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Council continues Flock discussions



The City Council listened to testimony from many speakers and officials regarding the City’s use of Flock cameras. Tony Reed photos



Police Chief John Pitcher and City staff, at the special meeting.

By **TONY REED**
The Siuslaw News

Part 1 of 2

The Florence City Council heard almost four hours of testimony from the police chief, a representative from Flock Safety, and the public before opting to continue the meeting

See **FLOCK**, Page A5

Winter Music Festival returns to Florence

The last weekend in January sees a return of the Winter Music Festival to the Florence Events Center.

Over two days, seven outstanding groups will bring bluegrass, new and traditional folk, and Americana.

The festival starts on January 22nd with the open mic “Take the Stage!” hootenanny. There will also be open jam sessions, performance and songwriting workshops, and great food and drink throughout the event.

The line-up includes Friday night’s headliners, Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road, with the amazing Thunder and Rain returning to kick off our festival performers. Saturday afternoon will be fantastic with three bands: Tuesday String Band, Midnight45 featuring Dale, Suzanne, and Josh



Adkins with Jared Widman, and returning from last year’s show, Tony Furtado and Friends. Saturday night will open with the Burnette Sisters Band, and we will close out the festival with a 90-minute performance from Authentic Unlimited.

Buy tickets at <https://aftontickets.com/fec> or stop into the FEC office.

WLFEA awarded grant to replace fire SCBA

FROM WESTERN LANE FIRE and EMS AUTHORITY

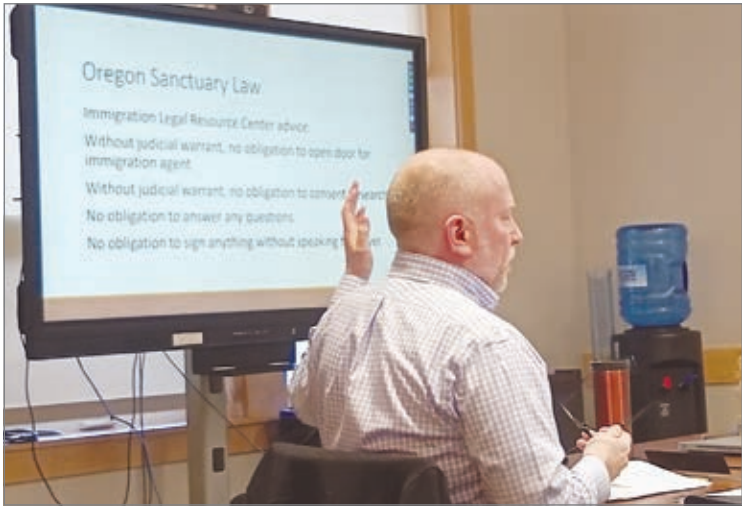
January 8, 2026. Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority has been awarded a \$500,000 grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program to purchase new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs), strengthening firefighter safety and emergency response capabilities.

The AFG Program, administered by FEMA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, provides funding to help fire departments meet critical safety and operational needs. This award will allow WLFEA to replace aging SCBA equipment and ensure firefighters are equipped with modern, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - compliant respiratory protection when operating in hazardous environments.

“SCBAs are one of the most critical pieces of life-safety equipment our firefighters rely on,” said Fire and EMS Chief Michael Schick. “This AFG award directly supports our mission to protect our personnel and the public by ensuring we have reliable, standards-compliant equipment without placing additional financial strain on our community.”

See **GRANT**, Page A6

Florence City Council mulls ICE declaration



City Attorney Ross Williamson explains Oregon’s Sanctuary law to the council. Tony Reed photo

By **TONY REED**
The Siuslaw News

The Florence City Council spent two hours Jan. 8 rewording a proposed declaration statement during a work session at City Hall. Originally worded to express concern and opposition to the establishment of an ICE facility and ICE activity in Florence, the declaration was revised to inform community members of the law and police department policy related to immigration enforcement.

THE STATEMENT

The first draft of the statement reminded that the council’s work plan adopted foundational values emphasizing compassionate public service and leading by example, and the primary goal of the City is to sustain and improve the livability and quality of life for all residents and visitors.

It read that the city prides itself on a welcoming approach and small town openness, and the current direction and operation of the ice agency has

See **ICE**, Page A7

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Martin Luther King Weekend Celebration

FROM FLORENCE ORGANIZES

Please join Florence Organizes, [City Lights Cinema and the Baha’i Community] for a Martin Luther King Weekend-long Celebration on January 17th and 18th to honor MLKs legacy of building unity and peace.

Before the MLK Celebration Parade on Saturday, January 17th, there will be a gathering for a brief rally at 1st and Nopal St. A Cocoa Brigade (sponsored by Dunes City

Indivisible) will be on hand, and Lovejoys is offering \$3.00 coffee speciality drinks to keep us warm. Mayor Ward will read a Martin Luther King proclamation and Representative Val Hoyle will join our festivities.

The rally will be followed by a joyful parade with music from Siuslaw Songrise Stringband, vintage cars, local dignitaries and various community organizations. The route starts at 1st and Nopal, then proceeds down Bay St to Veterans Park. Please come to

watch or march along! This is a family-friendly event, with flags and kazoos for all. Well-behaved pets on a leash are welcome, too. If you bring a sign, make sure it is in keeping with King’s vision of justice, equity, love and peace. There is no room for messages of hate in MLK’s vision.

On Sunday, January 18th, City Lights Theater and our Baha’i community co-sponsor will host a tribute to Martin Luther King at noon. There will be two inspirational speakers, Russ Pierson, Dean

of LCC Florence and Jayden Ruff, Chair of South Coast Health Equity Coalition. Then we have a chance to sing uplifting songs with Mark Levy before watching Selma. This is a 2014 historical drama chronicling Dr King’s 1965 voting rights campaign in Selma, Alabama, focusing on the struggle for Black Suffrage, the historic marches to Montgomery, and the eventual signing of the Voting Rights Act. Admission is free. The theater is offering a small drink and popcorn for

\$5. Tickets can be picked up (at City Lights) or purchased online (\$1) after January 10th.

