all of the thermoplastic roadway markings such as new crosswalk markings and replacement of stop bars.

The community can now enjoy a new, safer pedestrian route along 35th Street from Siano Loop to Oak Street.

The pedestrian improvements were made thanks to a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation’s “Safe Routes to School” program. The project added sidewalks added to the south side of 35th Street between Siano Loop (Rolling Dunes Park) and Kingwood Street, and to both the north and south sides of 35th Street between Kingwood and Oak.

CENTER

From Page A1

page, “founded in 2008, BestMed, formerly known as Nova Health, is a leading provider of Urgent Care and Primary Care services in the Western United States.”

Davis clarified that the buyout language was also somewhat confusing.

“It’s not actually that we are buying Nova Health out, but they are buying us out,” he said. “Nova Health had a five-year deal with the dentist who owned the building. In that contract, they had no buyout clause so they were on the

hook for paying pretty high rent amounts every month, even though they are not in the building.”

Davis said when the County bought the building, Nova was asked for a status update, since it technically still had a contract with the state.

“They agreed that a buyout would be preferable but there wasn’t a clause for that in the contract,” he said, explaining that the County agreed to look into options. “We gave them a significant deal, a reduction in the buyout, so they bought out the remaining lease at a discount, which is pretty common.” Davis called it a “win/win” because the county will get some money from a private entity and

Nova isn’t on the hook for about \$500,000 in expected costs.

Davis said that money will be diverted back into the treatment center project, and the county will be looking at ways to use extra space in the building for additional county services.

He said county staff are also looking at other measures to mitigate potential impacts on other businesses and neighbors. He said staff will also be meeting with a group of parents from the Wildflower Montessori school, which is located across Highway 101 from the site.

Dates for the upcoming meetings and presentations have yet to be scheduled.

UPDATES

From Page A1

as SRO since the start of the 2020 school year after completing Basic SRO training. During her time in the schools, she built strong relationships with students and staff and played a key role in expanding ALICE

training, launching a Youth Police Academy, teaching a Forensics class, and coordinating the Department’s annual Christmas gift giveaway. Her work has greatly contributed to the success and growth of the SRO program.

Officer Chris Snyder has been assigned as the Department’s new School Resource Officer.

Officer Snyder joined the Florence Police Department in 2022, completed Basic SRO training in 2023, and has served as a backup SRO. He has worked closely with Officer Coons to prepare for the role and has long expressed interest in serving in this position. Officer Snyder has children who attend schools within the

Siuslaw School District, giving him a unique perspective and added familiarity as he steps into the role.

The Florence Police Department looks forward to Officer Snyder continuing the success of the SRO program and further expanding its positive impact for students, the Siuslaw School District, and the community

POLICY

From Page A1

continues. “The City prides itself on a welcoming approach and small-town openness for all individuals, families, and businesses accessing the Oregon Coast. The City works to uphold the

quality of life and sense of security for Florence residents, impacting the City’s ability to foster a truly livable community.”

THE RESOLUTION STATES:

The City Council feels it is important for our community to understand how the City interacts with the public on this

topic.

The Florence Police Department does not enforce federal immigration laws and we will continue to follow State laws regarding immigration. Oregon Revised Statute 181A.820 states that “No law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws.”

The City of Florence Police Department’s Policy Manual has a policy in place that states “this department does not participate in routine immigration investigation and enforcement activities.” And “members

shall treat all individuals equally and without regard to race, color or national origin in any way that would violate the United States or Oregon Constitutions.” The City is committed to uphold this policy and Oregon State law and to treat each person with their due respect and dignity.

The City Council encourages our State and Federal elected officials to continue to work on solutions related to immigration regulations, process, and enforcement.

More information about Florence Public Safety and the City’s Immigration and Non-Enforcement Policy can be found at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/842/Immigration-and-Non-Enforcement-Policy>.

Materials for both the January 8, 2026, Work Session and the February 2, 2026, City Council Meeting can be accessed from the City’s Agenda Center, <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/AgendaCenter>.



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CAMERAS

From Page B1

constitutional violations.

The committee is looking at creating rules about who can access the camera data, requirements that camera data be encrypted, requirements that vendors who sell the cameras do not have the ability to see the data, and a yet to be determined maximum period of data retention in the system.

“There was also a part of the legislative chair they were looking at that would have a civil penalty against agencies that don’t follow the law, and also civil penalties against vendors that don’t follow this law,” he said.

Pitcher said the committee says it’s close to presenting a bill to the state.

FAQ AND ANSWERS

Pitcher said Florence Police Department does regular audits of Flock camera searches conducted by its officers and Oregon State Police officers. A network audit looks at all agencies that have access to FPD cameras. He said he can then see the name of the agency, the reason for the inquiry and the related crime.

“It doesn’t mean that anything was picked up on our cameras,” he said. “I have talked to Flock, and they are looking at creating a way that agencies will know if their camera resulted in a hit that was put out by another agency.” He said two weekly audits occur, conducted by himself and his lieutenant.

Pitcher said the most common questions he gets are about the number of cameras in Florence, who has liability for any misuse or mistakes related to them and what other law enforcement agencies can access them.

Pitcher said Prozanski’s committee is considering 21 to 30 days of data retention before it’s deleted. Some law enforcement agencies are asking for 180 days, since some agencies hold the data longer. FPD currently has a 30-day storage policy.

In response to a common question, Pitcher said Flock will accept liability for anything conducted by itself or its system.

“We have liability for anything we do that’s inappropriate, he said. “If another agency does something inappropriate, somehow with our equipment, they are liable.”

He said others have asked what would happen if a Flock camera in Florence misreads a license plate and leads to the false arrest of a citizen.

“That’s a misunderstanding of how the system works,” he said, adding that if another agency is using Florence’s camera, that look-up will be related to a crime that occurred in their area, not here.

Pitcher recalled an incident last year where a murder suspect was accidentally released from jail in Multnomah County. He said officers in that area used Flock to do a statewide search for that vehicle and its license plate.

“They were not here to make an immediate arrest. They came down after they saw it, made contact with us and requested we help locate this murder suspect,” he said. “They did, and they found him, but again, any image that Flock gets is one piece of evidence in the case.”



He said the images help determine probable cause of whether or not to make an arrest, but the images alone are not probable cause to do so.

“We cannot use Flock as a confirmation to do anything,” he said. Pitcher explained that if a Flock search shows a reportedly stolen vehicle passes a camera, the captured image alone is not cause to pull it over and arrest the occupants.

“If an officer gets behind [the car], we still have to use our law enforcement data systems, which are considerably more powerful, to confirm it’s a stolen vehicle, or not, before they take action.”

Regarding outside agency sharing, Pitcher said his department only shares Flock data with in-state law enforcement agencies.

He said that when Flock started, data was available to all law enforcement agencies, regardless of state laws. He said the system was later adjusted to suit state laws. Pitcher added that because of certain laws, local police departments cannot share data with federal law enforcement agencies.

After answering some technical questions about the system, Pitcher said that while other Lane County agencies have canceled their Flock cameras, many other law enforcement agencies in Oregon still use them. He said Springfield Police Chief Jami Resch has expressed that she plans to use ALPR cameras, whether through Flock or another vendor. He noted that Eugene stopped using them after a camera that had been shut off turned itself back on for a maintenance alert.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker Phung Van said that while the council has received extensive public input that Flock is not a trustworthy company, that input has been ignored.

“Flock says they don’t sell data, but they sell subscriptions to data,” she said. “Flock says they don’t share data, but their partners like Amazon do.” Saying that data from the cameras is stored on Amazon’s AWS cloud, Van said the Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also contract with the AWS cloud and use the system to track and arrest people.

Van said one Florence Police Flock audit was examined by Rob Wells, and found to show only 2 percent of searches were made by FPD, while the remaining 98 percent were made by outside agencies.

She said the town of Winston made 1,495 searches of FPD’s Flock cameras, while FPD made 86 in the same time frame.

She asserted that an investigation needs to

be conducted into why a town 100 miles from Florence conducted so many searches, and that the city simply stop using the cameras.

“These invasive flock cameras are an open window for all to see and to potentially exploit our families, friends and neighbors, she said. “We do not consent for our data to be collected or shared with other agencies. Having these Flock cameras does not enhance public safety.”

Speaker Joe Matthews said contracting with Flock, when it has shared its data with ICE and others, does not protect communities but puts them at risk.

“Florence is not Minneapolis, but it easily could be,” he said, asserting that DHS has shown they will act with disregard for local leadership, and Florence is not immune.

“Your job as City Council members is to consult with one another and listen to the community and then make decisions that best represent the interests of everyone,” he said, noting the city had done so through public outreach. “But the other half of this equation is remembering that it’s OK to change your mind, especially if the evidence you see warrants it.” He questioned why the police department has such a need for cameras it once did fine without. Matthews called it common sense to remove the cameras from Florence.

Maggie Bagon urged the council to end the City’s contract with Flock, which she said “is building a nationwide surveillance infrastructure.” She said mass surveillance always expands beyond its intended use.

“It’s used by ICE to carry out the abusive and immoral removal programs,” she said. “It has also been used against people who seek abortions where it is illegal in the state.” She said the cameras are being used by data brokers and against legal protesters. She said the Electronic Frontier Foundation found 12 million searches related to political demonstrations and targeting specific activists. She said the system is being used to target specific people and immigrants, threaten reproductive rights.

Speaker Justin Ludwig said that while people may choose to have cameras in their homes, the people of Florence also want, and deserve, to have the choice.

“It’s their government,” he said. We want transparency, and a transparency portal doesn’t provide that, just because it’s named ‘transparency.’” He said police cannot confirm what happens to data after 30 days.

He asked why a bidding process never took place

with Flock.

“Responsible law enforcement in Lane County has already thought this through,” he said, “and the state legislator is working on this. Our request to cancel Flock is not unreasonable, it’s following precedent.” He said a cancellation of the contract would also save the city subscription costs, liability and repair costs should a camera be damaged.

He said that while officers can use Flock for 30 days, it cannot be verified what will happen to it after that.

“Lowering the data retention to 72 hours doesn’t fix that,” Ludwig said, adding that news reports have said Flock was able to circumvent Sanctuary State laws.

“Everyone wants public safety, and our police department can provide excellent public safety without relying on a vendor that has practices that have raised such widespread concern,” he said. “If you must keep ALPR technology, I urge you to immediately direct city staff to begin a robust bidding process, consider several different companies.”

Staff noted that the city also received 38 public comments, which are available on the City website.

BACK TO COUNCIL

Councilor Sally Wantz made a motion to stop using Flock, saying, “I trust our police department completely- period, no question. However, DHS and ICE are untrustworthy. I don’t want to give any possibility of retrieving information from our cameras. It’s just a matter of time before they try to get into our Flock system. I don’t want to subject our citizens to that possibility. I wish to err on the side of caution and respectfully request all cameras be turned off immediately and we cancel our contract with Flock immediately.” Councilor Jo Beaudreau seconded the motion.

Before a vote was taken, Council President Robert Carp said safety is the paramount concern of his decisions.

“I do not take this issue lightly and have considered all the input and the research,” he said. “We have checks and balances in place for this safety tool. That’s what it is- simply a safety tool. People can spin this in any direction they care to. That only divides and hurts our community. I can see the value of enhanced safety for the community.”

Councilor Beaudreau said Flock is a private company with no accountability.

“We can’t be certain they follow laws,” she said. “They have horrendous security measures. You wouldn’t even have a bank account with them because you don’t need

to authenticate yourself. Some users may have really great guidelines, and we have great police within our communities, but that doesn’t mean its the same in other jurisdictions.” Beaudreau said she was concerned that the city could be liable for what other jurisdictions do.

“I have faith in our local police, I would like to make that clear,” she said. “Flock is only as good as the network it has, and many people have already abandoned this platform and this company. I am afraid for our tourists who won’t want to come visit. We are a tourist town, and we thrive on our guests here, and I would like to honor them.” Beaudreau said she’d spoken to people outside the area who don’t want to visit because of the cameras.

“As an elected, I am here to serve you, my community,” she said. “I don’t want to be an enemy, and government works for us, and this is a way we can help work for each other. I believe that in voting against Flock, it’s not a vote against safety and our police...”

After a murmur in the audience, Beaudreau said she’s concerned about issues Flock has had and understands that changes must be made when issues come up.

“But this is absolutely egregious,” she said. “I was already very concerned about this in the beginning of voting this in, and things have drastically changed since a year ago when we were talking about this and had our draft camera working ... With that information, it sounded fantastic. It was a really great, candy-coated story, and now things have really changed around the country. I really hope my fellow councilors will recognize that.” She said funding was also a concern, concluding, “I don’t think Flock is an appropriate choice for our community.”

Councilor Mike Webb noted that the city recently approved an increase in its public safety fee to pay for police services.

“Now we’re talking about removing one of the most efficient tools they have to save manpower,” he said. “There’s a lot of spin about Flock itself. There’s spin about Amazon Web Services, which is used by a lot of companies with a lot of very sensitive information. I think this has become way too political. I support continuing to keep the Flock cameras in action, and I think the locations for the cameras in the community at the perimeter of the community

helps keep our people safe. I don’t think this takes anything away from tourism, unless you’re considering tourism of the wrong kind. I think that having a camera safety system in a community like this is more important than you know. When you look at the prevalence of these cameras around the country, there are some 80,000 of them. They’re indicating that they help solve some 70,000 crimes a year, just Flock. Taking that tool away when the cost for a human trying to do the same thing is minimal, so I strongly support continuing the Flock system.”

Mayor Rob Ward’s only comment was to vote no, along with Carp and Webb, thereby continuing the use of the cameras in Florence. Ward took a moment to regain order in the room as many attendees yelled and left the chambers.

A MOTION WAS THEN MADE TO THE CONTRARY.

After some debate over the redundancy of voting to continue an already continuing contract, the opposite vote occurred. Webb, Carp and Ward voted to continue the contract with Flock Safety, but to adjust to any future changes made by the state legislature and to keep the 30-day data retention period.

FROM THE CITY

According to a City release issued the day after the decision, since April 2024, the City of Florence has installed six total Flock Safety ALPR cameras, with the last two installed in January 2026.

“ALPR cameras are a tool to help enhance public safety by giving real-time alerts on incidents such as Amber Alert, Silver Alert, Missing Person, Stolen Vehicle, and Stolen Plates. Florence Police Department is able to receive alerts and help identify suspects by entering license plates or descriptions of vehicles associated with criminal activity or endangered persons on a local level,” it read. “The system captures still images only of license plates and vehicle characteristics, and does not record video footage. The camera is used as one of the Police Department’s tools in solving and reducing property and violent crime, and not intended for minor traffic or parking violations.”