This is a time to recommit our community to Dr King’s dream– a dream bigger than him, bigger than us. His dream belongs to all of us. Come help us celebrate a community collective vision of dignity and belonging.

FOR ~ Florence Organizes. Email us at FORFlorenceORganizesOR@gmail.com

MLK Jr. Day of Service is Monday, January 19th

POLICE LOG

The Florence Police Department responded to the following calls from December 30 to January 5.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

At 2:50 a.m., a caller reported hearing two to three possible gunshots in the area of Heceta Beach Road. An Officer on patrol in the area did not hear anything and could not locate the source of the reported noise.

At 11:14 a.m., officers conducted a death investigation in the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive. Officers reported nothing unusual and found no evidence of foul play.

At 11:54 a.m., officers responded to the 1100 block of Xylo Street for a reported problem with a neighbor’s loose dog.

At 12:49 p.m., a resident reported finding a set of keys in the area of North Fork and Highway 126. Keys are currently located at Florence Police Department.

At 2:56 p.m., a caller reported having vehicle problems in the area of Rhododendron Drive and New Hope. The caller said they would return shortly for the vehicle. Officers checked later and found it had been moved.

At 9:34 p.m., callers

reported hearing coyotes around the middle school and grade school off Oak Street. An officer responded to the area, but did not hear or see coyotes.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

At 8:28 a.m., a lodging business on Highway 101 reported finding a large amount of sports cards in a room. Officers attempted to contact the guest who had previously rented the room, but were unable to reach him.

At 1:27 p.m., a caller reported finding a telephone in the 1300 block of Kingwood. Officers were able to determine the owner of the phone, but were unable to contact them. The phone is currently being held at Florence Police Department.

At 5:39 p.m., officers responded to the 800 block of Highway 101 for a report of a disorderly subject screaming at others. Officers were unable to locate the subject at the time. The subject was later located and found to be intoxicated. He

was cited for disorderly conduct.

At 6:12 p.m., officers responded to the area of South Jetty Road for a report of a person inside a store with controlled substance paraphernalia. The subject left before officers arrived.

Around midnight, dispatch received several reports of fireworks around the city of Florence.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

At 4:38 a.m., officers responded to the 5600 block of Highway 126 for a report that a cell phone had been stolen. Officers contacted the subjects believed to have taken the phone who were uncooperative. The phone was later found to have been thrown in a trash can nearby. No charges were pursued.

At 2:22 p.m., officers responded to the 600 block of Rhododendron Drive for a report of a dog bitten by another dog. The caller said she had taken the dog to the veterinary clinic for treatment. The case remains under investigation.

At 3:05 p.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive for a report of

found syringes. Items were disposed of in a bio-hazard container.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

At 11:09 a.m., a caller reported that a stored vehicle had been broken into and that someone had attempted to break the ignition switch. A second vehicle also showed signs of attempted entry. Officers were able to locate a backpack left in one of the vehicles but were unable to determine the identity of its owner. The case remains under investigation.

At 4:49 p.m., a caller reported that a subject in a vehicle in a business drive-thru appeared to be intoxicated. Officers contacted the subject and determined probable cause for DUII. Officers arrested Kenneth Bartley for DUII.

At 6:46 p.m., officers responded to the 5700 block of Qaich St. for a report of fraud. Officers found an issue among family members over money allegedly taken from an account.

At 6:55 p.m., a caller reported a vehicle speeding and unable to maintain its lane on Highway 126 heading toward Florence. Officers positioned to intercept the vehicle, which did not come into Florence on 126.

At 10:34 p.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Highway 101 for a reported dispute. Upon arrival, officers found one of two subjects had a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest from Lane County Circuit Court. The subject was taken into custody.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

12:24 a.m., a caller reported that he had been clipped by a car while walking in the area of Spruce and 36th Street. The caller did not need Medical Aid at first but later requested

transportation to the hospital.

At 1:46 p.m., dispatch received numerous 911 calls that a subject was lying on the sidewalk in the 1400 block of 9th Street, unresponsive. Officers arrived to find the subject was intoxicated and passed out. The subject was taken to the detox cell and later released with a citation for disorderly conduct.

At 2:47 p.m., a caller reported that a lot of cash was missing and said he suspected that it had been stolen. The caller recontacted dispatch later to say he had found the cash in his wallet.

At 6:05 p.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Oak Street for a noise disturbance. Officers found an ongoing dispute between neighbors who share a common wall.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH

At 10:14 a.m., officers made a traffic stop in the area of 43rd Street and Highway 101. Officers found an occupant in the car had a warrant from Florence Municipal Court and took her into custody.

At 11:13 a.m., officers arrested a subject on Spruce Street who had been released from jail earlier. Dispatch advised officers that after the subject was released, another warrant had come in from Multnomah County.

At 4:23 p.m., officers conducted a death investigation in the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive. Officers determined the cause was natural and no foul play was suspected.

At 10:24 p.m., officers observed a vehicle parked incorrectly at the Munsell Lake boat ramp. When officers contacted the driver, they determined he had a warrant for his arrest from State Parole. The subject was taken into custody.

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

At 9:08 a.m., officers responded to the 1500 block of Airport Road for a female subject screaming somewhere in the wooded area. Officers were unable to locate the female, but found her dog. The dog was taken to the Humane Society.

At 11:28 a.m., officers helped a subject in Florence locate a taxi.

At 2:05 p.m., officers returned to the 1500 block of Airport Drive for another report of a female screaming back in the trees. Officers were again unable to locate the female, who went farther back into the trees when approached.

At 5:10 p.m., officers returned to the 1500 block of Airport Drive for another report of a female screaming. Officers were unable to locate the female, but were able to determine her identity.

At 5:31 p.m., a store in the 700 block of Highway 101 reported an abandoned bicycle behind the business. Officers took the bicycle for storage at the police department.

At 5:23 p.m., officers made a traffic stop on Hemlock and arrested April Dubois for DUII.

6:37 p.m., a caller reported being bitten by a dog in the 1100 block of Hemlock. Officers arrived to find a dispute between two people over whether or not the dog bit someone.

At 7:26 p.m., a caller reported leaving a purse in the park in the 1800 block of Oak Street, which was gone when she returned.

At 7:29 p.m., while transporting the previous DUI arrest to the jail, officers found she had been able to move her handcuffs to the front of her body and remove one. Officers say she became non-compliant and tried to grab one of the officers’ weapons. Officers were able to restrain her and put her in a cell. A charge of resisting arrest was added to the charges.

At 9:46 p.m., jail staff reported that an inmate had flooded the toilet, smeared the camera, and made a mess inside the cell. A charge of Criminal Mischief III was added to their charges.

To claim lost, found or stolen items, call Florence Police Department at 541-997-3515.

Robert (Bob) Kessel

October 9, 1937 - December 31, 2025

Florence – Robert (Bob) Kessel passed away on December 31, 2025 at the age of 88. He was born October 9, 1937 in West Salem, Oregon to Joe and Evelyn Kessel. He was an only child. At age three, the family moved to Tillamook / Garibaldi area and lived there until Bob was in the third grade. In 1948, they moved to Florence, Oregon where Bob lived the rest of his life.



School of Diamond Setting and Jewelry Repair in 1983 and other courses over the years.

Bob and Darlene divorced in 1980.

Bob opened Coast Jewelers on May 9, 1983 on Hwy. 101 in Florence. He ran the business until selling it in 2000 to semi-retire and open Bob’s Jewelry Repair. He fully retired in 2023 at 85

As a youngster, Bob enjoyed fishing with his dad and granddad. When he was in the seventh grade, he won fourth place in the Oregon State Marble Tournament in Portland. He became an Eagle Scout his sophomore year in high school. He also earned 6 extra credits in high school by working cutting meat at Wilbanks’ Meat Shop. After graduating in 1957, he worked full time at Wilbanks’.

Bob married Darlene Baker on June 7, 1958. Together, they bought Wilbanks’ Meat Shop and ran it. In 1966, Bob ventured to Kodiak, Alaska to try commercial fishing. He bought the M.V. Chinook, a 48 foot sienne boat, in Seattle and used it to fish for salmon in Kodiak for a season. He then chose to work on a Dungeness crab boat out of Kodiak for a time.

Bob and Darlene had four girls, Julie, Kim, Carrie and Roberta (Robin).

Bob opened Kessel’s Custom Cutting in 1968 on their home property on Canary Road, working there evenings and weekends and at Murphy’s Veneer Mill East of Florence on weekdays. Bob worked at Murphy’s for 14 years and at the family business until 1979.

His interests in changing careers developed quickly when he bought Darlene a “diamond” ring and upon taking it to a jeweler to get it sized, was told that the “diamond” was not real. He began taking gemology classes courses 1977 at the Geological Institute of America and at Trenton Jewelry School in Tennessee. He became a Graduate Gemologist in 1982 and continued taking courses at the Ray Schow

years old.

Bob married Nancy Jo Morris-Doyle on August 13, 1983, adding Nancy’s two children, Keri Jo (then 10) and Jeff (then 5) to his family. Bob and Nancy enjoyed international travel, camping, playing cards, and visiting with friends and strangers who soon became friends.

For many years, Bob and his friends hunted for glass balls on the beach, took deer hunting trips to Granite, went fishing on the Snake River, clammed for Gappers near Coos Bay and went crabbing whenever he could.

He was a member of Kiwanis for 40 years serving part of that time as Distinguished President and Lieutenant Governor. He golfed regularly at Ocean Dunes Golf Links where he was a member for over 30 years. Bob belonged to other clubs over the years as well – Florence Elks Lodge, Siuslaw Rod and Gun Club and the Four C’s Camping Club.

Bob is survived my his wife, Nancy, and his children, Julie, Kim, Carrie, Robin, Keri Jo, and Jeff, 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

His memorial will be at Burns’ Riverside Chapel on January 24, 2026 at 11am. In lieu of flowers, please write out your favorite story involving Bob to share with friends and family. Cards will be provided at the venue or feel free to take the time to bring your own. Stories will be made into a book of memories for family at a later time.

Bob will be interred at Pacific Sunset Memorial Cemetery of Florence.

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REDUCE
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Finding our rhythm

TONY REED
Editor

As of this issue, the Siuslaw News is no longer in the building at 4969 Highway 101 (or 148 Maple St, for that matter). I already miss having an office location, but we're starting to find our rhythm and develop more efficient ways to work together from separate locations.

While it was reported recently that this paper is now operated "remotely," that may leave the wrong impression because we're still a local paper. As editor, my home office is located well inside the Florence city limits. Our Ad Rep, Gary Winterholler, is just over the hill in Reedsport, and makes regular trips into Florence to talk with advertisers and others directly.

I still attend, follow and report local meetings, demonstrations and issues, as well as shop in

local stores and speak to residents wherever I go. You'll still see me taking photos at Rhody Days, National Night Out, the City's block parties and at Siuslaw schools' sporting events.

I'm happy to interview and feature new businesses in the Florence area, as a way of welcoming them and introducing them to the community.

I'm also enlisting the help of some columnists who are prominent members of the Florence community. If you'd like to help by writing a column about your club or organization, shoot me an email so we can chat about it.

The best way to send me a community, event or meeting notice is my direct email treed@countrymedia.net. Please make sure you have who, what, where and when, at the very least.