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

FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE WEEK





2217 HIGHWAY 101

One-of-a-kind iconic Geodesic Dome located in the heart of Florence with 120 ft. of Hwy 101 frontage and ample off-street parking. Zoning is H (Highway District). New roof with extensive treatment/preservation in 2019. Recent interior paint. Small office space with an additional kitchen, storage, receiving room. Ample second story with full bath. **\$600,000.** CB#12675A/ MLS#: 24201071



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<div>87650 SALTAIRE ST.</div> <div><div>NEW</div></div> <div>Spacious one owner Idlewood home. Hardwood floors & new carpet. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1490 SF.</div> <div>\$520,000</div>	<div>1612 34TH ST.</div> <div><div>NEW</div><div>SALE PENDING</div></div> <div>Retro manufactured home. Multiple sheds. Zoning allows multiple dwellings. 1 Bed/1 Bath, 470 SF</div> <div>\$149,900</div>	<div>94671 JOHNSON RD. MARCOLA</div> <div><div>NEW</div></div> <div>5 acres of privacy! New HVAC system. Cherry wood floors. Floor to ceiling fireplace. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 1470 SF</div> <div>\$675,000</div>	<div>1651 29TH ST.</div> <div><div>NEW</div></div> <div>Completely remodeled in 2012 and move-in ready! Large fenced yard + covered patio. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 1076 SF.</div> <div>\$390,000</div>	
<div>5270 NOPAL ST.</div> <div></div> <div>Like new. Former model home-never lived in. Quiet neighborhood. 3 Bed/2 Bath. 1404 SF</div> <div>\$398,000</div>	<div>4817 LAGUNA AVE. WESTLAKE</div> <div></div> <div>Gated Coastal lake retreat on .46 acre lot + RV garage. 3 Bed/1 Bath, 1064 SF.</div> <div>\$395,000</div>	<div>6651 TWIN FAWN DR.</div> <div></div> <div>Enjoy Mercer Lake views and community lake access across the street. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2008 SF</div> <div>\$587,000</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</div> <div>\$398,000</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.</div> <div>\$635,000</div>
<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</div> <div>\$310,000</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.</div> <div>\$484,000</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</div> <div>\$799,000</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</div> <div>\$439,000</div>	<div>2014 ROYAL ST. GEORGES DR.</div> <div></div> <div>Charming townhome w/ hardwood floors and fireplace. In sought after golf course community. 1 Bed/1 Bath, 921 SF</div> <div>\$399,500</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</div> <div>\$314,997</div>	<div>4948 OCEANA DR.</div> <div></div> <div>Surrounded by lush vegetation for privacy. Hardwood floors and built-ins throughout. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1568 SF</div> <div>\$459,900</div>	<div>289 HARBOR ST.</div> <div></div> <div>Charming home in Old Town with upstairs apt. One block from the marina. 2 Bed/2.5 Bath, 1752 SF.</div> <div>\$495,000</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</div> <div>\$739,500</div>	<div>427 DATE ST. DRAIN</div> <div></div> <div>Fully restored historic home in the heart of Drain. Modern updates. Extra deep garage. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1416 SF.</div> <div>\$395,900</div>
<div>2230 KINGWOOD ST.</div> <div></div> <div>Rare & coveted income opportunity! Leased thru 3/31/2028. Professional office interior. 4900 SF.</div> <div>\$625,000</div>	<div>2217 HWY 101</div> <div></div> <div>Building for sale. 120 FT of Highway frontage & ample off street parking.</div> <div>\$600,000</div>	<div>1576 12TH ST.</div> <div><div>PRICE REDUCED</div></div> <div>Spacious and versatile commercial property in prime central location. Former SOS building.</div> <div>\$565,000</div>	<div>1277 BAY STREET</div> <div></div> <div>Rare offering. Quaint Bay St. building currently rented. Prime location in Restaurant Row. Shown by appt. only.</div> <div>\$392,500</div>	



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Tide Table

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11	
High.....	6:33 a.m.....6.9
Low.....	2:37 p.m.....1.5
High.....	10:14 p.m.....5.2
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12	
Low.....	1:32 a.m.....4.8
High.....	7:49 a.m.....7.0
Low.....	3:37 p.m.....1.0
High.....	10:54 p.m.....5.6
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13	
Low.....	3:00 a.m.....4.7
High.....	8:57 a.m.....7.2
Low.....	4:23 p.m.....0.6
High.....	11:22 p.m.....5.9
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14	
Low.....	4:00 a.m.....4.2
High.....	9:50 a.m.....7.5
Low.....	5:01 p.m.....0.1
High.....	11:47 p.m.....6.3
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15	
Low.....	4:47 a.m.....3.7
High.....	10:35 a.m.....7.8
Low.....	5:34 p.m.....0.2
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16	
High.....	12:12 a.m.....6.6
Low.....	5:29 a.m.....3.1
High.....	11:16 a.m.....7.9
Low.....	6:05 p.m.....0.4
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17	
High.....	12:37 a.m.....7.0
Low.....	6:08 a.m.....2.5
High.....	11:56 a.m.....7.9
Low.....	6:35 p.m.....0.4
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18	
High.....	1:02 a.m.....7.3
Low.....	6:47 a.m.....1.9
High.....	12:36 p.m.....7.8
Low.....	7:04 p.m.....0.2
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19	
High.....	1:28 a.m.....7.7
Low.....	7:27 a.m.....1.4
High.....	1:19 p.m.....7.5
Low.....	7:34 p.m.....0.2
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20	
High.....	1:55 a.m.....8.0
Low.....	8:08 a.m.....1.0
High.....	12:05 p.m.....7.1
Low.....	8:05 p.m.....0.8
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21	
High.....	2:25 a.m.....8.2
Low.....	8:54 a.m.....0.7
High.....	2:55 p.m.....6.6
Low.....	8:38 p.m.....1.5
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22	
High.....	2:58 a.m.....8.3
Low.....	9:45 a.m.....0.6
High.....	3:52 p.m.....6.0
Low.....	9:14 p.m.....2.4
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23	
High.....	3:37 a.m.....8.3
Low.....	10:45 a.m.....0.6
High.....	5:03 p.m.....5.4
Low.....	9:56 p.m.....3.2
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24	
High.....	4:25 a.m.....8.1
Low.....	11:58 a.m.....0.6
High.....	6:36 p.m.....5.1
Low.....	10:55 p.m.....3.9
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25	
High.....	5:28 a.m.....7.9
Low.....	1:19 p.m.....0.5
High.....	8:27 p.m.....5.2
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26	
Low.....	12:29 a.m.....4.4
High.....	6:50 a.m.....7.7
Low.....	2:35 p.m.....0.2
High.....	9:48 p.m.....5.7
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27	
Low.....	2:13 a.m.....4.3
High.....	8:14 a.m.....7.7
Low.....	3:38 p.m.....0.2
High.....	10:37 p.m.....6.2

Siuslaw boys' Far West battle

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

The Vikings are around the halfway point of the season in the Far West League, and things are heating up as four teams compete for the top two spots.

At about the midpoint of the season, Vikings' Head Coach Dylan Perry said it's all about executing what they've been practicing to the highest level they can each night.

"Our league is full of really good teams, and we need to be at our best every night if we want to win," Perry said. "When we don't execute those things, such as rebounding and hitting open shots, it makes it very hard to beat our league opponents."

In particular, Perry said one of the biggest challenges is maintaining composure and execution when playing away from home. Going away to another team's gym brings a lot of uncontrollable factors, and keeping a level head and steady hand is harder when on the road and facing opposing



fans. In non-tournament away games this season, Siuslaw is 2-4, with two of those games being decided by just two points, and one loss coming in overtime against Douglas.

"Playing on the road is always a tough challenge as far as travel, hostile crowds, and biased officials. It becomes even more pertinent that we execute on the road as the odds are already

stacked against us," Perry said.

With five games remaining on the schedule, Siuslaw sat in fourth behind Sutherlin (3-2), South Umpqua (4-1), and Douglas (5-0). At the time of press, results from Siuslaw's Feb. 6 and Feb. 10 games against Sutherlin and Coquille are unknown. The game against Sutherlin had massive implications for league

position, so check OSAA.org for the most updated information. With only two teams advancing automatically from the Far West, each game is critical, and the Vikings will need to finish strong to have a chance at a spot in the playoffs.

Heading into the game against Sutherlin, Siuslaw was hoping to shake off the disappointment of a heartbreaking loss to Douglas. The Trojans have been the class of the league so far this season, and the game was always going to provide a stiff test.

For much of the game, it looked like Siuslaw had the answers.

The Vikings played the Trojans close throughout the game, rebounding after a slow start to push Douglas to the brink. After trailing 5-11 after the first quarter, Siuslaw caught fire, scoring 23 points in the second to cut the lead to two, 28-30, at halftime.

The Vikings continued to pour on the pressure in the third, outscoring the league leaders 16-9 in the period, heading into the fourth

quarter with a 44-39 lead. Jericho Lake turned in another stellar performance, pouring in 16 points, including three three-pointers. Senior Micah Blankenship also had the hot hand from deep, scoring two three-pointers and finishing with 15 points.

In the fourth, Douglas dug deep and brought the game back. With the Vikings leading by five with less than two minutes on the clock, the Trojans went on a clutch 7-2 run to send the game to overtime tied at 54-54. Once in the extra period, Douglas pulled away, outscoring Siuslaw 9-2, and avoiding an upset win 63-56.

In a frenzied game on the road, late-game execution just wasn't enough to get the Vikings over the hump. Despite that loss, Siuslaw's two preceding league wins are enough to keep the Vikings squarely in the mix, and a narrow loss to the first-place Trojans is not the end of the world.

Siuslaw will need to rebound quickly to keep its hopes of a spot in the state playoffs alive.

Siuslaw girls grab first win

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

After barely missing out on a first league win against Glide on Jan. 30, the Siuslaw girls basketball team carried the momentum from their near comeback to a Far West League victory against Douglas on Feb. 3.

While getting that elusive first win is a weight off the Vikings' shoulders, Head Coach Amanda Richards said finally getting it was "bittersweet."

"Our first league win was bittersweet and a long time coming," Richards said. "These girls work incredibly hard, and I truly wish their effort showed more clearly in our record."

The win brought Siuslaw to 1-4 in the Far West and 6-14. While it isn't a record emblematic of the full scope of Richards' squad, the win did mark a significant milestone for the Vikings. With that win, Siuslaw matched the highest overall win total it has had since the 2016-2017 season, when the Vikings finished 6-17, according to OSAA.org. For a team that finished 3-21 a year ago, the Vikings' growth is evident.

In the matchup with Glide, the seeds of Siuslaw's following win were sewn. Trailing 25-13, the Vikings mounted a furious comeback, scoring nine unanswered points to bring the game within

three points. Freshman Pearl Jensen led the way for Siuslaw, scoring nine points in the game to lead the Vikings. Another freshman, Ryleigh Panschow, showed plenty of grit during the game, dominating the glass to collect 11 rebounds to go with five points.

Siuslaw saved its best quarter for last, amping up the defense and doubling Glide's scoring output in the period. The Vikings won the fourth 12-6, but couldn't quite get over the hump, and lost 27-24. Siuslaw hustled hard, grabbing 43 rebounds and 18 steals, but couldn't quite turn the extra possessions into an advantage on the scoreboard. After coming so close, Siuslaw

finally put it all together in their next game.

Heading on the road, the Vikings took on Douglas on Feb. 3. This time, the Vikings were the ones to build an early lead, and they closed out the 34-23 win in style.

After an even start, the Vikings broke out ahead. Behind 10-8, Siuslaw seized control of the game, going on a decisive 16-0 run. Nine of those points were scored in the second quarter, where Siuslaw maintained a shutout and prized the game from the balance.

"Defensively, the girls held Douglas to zero points in the second quarter," Richards said. "I have always believed that our defense is our

greatest strength, and this game reinforced that belief."

Offensively, Pearl Jensen again had a productive night, putting up 10 points and knocking down two of Siuslaw's four three-pointers. Also grabbing baskets in the win were Aidell Cadet (6 points), Ryleigh Panschow (5 points), Maren Hughes (4 points), McKenzie Ulrich (3 points), Avey Hulet (2 points), Claire McNeill (2 points), and Maely Chiang (2 points). Seven of Siuslaw's players scored at least two points, a testament to their depth, and one highlight of the game was that everyone on the team had a chance

See **GIRLS**, Page B3

Pop-Up Boutique Sale to benefit animals at Oregon Coast Humane Society

From OCHS

Shoppers can find unique treasures while making a lifesaving difference for local animals at the Oregon Coast Humane Society's upcoming Pop-Up Boutique fundraiser, taking place over two special weekends in February at the Vintage House, next to the OCHS Thrift Store.

The boutique will be open Friday, February 13 through Sunday, February 15, and

again Friday, February 20 through Sunday, February 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The Vintage House is located at 1179 Bay Street in Florence.

The OCHS Thrift Store team has been carefully saving high-end, specialty, and one-of-a-kind items specifically for this event. Shoppers can browse a curated selection of quality clothing, shoes, accessories, and other distinctive finds, with new merchandise added

throughout both weekends to keep the selection fresh.

Every purchase supports the animals and go directly toward providing food, shelter, and medical care for the dogs and cats served by Oregon Coast Humane Society, which relies on community support to fund its lifesaving work.

During the first weekend, Florence Forward, a group of young professionals in partnership with the Florence Chamber of Commerce,

will add to the fun by hosting a pet food drive and offering pet photos at the Vintage House. Local photographer Stephanie Ford will capture photos of pets and their people for a suggested donation of \$20, with proceeds benefiting the animals at OCHS.

"Special events like the Pop-Up Boutique are an important way our community comes together to support local animals," said OCHS Executive Director Elizabeth Thompson.

"Every purchase, donation, and photo helps ensure we can continue providing compassionate care to pets in need."

Community members are encouraged to shop, donate pet food, and bring their furry friends for photos while supporting a great cause.

For more information about the Pop-Up Boutique or Oregon Coast Humane Society, visit www.oregoncoast-humanesociety.org or stop by the OCHS Thrift Store.



Windermere Real Estate
Florence Oregon

The 2025 Florence, Oregon Real Estate
Market Review is now available.

This complimentary report breaks down median sold price, price per square foot, total units sold, and average days on market—by area throughout

Florence and the surrounding communities.

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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD.
WATCH SIUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday)
5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Bryan Mehlhoff attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday)
12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
• Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

Contact Bob for more information:
(H) 541-997-6626 • (C) 541-999-4239
47maribob38@gmail.com

**Cross Road
Assembly of God**

Sunday 9:00
1st Service in person
Sunday 11:00
2nd Service in person & Online
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(0yrs-12yrs)
in person & Online
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541-997-3533



Community Briefs

Rhododendron Speaker Kieth White

The local Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is proud to have Dr. Keith White as speaker at our monthly meeting on February 17th. With 40 years on the Board of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and presently its president, Dr. White is imminently qualified.

He has trekked throughout Southeast Asia searching for that elusive species while appreciating the hundreds of varieties already found. Having traveled to China and Tibet four times each and Sikkim twice, he discovered species not seen before. Steve Hootman, director of the Rhododendron Botanical Species Foundation, and Peter Cox, world renowned botanist, hybridizer and plant explorer, accompanied Keith several times.

Always enthusiastic about sharing his love of Rhododendrons and exploration, his entertaining and knowledgeable presentations continue to entertain. This presentation will about one of his trips to China and Tibet.

Also, don't forget about the Home and Garden Show on the 28th of February and the 1st of March. As always, we will have a plant drawing give-away every hour and Rhodies for sale and a knowledgeable staff to answer questions. Plan on attending this fun community event.

Remember, our meeting will be on February 17th at the Siuslaw Community Presbyterian Church on Hwy 101. Doors open at 6:30 for visiting and snacking on sweet treats. Meeting commences at 7:00.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Day Farrald, at 541-579-5544 or day817@outlook.com. Hope to see you there.

Basket of Bliss at FUUF

Join Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's 2nd Annual Baskets of Bliss — a music, wine, and chocolate gala just in time for Valentine's Day!

Friday, February 13, 2026 5:30–8 p.m. 87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road

Enjoy a delightful pre-Valentine's Day evening featuring:

- Silent Auction with beautifully curated Baskets of Bliss
- Live Music — love songs through the ages with Jeff Lovejoy & Christine Frances
- Endless Chocolate Fountain (always a

crowd-pleaser!)