The deadline for editorial submissions is Thursday at about noon. Call me if you have a

submission running late. I may be able to hold space.

Our local PO box has been discontinued so all mail, subscriptions and billing should be sent to PO Box 670, Salem, Oregon, 97308.

Feel free to send me news tips, community concerns, or Letters to the Editor at treed@countrymedia.net

A couple quick notes on letters to the editor, while I'm thinking of it.

We've always appreciated and shared the opinions of our community. It's very rare that I ever refrain from printing a letter. If you want it to go straight into the recycle bin, just send me random copied and pasted words from the Internet. Google is so vast that one could find two opposing viewpoints on almost any imaginable subject. Just sending me the ones you agree with does nothing but contribute to the white noise.

While you may agree

with what you send, that doesn't make it your opinion. Instead, try something like, "In my opinion, the City doesn't seem to care about this problem," or "I've looked into this and I think we should ..."

Then tell us why you feel that way. That's what the opinion section is for.

Also, once you've emailed a Letter to the Editor, there's no need to send a second email asking me to confirm that I got the first one. Chances are that I did, and if you could see my inbox, you'd understand why I ask.

My direct office number is 541-999-5197, but I won't be able to help with questions regarding advertising, billing, subscriptions or obituaries. Those are handled by our Salem office at 503-444-7924.

There's a lot I'd like to do this year to improve the Siuslaw News and give our readers a paper they can appreciate and look forward to reading every week.

LETTERS

DEAR EDITOR

The Special Interest Topic Of Climate Change

For COF citizens and those "no standing as voting citizens"; mentioned by Councilor Carp: I might point out that us citizens outside the COF city limits spend our money in COF, rely on services here/there and most certainly will be affected if there is flooding in "our" area caused by climate change. COF leadership basically ignores anything that does not fit within their own short sided agenda parameters--goes back to the Joe Henry days! It is similar to the Benedick property annexation process into COF a few years back when all the county residents of Oceana Dr. and adjacent properties sent hundreds of letters to COF, including one from Western Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich, against the \$pecial interest annexation (for proposed development) because of the many evidenced concerns, notably flooding but legally also. We were totally ignored! Before that though, we hundreds in Lane County of "no standing voting citizens in COF" had Lane County on our side and the \$pecial interest developer was denied. So what happened; Oceana Drive was annexed into COF (right of way only) along with the cherry stemmed property of that \$pecial interest developer. It's all on record folks, thousands of them. I wonder if Mike and Pat Allen's street gets annexed into COF at some time, will their label go from badgers to just thorns in the side of COF like many of us were referred to during the Benedick

annexation. From us thousands of "special interest topic" residents and others, to those science, climate and common sense deniers; your short sighted, me and more days are numbered. Too bad those mind sets couldn't just affect you----see, there will be no boundaries when the tide rises.

Your "no standing voter",

Jeff Gemutliche
Florence

DEAR EDITOR

Response To Siuslaw News Article - City Responds To Local Activist

I wish to thank Darlene Norwood and Mark Levy for submitting letters to the Siuslaw News regarding the letter sent to me by Mayor Ward and the City Council effectively telling me that they will not work on climate change. Their letters prompted Siuslaw News Editor Tony Reed to follow-up with his article "CITY RESPONDS TO LOCAL ACTIVIST," after an in depth interview with me. It appeared at the top of the first page of the edition on 1-7-26, giving the story the importance it deserved.

I am disappointed that City Manager Erin Reynolds and Mayor Ward when contacted by Tony Reed for a comment, simply referred him to the end of the discussion about the letter during a work session on December 11th. My disappointment stems from the fact that none of them have provided reasons for why they never included climate change initiatives in the city's work plan. It also stems from the lack of any regret from the work session attendees

who tried to discredit me by lying about my interactions with city staff. Subsequently Council Wantz apologized and Councilor Beaudreau expressed concerns about how they orchestrated the letter.

To fully understand how this letter was formed I urge all readers of the article to view the video coverage of the entire 30 minute discussion during the work session, and not just the ending as suggested by Ward and Reynolds. It will be an eye opener about their true intention to inhibit any further efforts by me, and by extension the community and over 2,500 signatories on our climate petition. I thank Tony Reed for listening to the entire discussion and accurately reporting on what was said.

Here is the link to the work session video. The discussion may be viewed starting at 1:47:32 <https://vimeo.com/1145809216?share=c©&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Michael Allen
Florence

DEAR EDITOR

Inappropriate

I think it was inappropriate for the Mayor to invite the public to share its concerns about the Flock camera system, while not informing us until our chance to speak was over, that Flock was invited to the meeting and listening to all our comments. If the audience had known, we could have directed our comments to Flock as well. We don't expect our council and police chief to understand the complexities of this type of technology, but software engineers and specialists in surveillance

were present who could have asked educated questions and voiced concerns to the company about its operating system, if we had been given that courtesy. Instead, after our chance to speak was finished, if we wanted to hear the councils' view, we were first forced to listen to a sales pitch by a Flock representative, who wasn't used to being challenged by the questions which only council member Ms. Beaudreau had prepared. Giving Flock the last word was insulting, especially since we had no prior knowledge they were invited. I hope the council will seriously consider the concerns raised about local surveillance being on the Amazon Web cloud site, where four notable breaches have already occurred.

Donna Mathews
Florence

DEAR EDITOR

Lucky Us Wow!

I happened by the Siuslaw Library yesterday afternoon and am very glad I did. This month's art display of Costa Rican nature photography by local resident Curtis Peters is absolutely extraordinary, breathtakingly exquisite right down to every little eyeball and feather. I could hear myself letting out gasps of appreciation and joy as I walked from one colorful photo to the next. The accompanying written descriptions are a captivating treat in themselves, and then there's the glass case filled with vintage cameras! I heartily encourage everyone to take a few minutes to stop by the library and check it out. What a mighty talent. Thank you, Curtis!

Allie LeCaux
Florence



Siuslaw News

541.997.3441

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

Email letters to treed@countrymedia.net

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION:

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

TO SUBMIT TO THE SIUSLAW NEWS:

Email submissions are preferred. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. The newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
JANUARY 14	JANUARY 15	JANUARY 16	JANUARY 17	JANUARY 18	JANUARY 19	JANUARY 20
Mostly Sunny 56° 43°	Mostly Sunny 55° 43°	Sunny 57° 43°	Mostly Sunny 56° 40°	Sunny 56° 39°	Partly Cloudy 55° 40°	Partly Cloudy 52° 40°

Democrats consider repealing unpopular gas tax hike

NIGEL JAQUISS
Oregon Journalism Project

At politically oriented holiday parties all over the state, the hot topic is what Democrats will do in the face of a remarkably successful Republican effort to refer a gas tax increase to the November 2026 ballot that lawmakers passed in September.

The option that’s getting the most serious consideration, according to numerous Democrats speaking on background: repealing all or parts of House Bill 3991 in the New Year’s legislative session.

“My recommendation has been to just take the pain early and repeal it in February,” says one Democratic lawmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity.

By now, many Oregonians know that one of the Legislature’s top priorities for 2025, bailing out the financially troubled Oregon Department of Transportation, turned into a slow-motion train wreck and fueled a populist rebellion.

The original funding bill, the result of more than a year’s worth of meetings around the



No Tax Oregon delivered nearly 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read’s office. (Courtesy photo)

state, emerged relatively late in the regular session. Even after Democratic leaders offered slimmed-down versions of the bill, they could not find the support to pass it.

That failure threatened layoffs at the agency and led Gov. Tina Kotek to call a special session in late summer to pass an even narrower package: a 6-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase; a doubling of some vehicle registration fees; and a doubling of a payroll tax to fund public

transit—but only for two years.

In passing the more modest bill, Democrats neutralized groups critical of more expensive versions of the bill that have paid to fund a referral. But critics of the bill, led by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Starr (R-Dundee), state Rep. Ed Diehl (R-Scio), and Jason Williams of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon, mounted a guerilla campaign to refer the gas tax increase.

In late December, their

group, No Tax Oregon, delivered the latest blow to Democrats’ plans for ODOT when they turned in just shy of 194,000 signatures—wrapped like Christmas presents and delivered by horse-drawn wagons—to Secretary of State Tobias Read’s office.

The ability of the anti-tax opposition to House Bill 3991 to gather so many signatures so quickly—and with virtually no funding—surprised many lawmakers as well as political insiders.

“I was flabbergasted,” says political pollster John Horvick of DHM Research, who has no stake in the issue.

The anti-tax group’s success has convinced many Democrats the referral would not only pass easily—killing the tax increase—but that it would also give Republicans a powerful tool to use against legislative Democrats in contested districts and against Gov. Kotek as she seeks reelection in 2026.

Democrats told OJP that in view of the success in signature gathering, they see three options:

- Take the loss earlier. That could mean moving the gas tax referral to the ballot in May rather than

allowing it to go on the November ballot.

- Take the loss on schedule. If Democrats do nothing, that allows Republicans to capitalize on the unpopular tax in campaign messaging for the next 11 months.

- Repeal all or parts of HB 3991 in the short session that begins Feb. 4.

Several Democratic lawmakers and political consultants say the third option—repeal—makes sense both practically and politically.

The practical consideration is that, by gathering signatures far in excess of the threshold required to qualify for the ballot (78,116 valid signatures), No Tax Oregon put the gas tax and other increases on hold until the matter is decided. (Otherwise, the increases would have gone into effect Jan. 1, 2026.)

If Democrats are going to lose on that question in November, the thinking goes, why not start in February to figure out a solution for ODOT that Republicans will accept?

The political question is more nuanced. Absent the gas tax issue, Democrats could capitalize in 2026 on widespread dislike of the GOP’s standard-bearer, President Donald Trump. History shows that midterm elections typically favor the party that lost the presidential election. The unpopularity of the gas tax increase threatens that Democratic advantage.

Kotek waited to sign HB 3991 for nearly the maximum time allowed after lawmakers passed it. That tactic shortened the window for her opponents to gather signatures. It didn’t work. Now, Kotek says she wants to cooperate with critics to find a solution for ODOT.

“The governor is committed to working with lawmakers of both parties, ODOT leadership, stakeholders, and local leaders to find a path forward,” her spokeswoman Roxy Mayer says. “Her

guiding principle is to avoid, as much as possible, immediate service cuts that will impact Oregonians.”

Mayer declined to comment on which Democratic strategy—including a repeal of HB 3991—Kotek favors.

Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) and House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-Eugene) were similarly noncommittal.

“We are considering several options for moving forward—as always, any legislator who shares that goal and is willing to work in good faith has a seat at that table,” Fahey says, adding, “The Republican politicians behind the referral effort don’t have a backup plan, and the transportation needs facing every corner of the state won’t fix themselves.”

Wagner highlighted the challenges the signature-gathering poses for motorists. “Our focus right now is on ensuring the basic safety and maintenance of our roads now that emergency funding is on hold,” he says. “We are ready to work with the governor’s office, ODOT, and our local partners to manage this situation through the upcoming legislative session.”

Pollster Horvick says the nearly 200,000 signatures gathered put Democrats in a tough spot.

“If you assume the referral is going to pass—and pass overwhelmingly—it makes more sense to take the pain sooner than later,” he says. “Still, it’s not a great look for Democrats, and it would look a little weird for the governor to sign a repeal after calling a special session.”

Diehl, one of the leaders of the repeal campaign, says he’s heard secondhand that Democrats may seek to frustrate his group’s path to the November ballot. A repeal of the measure, of course, would be a victory of sorts. But Diehl says he’d need to see the details.