- One complimentary beverage included with admission

Tickets:

- \$10 in advance
- \$15 at the door Space is limited.

To purchase tickets in advance, email flor-ence.unitarian@gmail.com for instructions.

This is the perfect opportunity to spend time with that special person—or enjoy a fun night out with friends. All proceeds benefit FUUF and KXCR Community Radio.

Practicing Resilience

Resilience is not the strength of a single blade of grass, but the quiet wisdom of a living garden. Join us this Sunday, February 15th, as we consider how resilience arises when we loosen our collective grip on what no longer nourishes our common life, trusting the sacred work of release and renewal amid the ever-changing currents of our time. We also hope you'll enjoy the beautiful music from Christine Frances.

Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road
Doors open at 9:30am; program begins at 10:00am

Everyone is welcome to join us

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

Valentine's Day Weekend Chamber Concert

The Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra will present a chamber concert series on Valentine's Day weekend. Members of the OCCO and friends will perform a variety of light classical and popular music for small ensembles. Perfect for your Valentine's Day plans.

Friday, February 13, 7 PM: Yachats Community Presbyterian Church

Saturday, February 14, 3 PM: Presbyterian Community Church, Florence

Performances are free and open to all!

February at Backstreet Gallery

Put the art in heART with Backstreet Gallery for an exciting month of activities. Every donation of a canned food or pantry item earns a ticket for a Valentine's Basket drawing on February 14 at 4. p.m.

The Florence Wine and Glass Float Trail takes place February 14-15. Enjoy tasting fine wine from J Scott Cellars, which is returning to serve wine and offer bottles of wine for

sale. Search for the glass float that will be hiding among the beautiful art work. That float could be yours.

The winter show, "Out of the Box," is on display through February. This show is composed of work by Gallery members that is not what they were juried in for. So, expect unique surprises fashioned from clay, felt, mixed-media assemblages, glass sculptures, and much more—including taxidermy and foam rubber!

Don't miss this month of fun! Happy Valentine's Day from Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay Street, open daily from 11a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two-day February Book Sale

If you love books and love your Library, then the Friends of the Library big two-day February Book Sale is for you! Sale dates are Saturday, Feb. 21 from 10am to 4 pm and Sunday, Feb. 22 from 10am to 3 p.m. in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 9th Street, in Florence

As usual the books are priced to sell. Hardbacks and trade paperbacks are only \$1.00 each and pocket size paperbacks are even better at 50 cents each. Fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, gardening, photography, sports, history and crafts books abound .Sometimes even collectible books or sets are available.

As always, we will have our sturdy, washable canvas totes with custom art by a local artist. They are convenient, not just for books but groceries, gardening tools, beach towels and other bits of miscellany. \$10.00 empty, or \$15.00 to stuff with as many books, CDs, DVDs and audio books as you are able. Also, custom made "bag tags" with embroidered figures made by local needlework artist Sue Andrews will be available.

Remember too: Current members of the Friends of the Library can get in early on Saturday from 9am to 10am for a special "Pre-Sale" event. \$10 yearly memberships are available at the door. And, as an added bonus, the \$3 per bag sale will be extended to all day Sunday!

The Friends of the Siuslaw Library is a 501 (c) (3), all volunteer non-profit organization and all profits from book sales are used to benefit the Library in its mission. Book Sales are the major source of revenue for the Friends, along with donations.

For more information, please contact the Friends at siuslawlibraryfriends@gmail.com



Friendship - Fellowship – Fun FAITH DIRECTORY

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

BAHA'I FAITH OF FLORENCE
"What is Baha'i, and Why?" 2nd Monday 7:00 pm
Interfaith Devotions 4th Monday 7:00 pm
Info and meeting location: 541-590-0779
Zoom link on Facebook: Florence Baha'i Community
All ARE WELCOME!

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

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

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2nd & Ivy - 541-997-2961 - Non-Denominational
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at florencechurch.com

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www.florenceoregonumc.org
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Online services available on our FaceBook, YouTube,
and website: www.florencenewlifelutheran.org

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Representatives introduce law to ban federal masks

From The Offices Of
Representative FARRAH CHAICHI,
Senator KHANH PHAM, SENATOR
JAMES MANNING and
Representative THUY TRAN

Legislation would ban masked law enforcement, require visible identification, and limit state cooperation with unconstitutional federal actions

On Jan.15, Representative Farrah Chaichi was joined by many of her colleagues and the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon as she spoke at the Federal Response Package press conference introducing the Law Enforcement Visibility & Accountability Act (LEAVA). Representative Chaichi along with Representatives Tran and Chotzen are championing this landmark legislation during the 2026 Short Session.

“Across the country, and here in Oregon, communities are experiencing a deliberate campaign of terror by masked federal agents conducting indiscriminate and violent immigration raids targeting ordinary Oregonians,” said Rep. Farrah Chachi (D-Beaverton/Aloha) “Although the challenges and threats of the Trump Administration are as extreme as they are brutal, we will continue to fight back. With LEAVA we can

begin to assert Oregon’s sovereignty against federal encroachment and limit the suffering it has caused in our communities.”

This bill is a response to the unprecedented assault and increased violence in the past year from federal agents targeting our most vulnerable neighbors, our civil rights, and our democratic way of life. The bill establishes a statewide policy that broadly prohibits law enforcement officers from wearing masks and other identity shielding face coverings. Every agency operating in Oregon—state, local, and federal—will be required to release to the public a policy outlining the implementation of this directive, with room to accommodate legitimate reasons for masking such as medical accommodations or undercover operations. LEAVA also requires agents to visibly identify the agency name under whose authority they are acting.

“The ability to identify law enforcement is paramount for transparency, accountability, and community trust,” said Rep. Thuy Tran (D-NE Portland). “I want to commend those local police divisions who have already established visibility policies. LEAVA will ensure every law enforcement official in Oregon meets similar requirements. When Oregonians

know how to differentiate between their local officers, federal agents, and potential bad actors, they will feel safer in our streets, be more likely to report crimes and support police in legal investigations.”

LEAVA will also prohibit any state or local body from knowingly and intentionally assisting in unconstitutional, discriminatory, or retaliatory federal activities, such as investigations of individuals exercising their rights to free speech, gathering in public, or filming officers in public spaces.

“Let us be clear. These actions by federal agents are un-American and contrary to Oregon’s values. Public confidence in local law enforcement is eroded when masks render it impossible to identify what law enforcement agency an individual works for,” said Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene).

To counter the Orwellian threat of our own law enforcement resources being used against us, LEAVA will increase transparency into joint task forces by making the terms of agreements public and setting clear limits on future agreements to protect the rights of Oregonians.

LEAVA is a step in our fight to confront the climate of fear created by the unchecked violence of masked federal agents in our communities.

AARP Tax-Aide sites provide free tax Prep to older adults

Older residents of Oregon can get expert help filing their taxes at no cost this tax season through AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation’s largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program, run by AARP Foundation, the charitable affiliate of AARP. Now open through April 15 throughout the state, Tax-Aide has served more than 82 million people nationwide since its launch in 1968. Last tax season, more than 28,300 volunteers helped over 1.7 million taxpayers secure more than \$1.3 billion in refunds and credits. Older adults with low income saved \$578 million with the help of Tax-Aide. The program is offered in conjunction with the IRS and open to all eligible taxpayers — no AARP membership is required to participate.

“During the 2025 tax

season alone, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers in Oregon completed more than 19,500 federal returns and 18,400 state returns with combined federal and state refunds of over \$26 million,” said AARP Oregon Communications Director Stacy Larsen. “Tax-Aide helps older adults get the refunds and credits they’ve earned, free of charge and with no hidden fees. For many on fixed incomes, that refund can make a real difference in covering everyday essentials, like food, utilities and medicine.”