For one thing, HB 3991 included a number of nontax items, including the resolution of a long-running dispute between truckers and the state over the apportionment of road-user charges. “There are some parts of the bill I like,” Diehl says.

Extreme weather over the past week caused flooding and landslides in parts of the state. That led some Republicans to call for emergency funding for ODOT, even as the referral freezes new money; Democrats said the recent damage to state highways and roads points to the need for HB 3991 funding.

Diehl says he hopes the disagreement will lead to a more thorough examination of how ODOT operates. He remains convinced the agency is poorly run and could prioritize its spending much more efficiently.

“We’ve got to put maintenance and safety first,” he says. “This is our one chance to really hold an agency accountable.”

See previous coverage online at the Lincoln County Leader website and follow new developments in the Wednesday print editions of The Leader.

the spotlight

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



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FRAA Launches new website

Florence Regional Arts Alliance is proud to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website at www.fraaoregon.org - created to better serve artists, students, and arts supporters throughout our community.

The new website features artist profiles that highlight the diverse and talented creatives who make Florence such a vibrant arts destination. Visitors can learn more

about local artists, explore their work, and discover the stories behind the art that enriches our region.

Signing up for creativity is now easier than ever with streamlined class and workshop registration. Whether you're interested in painting, ceramics, fiber arts, writing, or other creative opportunities, the improved registration system makes it simple to find and enroll in classes offered through FRAA.

The site also provides quick access to upcoming events, exhibitions, and programs, making it easier to stay connected and involved with the local arts scene.

Visit www.fraaoregon.org today to explore the new features, support local artists, and discover your next creative experience with Florence Regional Arts Alliance—celebrating and strengthening the arts on the Oregon Coast.

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/LiftOffEUG>

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FLOCK

From Page A1

at a January 22nd work session.

Mayor Rob Ward introduced the topic, saying the purpose of the special meeting was to gather community input regarding the City's use of the Flock Safety Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) camera system.

CURRENTLY IN USE

Police Chief John Pitcher gave a presentation providing background on the Department's use of the cameras, clarification of how the system operates, and an outline of costs, funding and privacy safeguards.

He said the first camera was installed in April 2024 at the intersection of highways 101 and 126, which started a one-year trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the camera and address concerns.

"We didn't have any concerns, no issues, no inappropriate use of the system," he said, highlighting that during that time the cameras identified 47 stolen license plates, 36 stolen vehicles, conducted 20 alerts for missing people, and assisted in local investigations and one Lane County homicide case. He said that before the Sheriff's investigation even began, Florence police officers were able to determine the suspect vehicle had gone through the cameras before turning south onto Highway 101, where the driver was later arrested.

He said the city currently has four operating cameras and two more, which are installed but not yet activated.

Pitcher said the cameras only take photos of the rear of vehicles. He said cameras do not record audio or video, do not capture pictures of drivers or passengers in the vehicle, and do not use facial recognition. He said the system can be used to look for particular license plates, particular vehicle descriptions, and some outstanding features such as stickers on the vehicle.

"It will occasionally get the front of a vehicle," he said, "but it has to align just right, there's no other traffic and it gets within view of that camera... but you still can't see inside."

Pitcher shared a photo from the Flock camera, showing the back of a passing westbound police car, which included an

oncoming eastbound passenger car.

"It gives us the plate, [and] it gives us the car," he said. "The investigative summary is what we use. It will tell us the camera and the location. Then we input what we did the search for, so all that is listed in our investigative summary."

He said the photo highlights that the camera does not collect personal information, does not identify the owners of the vehicle, does not operate on private property, and does not provide real-time tracking of individuals.

Pitcher said the purpose of the system is to enhance Public Safety, provide real-time alerts on stolen vehicles, missing persons and crimes, and to identify suspect vehicles related to active investigations.

He said the cameras are also very helpful when it comes to locating subjects with dementia or mental health issues who should not be driving, but do so anyway.

He said FPD uses only an in-state lookup system and does not share its camera data with federal authorities.

Just because we share with another agency, they cannot share our cameras," he said. "We have the only access to our cameras. If we have an investigation, like a homicide investigation, and they wanted that image saved, of course, they could share that image, but again, that image is just the back of the vehicle. There's no identifying information on the person."

Showing a map of the camera locations in Florence, Pitcher said each is set up to show vehicles traveling in particular directions.

Pitcher said that when

it comes to control and oversight, officers must document the purpose for each search of the system and all accesses are logged and audited. He said an audit then tracks Florence police access and also tracks external agency accesses.

"We do let our local state troopers access our cameras so they can use those, since they share the same criminals and crimes in our area," he said. "Next, it will tell us who logged on, who did a search, and what it was for." He said it will also show if any external agencies tried to access the cameras.

He said weekly audits are done by himself and the Department's Lieutenant, which will show exactly who requested the information and why.

"At this point, our cameras have not been used inappropriately," he said. "They have never been misused and have only been used for the purposes that are being stated. If we were to find something inappropriate, we would immediately start our own investigation."

Pitcher said all images are "hard deleted" after 30 days, making them inaccessible to anyone. He said images related to particular investigations can be saved and that all retained images are the property of the Florence Police Department, not Flock Safety. Pitcher said, and it was repeated later, that Flock does not sell or share FPD data.

Pitcher said the encrypted data is stored on an FBI-compliant government cloud. He said the local system is compliant with local and state laws that say FPD cannot share information

See FLOCK, Page A6

Florence City Council to Continue Discussion on Flock Cameras

FROM CITY OF FLORENCE

On Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., the Florence City Council will hold a work session in person at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101. The purpose of this meeting is for the City Council to continue the discussion regarding the City's use of the Flock Safety Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) camera system.

No action will be taken at this work session, but the City Council may include this topic as an action item at the next regular City Council Meeting, scheduled for Monday, February 2, at 5:30 p.m.

The City Council held a special meeting about Flock Safety and the City's ALPR camera system on January 5. All materials from that meeting can be accessed

by selecting the meeting date in the City's Agenda Center, <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/AgendaCenter>. The meeting recording, including professional audio and visual, is also available through the Agenda Center and at <https://vimeo.com/1152040611>.

The January 22 work session is for City Council discussion, and will not include verbal public comment. However, written public comments will be accepted. Written public input may be submitted by any of the following methods:

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

to the right of the main entrance

The Florence City Council meeting agenda and meeting materials will be published on the City's website and posted to the meeting's date in the Agenda Center, <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/AgendaCenter>. To be notified when the agenda and meeting materials are available, please subscribe to the City Council meeting email distribution list at www.ci.florence.or.us/newsletter/subscriptions.

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

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

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Watercolor Landscapes w/ Peggy Ross
6 class series, Wednesdays, Jan 14, 21, 28 and Feb 4, 18, 25 and March 4 10 am - 12:00 pm. Cost \$195 for FRAA members, \$235 for non-FRAA members, \$10 material fee.

Beginning Watercolor w/ Peggy Ross
6 class series, Wednesdays, Jan 21 & 28, Feb 4, 18, 25 and March 4 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Cost \$195 for FRAA members, \$235 for non-FRAA members, \$15 material fee.

Multimedia Flowers with Kim Renteria
Sunday, February 1st, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Cost \$30 for FRAA members, \$40 for non-FRAA members, materials provided.

Open Studio Fridays! @ FRAA
No registration required. Drop-in, bring your materials, and create. All artistic mediums welcome. Every Friday, 12 - 4 pm.

Transparent Watercolor - Save the White with ELee Hadley
4 class series - Mondays, Jan 19, Feb 2 & 16, March 2, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Cost \$140 for FRAA members, \$170 for non-FRAA members.

Creativity Through Play with Greta Olivas
4 class series - Thursdays, Feb 5, 12, 19 & 25, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Cost \$160 for FRAA members, \$200 for non-FRAA members. Materials provided.

Colored Disks with Kim Renteria
Sunday, February 8th, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Cost \$20 for FRAA members, \$30 for non-FRAA members, materials provided.

Oil Painting with John Leasure
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm. No painting experience required. Contact: 541-991-2754 or jnleasure@hotmail.com for details/fees.

Draw Together with SCWBI
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For more information about classes, visit fraaoregon.org. To register for classes, please call or visit FRAA Art Center on Maple Street. All classes held at FRAA Creative Center (1/7/26)

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Flock

From Page A5

with federal authorities, particularly immigration authorities. He added that immigration authorities cannot use any local police resources for immigration purposes, even so little as an ink pen from the police department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A crowd of around 100 people came to the Florence Events Center for the special meeting. Most speakers opposed the use of Flock cameras for the following reasons.

Andrew SIMRON, a county resident living near Eugene, said he felt it was important to attend the meeting.

“The Flock system is not something that serves the public interest,” he said, and the contract with Flock should be canceled immediately. The Oregon legislature is going to be looking into privacy laws around this soon and the harms that Flock is doing to the community during this time is unacceptable.” Calling Flock an indiscriminate mass surveillance system that uses Artificial intelligence, SIMRON said the cameras can also take photos of pedestrians and other features. He said that while the cameras do not photograph inside the car, the license plate information often correlates to the driver. He suggested it would be possible to track someone since the information is retained for 30 days and could be used to determine travel patterns. He said abuses of the system have been documented nationwide.

Speaker Amy Martin said she was unsure whether the community should be more concerned about flock safety as a company or AI traffic cameras as a technology.

“I am certainly concerned that the data collected by Flock cameras here in Florence and around the country is being used for purposes other than tracking criminals,” she said. “Data collected by Flock Safety cameras has been accessed by ICE, which, as far as I’m concerned, it’s acting illegally in its roundup, kidnapping or deportation of citizens and non-citizens alike.” Martin expressed concern that ICE could use Oregon Data to get around certain laws. She said an issue with login credentials made Flock facial recognition camera information available to the public and was used

by federal agents to track people participating in protests. Martin noted that a judge in Skagit County Superior Court, Washington, ruled that images captured by the cameras qualify as public records, subject to the state’s public records act, mulling the promise of data protection.

Speaker Donna Mathews said the City of Florence does not have a contract with Flock, but instead, has a “surveillance subscription service with terms and conditions that are accessed via a weblink.” Mathews said those terms change, depending on the challenges faced by the company.

“The terms are there to protect and benefit this company,” she said, “not our community.” Mathews said the agreement signed in May 2025, was altered by Flock just days after Eugene and Springfield Police Departments to now state that Flock “retains a worldwide license to use customer data and has no obligation to monitor or enforce data usage.” She said filters installed by the company are proving easy to get around and that Flock will take no responsibility for circumstances caused by mistakes or corruption of its data. She said the result could be lawsuits that leave taxpayers liable. Mathews quoted Sen. Ron Wyden, who said the company has built a dangerous platform. Mathews said Flock has shared with ICE, violating its own terms and its credibility is now being questioned nationwide. Mathews asked that the company’s public portal be activated so that residents can see usage patterns.

“Show us there’s nothing to hide,” she said.

SPEAKER FUNG VAN asked that the cameras be disconnected and removed because other law enforcement agencies have canceled contracts because of vulnerabilities in the system.

She said other cities have had cameras turned back on after deactivation without their knowledge.

“This is a recurring problem because Flock is an untrustworthy company, she said. “The cameras are mass surveillance on all of us, without our knowledge or consent, a violation of our 4th Amendment Rights.” She said Flock incentivizes data sharing on a nationwide level and on many instances, have violated privacy and sanctuary laws.

“I do not give my consent to be monitored by

these cameras,” she said, suggesting the city and community could work together to find better solutions.