Tax-Aide volunteers provide free tax preparation and filing services to those who qualify, with a focus on adults living with low to moderate income. Volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to ensure they understand the latest changes to the U.S. Tax

Code. That includes the new senior bonus deduction —up to \$6,000 for individuals age 65 and older, or \$12,000 for those filing jointly — a change AARP helped fight for.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers a variety of options to better meet the needs of taxpayers. Access to the different types of assistance varies by location and is subject to change.

- In-Person: Tax return prepared and filed by a certified volunteer in one visit.
- Drop Off: Leave documents at the site; return is prepared remotely. Pick up and file during a second visit.
- No Site Visit Required (Internet Access Required): Upload documents online; volunteers work with you remotely to prepare and file your return.
- Online Coaching:

Prepare your own return with remote support from a volunteer.

- Facilitated Self-Assistance: Schedule a site appointment to complete and file your own return with volunteer coaching
- Self-Preparation: Use Tax-Aide’s software to prepare your own return independently.

Users can find their nearest Tax-Aide location and assistance options through the Tax-Aide site locator. The site locator features a Tax-Aide chat bot that can help book an appointment, answer questions about the program, and transfer the conversation to a live agent if needed or requested. For more information, including which documents to bring to the tax site, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669).

GIRLS

From Page B1

to play.

“One especially impressive and notable takeaway was that all 12 players on the varsity roster saw meaningful playing time, and we were still able to maintain a very respectable lead,” Richards said. “That speaks volumes about the team’s depth and commitment.”

While getting the ball in the basket is important, making sure possessions end in shots is critical. Going into the game, Richards said the coaching staff challenged their team to limit turnovers and take care of the basketball.

“We have been averaging over 20 per game, and the girls rose to the challenge by cutting that number down to 14. While that is still too many, it was a clear

improvement overall,” Richards said. “We set a goal, and we met it.”

Results from Siuslaw’s Feb. 6 and Feb. 10 games against Sutherlin and Coquille are unknown at the time of press. With five games ahead of the team as of Feb. 5, Richards said the Vikings have several areas they’re emphasizing as they seek another win this winter.

“Moving forward, one area we will continue to work on is maintaining

intensity when we have a commanding lead. We relaxed at times and allowed Douglas to score some easy baskets,” Richards said. “Our focus will be on keeping our foot on the gas, maintaining pace, and closing games with the same intensity we start them.”

With one win under their belt in the Far West League, the Vikings will put their pedal to the medal as they wrap up the season.

HAVE FUN! BEACH SAFE!

BEWARE THE SNEAKER WAVE
They’re called sneaker waves because they appear without warning, often surging high up on the beach with deadly force, and are impossible to predict. Sneaker waves also carry a large amount of sand that can saturate your clothes, weighing you down and making escape difficult if not impossible.
How to play it safe: Never turn your back on the ocean.

WATCH THOSE LOGS
The ocean is strong enough to pick up even the biggest log and plop it down on top of you. Some logs may look small, but even the tiny ones can be waterlogged and weigh tons.
How to play it safe: If you see a log in the surf or on wet sand, stay off it.

RIP CURRENTS
Rip currents are strong currents of water that rush out to sea. They are stronger than even the best swimmer. These currents can swiftly sweep unwary beachcombers and waders off their feet and out to sea. Rip currents may appear as dark, choppy water. Any time you see debris and foam floating out to sea, chances are you have found a rip current. Avoid the area.
How to play it safe: Parents keep your kids close when playing in the ocean. If caught in a rip current, **don't panic**. Swim parallel to the beach until you are out of the current, then head for the beach.




KNOW THE TIDES
Incoming tides isolate rocks from headlands and the shore. Avoid the temptation of strolling out to an interesting rock without knowing when the tide rolls back in. Free tide tables are readily available at state park offices, information centers and many shops and motels.
How to play it safe: Stay off rocks and small, enclosed beaches.
Know when the tide is coming in by [visiting the tidetable website at the Hatfield Marine Science Center](http://weather.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html)
<http://weather.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/weather/tides/tides.html>


HIGH WAVES CAN REACH YOU
Tides and waves can sweep over rocks, jetties and headlands, knocking you off and carrying you out to sea.
How to play it safe: Assume nothing is “high enough” and avoid exposed rocks, jetties and headlands during strong wave action (like during and after storms).

BEWARE OF HIGH, STEEP CLIFFS
Assume that all cliff edges are unstable. Wet trails or soft sand and earth can make for unstable footing. Rocks can be slippery even when it isn't raining.
How to play it safe: Make sure you wear proper footwear, and stick to the trails. Stay behind guard fences and railings, and don't get too close to the edge.

HEADS UP
Standing at the base of an Oceanside cliff can be dangerous, especially if it has an overhang. In some places, winter storms and high waves have eroded the shoreline, increasing the chance of collapse and slides.
How to play it safe: Beware of falling rocks, and don't climb on bluffs and eroding hillsides. Don't walk along the base of cliffs unless absolutely necessary.


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ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK, WE'RE ASKING

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CITY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO KEEP THE FLOCK CAMERAS?

- I feel it was the wrong thing to do and I oppose it
- It was the right decision and I support it

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Creative Coloring
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Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

TLAAR

3		1		

LVIE

	2		7

PTYAR

4				5

TACRE

	6			

	H	
1		2

H				
	3	4	4	5

	O	U			
6			4	7	2

Answer: A wedding

Answers: Altar, Veil, Party, Cater, The Happy Couple

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1837: Richard Johnson becomes the first and only Vice President of the United States chosen by the Senate.

1910: The Boy Scouts of America is incorporated by William D. Boyce.

1960: The Hollywood Walk of Fame is founded.

NEW WORD

OFFICIANT

the person who performs a wedding ceremony

How they say that in...

- English: Vow
- Spanish: Juramento
- Italian: Promessa
- French: Serment
- German: Schwur



Early brides carried bouquets made of herbs, designed to help ward off evil spirits on their special days.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Wedding cake

HEALTHY HEART WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- AEROBIC
- ARRHYTHMIA
- ARTERIES
- ATHEROSCLEROSIS
- BEATS
- BLOOD
- CARDIAC
- CARDIOVASCULAR
- CHOLESTEROL
- CIRCULATION
- CORONARY
- ENDURANCE
- EXERCISE
- HEALTHY
- HEART
- HYPERTENSION
- INFLAMMATION
- MUSCLE
- PLAQUE
- PULSE
- STRESS
- STROKE
- VALVES
- VEINS

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



The Spats



TIGER



OLIVE & POPEYE



HOCUS-FOCUS



Just Like Cats & Dogs



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 C

COEHOEMQK YVEY E TKOCRGK

QWGTEML NMYKMJKJ YW

QETYROK YVK FKOL EOWGE

WC TEOEJNBK: VKEFKM-BQKMY.

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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!

King
HICLAP

Inset
ALIYN

Weight
REDBUN

Feint
ODDEG

First they fill you with chicken, then _____

TODAY'S WORD

by Dave T. Phipps

by Gary Kopervas

by Jeff Pickering

by BUD BLAKE

By Randy Milholland

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

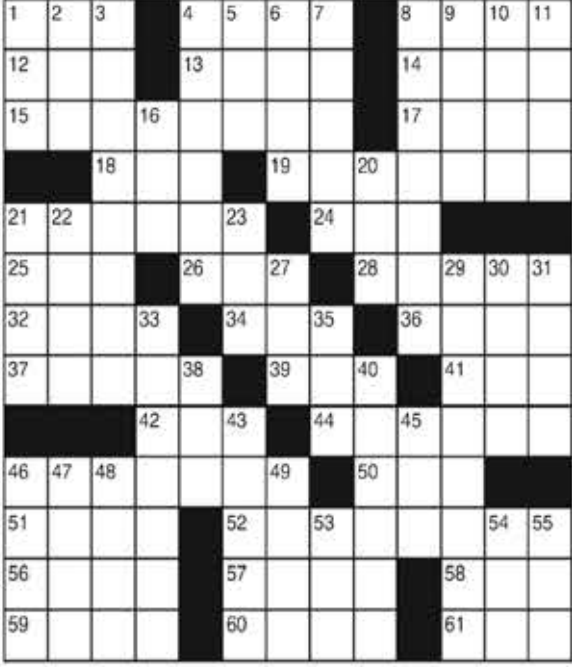
by Dave T. Phipps

February 9, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Canine cry
4 Dalai —
8 Sultry Horne
12 Uncle, to Juan
13 Bard's river
14 401(k) relatives
15 Provider of free groceries
17 Lapel jewelry
18 Fawn's mom
19 Nome resident
21 Nuanced
24 English cathedral city
25 100%
26 Poseidon's realm
28 Follow
32 L-Q bridge
34 Cover
36 Gear teeth
37 Avid
39 Kauai souvenir
41 Last (Abbr.)
42 Conducted
44 Justice Antonin
46 Movie promo
50 Sprite
51 Campus mil. group
52 Eats for para-keets
56 Jazzy James
57 Singer Braxton



- 58 French assent
59 Twain hero
60 Jazz legend
61 ER workers
- 9 Composer Satie
10 "Peter Pan" dog
11 Professional gp.
16 Speck
20 Pub pint
21 "Ditto"
22 Forearm bone
23 Snaky fish
27 Be sick
29 1997 Vanessa Williams film
30 Hybrid fruit
31 "Como — usted?"
33 Louisiana symbol
- 35 — Moines
38 Seminary subj.
40 Stranded during a blizzard
43 Unpaid bills
45 TV alien
46 Not kosher
47 Indian flatbread
48 Envelope abbr.
49 Funny person
53 Genetic letters
54 Wilder's "— Town"
55 Insult, slangily

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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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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Honduras?
2. FOOD & DRINK: What is the name of the Pillsbury Doughboy?
3. TELEVISION: In which state is the sitcom "Roseanne" set?
4. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called arachibutyrophobia?
5. MUSIC: Which 1992 Radiohead song has the lyric "I wish I was special"?
6. MOVIES: Who is Indiana Jones' nemesis in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president is known for giving the longest inauguration speech to date?
8. LITERATURE: "Cry, the Beloved Country" is a novel set in which country?
9. HISTORY: Which organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917?
10. ANATOMY: Which element is a primary component of bones?

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FiveSpot™

Night out

D	A	N	C	E

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

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

02626



Solution time: 25 mins.

King Crossword — Answers

BALONEY

Today's Word

3. Cleam; 4. Rapid

1. Agende; 2. Cache; solution

SCRAMBLERS

T	R	I	H	S
E	R	E	S	
D	E	H		
R	E	N	D	
E	A	N	D	
C	E			

Solution

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

of paradise: Heaven-Scant. capture the very aroma company intended to

Fragrance that a perfume answer

CryptoQuip

10. Calcium
Cross
9. International Committee of the Red
8. South Africa
45 minutes
7. William Henry Harrison, 1 hour and
6. Dr. Rene Bellog
5. "Creep"
4. Fear of peanut butter sticking to the
3. Illnots
2. Poppin' Fresh
1. Tegucigalpa

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3	+	6	x	4	=	36
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1	+	7	+	9	=	17
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1.21 Acre lot located just north of Florence with approx. 150' of Hwy 101 frontage. Great visibility & convenient access. Well suited for many uses. Septic approval in place. Water & electric available. **\$159,900 List #1353/526149029**

Riverfront 2 bdrm, 2 bath home on East Mapleton Road offers you 1440 sq. ft. of comfortable living space on 2.75 Acres of property. 300 feet of waterfront on the Siuslaw River. **\$345,000 List #1312/372398979**

Parcel 1, TL 2501 is a 13.69 acre lot located off of unimproved Spruce Street north of Munsel Lake Road. Zoned for residential development. Utilities in place at southwest corner of property. **\$250,000 List #1356/605538782**

27 Acre lot on the corner of Hwy 101 & Bellevue Drive north of Florence. Property has 120 feet of Hwy 101 frontage. Water & electric available, septic in unknown condition. **\$96,500 List #1354/326940899**

Charming 2 bdrm, 1 bath home with 936 sq. ft. of living space on a .28 acre lot with lots of RV parking and hookups. Large sun-room & storage space. Outdoor sheds & fenced yard. **\$399,900 List #1350/641079396**

.59 Acre lot located south of the Siuslaw River bridge in the Glenada neighborhood. This parcel features an old power box and existing garage in poor repair. Buyer to investigate zoning and allowable uses. **\$140,000 List #1348/262965336**

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TSN26-111 A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL LINCOLN PUD

will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2129 N. Coast Hwy. Newport, Oregon. In addition to regular business, an Executive Session will be held in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(f) and (h) to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection and to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation of litigation likely to be filed. To review the meeting agenda, please go to clpud.org. Customers interested in attending the meeting virtually can email info@clpud.org to make a request.

TSN26-108 PORT SEEKS COMMISSION APPLICANTS

The Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners will appoint a district citizen to fill the Position 2 vacancy created by the recent resignation of R. Dale Edwards. The term of the appointee will expire on 30 June 2027 at which time an elected successor will be seated. Persons wishing to be appointed to the Port Commission vacancy should obtain an application from the Port office at 100 Harbor Street, or the Port's web site www.portofsiuslaw.com. Applications will be accepted until 5:00pm Friday, March 13, 2026. Applicants must be registered voters residing within the Port of Siuslaw district. Applicants may be interviewed for interviews. The Port of Siuslaw is a Special District authorized by Oregon law to help sustain the economic vitality of western Lane County. The district boundary encompasses most of the Siuslaw River watershed, including the coastal communities of Florence and Dunes City, and extending upriver to Mapleton, Walton, Lorane, and Blachly. The Port is the sponsor of the federal maritime investment in Lane County for maintenance of the channel, harbor, jetties, and navigable ocean bars. The Port also has significant authority under Oregon statute for local economic development and infrastructure projects that encourage job creation and tourism. The Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners meet regularly at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month in the Port office at 100 Harbor Street in Florence. Regular Port Commission meetings are open to the public. Questions should be directed to the Port office at 541-997-3426.

TSN26-107 PORT SEEKS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER

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

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meet again during the year in the event of a significant budgetary change. Questions should be directed to the Port office at 541-997-3426.

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Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of Feb. 16, 2026.

ON NOW: "Vanished" (Limited Series) — MGM+

ON NOW: "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" (Season 13) — HBO Max

16-Feb: "Reality Check: Inside America's Next Top Model" (Docuseries) — Netflix

16-Feb: "Like Water for Chocolate" (Season 2) — HBO Max

17-Feb: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" (Complete Series) — Hulu

18-Feb: "Being Gordon Ramsay" (Documentary) — Netflix

18-Feb: "56 Days" (Limited Series) — Prime Video

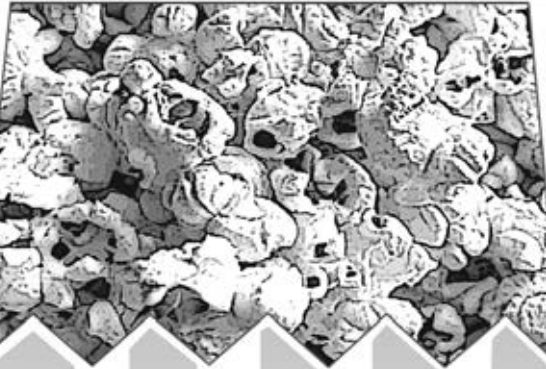
19-Feb: "The Night Agent" (Season 3) — Netflix

20-Feb: "Dreaming Whilst Black" (Season 2) — Paramount+

20-Feb: "The Last Thing He Told Me" (Season 2) — Apple TV

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Fun Fact



Popcorn is popular at theaters, sporting events, amusement parks, and everywhere else people gather. Most of the world's corn production used for popcorn is in the United States. 25 states grow corn, mostly in the very fertile areas of Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota and Indiana.

Source: www.nal.usda.gov

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GO FIGURE!

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

		+		×		=	36
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	+		+			=	17
×	■	-	■	×	■		
	+		+			=	15
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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 L, you get: MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Elongated square	— B — — — —	Amber tea	— O — — — —
2. Big Ben's home	T — — — — —	Force	P — — — — —
3. Be of importance	— A — — — — —	Grumble softly	— U — — — —
4. Get used to	— — A — — —	Take as one's own	— — O — —
5. Greasy grunge	— — — M — —	Complain	— — — P — —
6. "Purple Rain" artist	— — — I — — —	Cavort	— — — A — — —
7. Nile or Amazon	— — — — — S	Reporter Geraldo	— — — — — A
8. Multitude	— — — D — —	Trigger or Secretariat	— — — S — —
9. Tailor's cord	— — — — — D	Intimidation	— — — — — T
10. Harr et Beecher	— — — — — W —	Pebble	— — — — — N —

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5. Grime, Gripe
4. Adapt, Adopt
3. Matter, Mutter
2. Tower, Power
1. Oblong, Colong
6. Prince, France
7. Rivers, Rivera
8. Horde, Horse
9. Thread, Threat
10. Stowe, Stone

Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

concern that has terrified me. Very early on when I started writing this column, a reader wrote in that he had an aortic aneurysm of over 7 centimeters and didn't think that he needed surgery. (The risk of a rupture at this size is very high, and it would likely be immediately fatal.)

This letter came via the postal service, so I had no way to get a hold of him beyond taking my response (for him to please get this repaired as soon as possible) to the post office and mailing it back to him.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am confused by your remark in a recent column about blood thinners being a good thing to take for the rest of your life. My brother was put on them after suffering from a stroke and ended up dying due to esophageal bleeding because of them.

Why can't doctors prescribe a natural way to thin blood without medication? Are there not natural alternatives like apple cider vinegar or something else? This confuses me as I would not take any long-term medication. — G.B.

ANSWER: Anticoagulants, which reduce the blood's ability to clot, are only a "good thing" to take if you are at a high risk for a dangerous blood clot. In the column that you mention, the reader actually had his heart stop due to a large blood clot in his lung before being brought back by his wife.

In this case, anticoagulants are more likely to keep people alive by preventing a fatal blood clot than they are to cause serious bleeding. I am sorry for the experience of your brother, but physicians always need to weigh the risk of doing something against the risk of not doing something.

Apple cider vinegar has no effect on blood clotting. There are natural products that do. Warfarin (Coumadin) is based on a compound made by a fungus that grows on wet, sweet clover hay. For decades, it was the most common anticoagulant. Newer drugs are safer and more effective for most people, but there are still a few conditions that require warfarin.

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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to
your
good
health

WITH
Dr. Keith
Roach

Learn the Proper Inhaler Technique for Asthma/ COPD Medication

DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recent column, you noted that many patients do not properly use their inhaled asthma/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) medications, but you didn't tell us how to properly use them. I'd hate to think that I've been doing Advair and albuterol incorrectly all these years. A little help, please? — Anon.

ANSWER: The proper inhaler technique is much more easily demonstrated than it is described. I found a good video showing the proper technique from the American Lung Association at tinyurl.com/inhaler-video, but the ideal way is to have your doctor or nurse watch you use your inhaler.

I have seen people make several common mistakes, including not taking the cap off the inhaler; activating the inhaler, waiting, and then breathing in; and breathing in, then activating the inhaler while breathing out. For it to work, the person needs to breathe in while the inhaler is activated.

DEAR DR. ROACH: When you get a letter from a patient who is really sick, does your response take precedence over other people's emails? — B.N.

ANSWER: My column is primarily to help educate readers about common and uncommon medical issues. While I hope that I can be of some value to the readers who are writing in, I can't act as their doctor. Furthermore, due to the time that it takes to edit and publish these columns, there are several weeks between when I write my column and when it's published. So, I am often not much help to readers for urgent matters.

There have been a handful of times when a reader has written to me with a

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87748 Terrace View Dr. - \$710,000
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Price Reduced



2937 Munsel Lake Rd. - \$399,000
3 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 1013 SqFt. Move-in ready single-level home with updated kitchen, fenced yard, RV parking, and abundant natural light. #3725-445649944

New Listing



11445 E Mapleton Rd. - \$775,000
3 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 2440 SqFt. Five-acre riverfront property offering privacy, versatility, large shop, and endless potential. #3738-363944680

Price Reduced



2060 20th St. - \$399,900
3 bdrms, 1 bath, 960 SqFt. Extensively updated home with modern kitchen, new roof, fireplace, garage upgrades, outdoor spaces. #3728-362336387



100 Rhododendron Dr - \$865,000
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



3890 Spruce St. - \$405,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1478 SqFt. Oversized garage, RV parking, beautiful fir trees, in-town! #3671-699141635



87675 Hwy 101 #5 - \$28,000
2 Bdrms, 1.5 Baths, 684 SqFt. Single-wide mobile-only in Heceta Village Park, sold as-is, fixer-upper, renovation opportunity. #3731-628167206



1601-676 Rhododendron Dr. - \$349,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1512 SqFt. Updated home in 55+ Greentrees Village with vaulted ceilings, skylights, covered porch, and ample parking. #3665-689410988



4990 Mitchell Loop Rd. - \$585,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2665 SqFt. Custom ranch style home with open living, sunroom, and garage with RV parking. #3695-161538459



5262 Nopal St. - \$430,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1493 SqFt. Coastal charm meets modern living in the desirable Three Mile Prairie neighborhood. #3670-317018212



89510 Hwy 101 #26 - \$60,000
2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 784 SqFt. Recently upgraded doors, shower, laminate flooring, windows, ceiling fans, electric panel, shed and carport. #3694-555498165



89555 Shore Crest Dr. - \$450,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1512 SqFt. Meticulously maintained, spacious home with floor-to-ceiling windows, and an abundance of parking. #3732-270810465



4838 Lake Blvd. - \$925,000
3 Bdrms, 3.5 Baths, 1884 SqFt. Large turnkey home with Siltcoos Lake views, boathouse/dock and RV Parking. #3700-717794144



179 Outer Dr. - \$296,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1100 SqFt. Peaceful Coast Village home with natural light, cozy spaces, garden paths, and convenient amenities. #3716-756515536



1600-29 Rhododendron Dr. - \$249,000
3 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 1308 SqFt. Inviting 55+ retreat featuring pellet stove, efficient heating, new appliances, covered deck, workshop. #3698-344579839



290 Harbor St. - \$1,599,000
5 Bdrms, 3 Baths, 2201 SqFt. Restored 1894 Old Town cottage with new garage, ADU, luxury upgrades, modern comfort throughout. #3724-327759244



238 Horseshoe Bend - \$189,500
1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, 500 SqFt. Nice corner lot with RV hookups. Home is well cared for with bonus room and garden. #3690-524301067



87830 Terrace View Dr. - \$435,000
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1600-113 Rhododendron Dr. - \$158,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 924 SqFt. Excellent opportunity to bring in a new manufactured home. Call agent for buyer incentive details. #3705-730692234



3932 Spruce St. - \$524,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1472 SqFt. Enclosed sunroom, RV parking with hookups, outdoor hobby room and tool shed with gardens. #3717-687208935



87511 Tiernan Rd. - \$425,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1866 SqFt. Secluded property with mature fruit trees, custom kitchen, bonus room, shop, and river access. #3714-272688773



3760 Hwy 101 #16 - \$60,000
2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 840 SqFt. New flooring, HVAC, insulation, paint in/outside, water heater and fridge. #3622-639962623




5170 Grand Ave #19 - \$129,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1052 SqFt. Nice, clean, completely upgraded manufactured home in Big Spruce MHP is a must see! #3685-571961488



89510 Hwy 101 #23 - \$60,000
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