Speaker Rainbow (no last name given) said the misuse of flock data has been apparent for a long time, and that she was “disgusted and infuriated to learn that they were being used here in Florence.” She said the data was being misused by other agencies to misidentify and arrest people, as well as being used by immigration authorities and track women seeking reproductive health care. Rainbow Spoke of a published case where a police chief had been found using flock data to track his ex-girlfriend. Expressing distrust of the police department over a personal case, Rainbow asked why they should be trusted with Flock usage.

“I feel less safe in this town because of this,” she said. “Get the Flock out.”

Springfield resident Rob Sheldon said he was a founding member of a group opposing Flock cameras and is a professional software engineer with 30 years of experience. He said it took about 6 months to convince City leaders to develop better policies for warrantless surveillance technology. He also said the two departments later found that cameras had been reactivated without their knowledge.

“I understand this technology very well,” he said. “I helped legally reverse-engineer portions of it to discover that the devices are collecting and transmitting far more of our information than is being provided to law enforcement agencies. I was able to identify real-time video and audio recording software that was running on the active Flock device that was installed in my neighborhood.” He said that while police may not have access to the cameras’ audio and video capabilities, “Flock absolutely does.”

“You do not have control over this system,” he said, suggesting language in the City’s contract shows it. “You do not own the hardware or software, and you do not own the data they collect.”

Sheldon said the City does not have the previously mentioned transparency portal, which showed Flock was sharing data with out-of-state agencies. He said that while the system promised to make the city more safe, it is making residents less safe, because officers do not sufficiently control the

cameras.

Speaker DICK HOLMES/COMB said he agrees with previous privacy and security concerns, adding that the very presence of the cameras seems to suggest that Florence residents are criminals who need to be watched.

Speaker Randall Thomas, a retired FBI agent, said his career involved doing invasive things to US citizens, alongside other FBI Agents using FBI-issued equipment.

“We were under the control of our supervisors, who were under the control of their supervisors, who were under the control of the U.S. Department of Justice,” he said, adding that the initiative to do so was by design. “I don’t think your problem here is a law enforcement problem,” he said. “We have a goal here. We have a fabulous police department that serves our community well, who we trust and who we know. If we have an issue with them, we know how to find them and their bosses. That’s not true of Flock, a third party that has built a magical mystery black box that we have to take on faith as being used in good faith. We are never going to be able to do that.”

Thomas requested that the Florence city attorney speak with the city attorney in Eugene to understand what happened there. He also suggested an in-house system fully controlled by FPD.

“You’re never going to solve the problem of giving this much power and authority over our citizens to a private, third-party entity that’s not under your control and, quite frankly, can fool us by virtue of the complexity of the system,” he said. “People will never have the resources to out-Flock Flock.”

Speaker Nan Harvey said she supports the use of cameras for law enforcement use, but finds it unconscionable that a tiny number of Sheriff’s deputies have to cover such a vast area. She said that in many county and city police calls, the perpetrator leaves before officers arrive. Harvey said while she’s still unsure if Flock can be trusted, she felt the federal government will find ways around local laws.

“If they want it, they will get it,” she said, “and they will get it with vicious means.”

She suggested tabling the issue in favor of further research.

Judy PLUMMERY

said local police trust the service, having not had any issues, but may be unaware of unauthorized uses.

“I got a little nervous about the whole ‘stored on a government cloud’ thing, because who knows who’s got that?” she said. “We’ve already seen giant dumps of our Social Security and IRS information happening, so the security is pretty high risk to me.” She suggested following the lead of larger agencies that have discontinued their contracts.

Retired Councilor Bill Meyer spoke in favor of the Flock system, saying the reader technology has become an invaluable tool for police to quickly locate and apprehend violent individuals attempting to flee. Meyer used the Brown University shooting as an example where Flock may have helped locate the suspect before he reached MIT.

Speaker Rob Wells, a 20-year resident, said the cameras carry risks, make mistakes and are susceptible to hacking. He said the data isn’t on a government server, but on Amazon Web Services.

“About once a month, I hear about a hack of AWS,” he said, “so they’re not exactly the most secure system in the world.” Wells said Flock’s encryption system was state-of-the-art five or six years ago, but should be “hackable” in 18 to 24 months, due to AI.

He said constant-running cameras in public spaces are the start of a surveillance state.

He said Flock’s record has been to act first and ask for permission later.

“I don’t have much faith that they will do what’s best for Florence,” he said. “They’ll do what’s best for Flock.” He said he also supported the development of an in-house system.

Speaker Hailey MALLARD opposed the cameras, saying the current use is not the end goal of Flock. She said some have stated that the envisioned use of the cameras is to link them to AI and sell the data to third-party data brokers. She said she supported private use of cameras in private areas, but not in public spaces where they can capture images from around the vehicle, as well as the plate.

Speaker Andrew PRATER questioned how cameras can take a still photo without recording the entire time.

“I don’t think Flock is trustworthy,” he said. “I don’t think that building an internal system is good

because it just takes us a step closer to having all this data that doesn’t need to be in place.” He said that based on the Washington judge’s ruling, information from an in-house system could still be subpoenaed. He questioned the meaning of “hard-deleted” data, saying there are too many unanswered questions present to consider the technology.

Speaker Evelyn Lovelace, a former programmer with a degree in computer science, pleaded with the council to get rid of the Flock cameras. While she supported and praised FPD, she said Flock’s system is an existential threat, since they are connected to the internet.

“As someone who’s done network programming, I know what the implications of that statement are,” she said. “The simple truth is that tech companies like Amazon and Facebook don’t need your log in to access your account.” She said that with just a name, “They can have more intimate access to your account than you do.” She said Flock is no different when it comes to the FPD account and can change camera operations at any time, without the police knowing.

Lovelace said Flock has shown a mercenary character in the past, and said the system has also shown many flaws. She said the cameras pose a threat to many in town, including herself, as the federal government has taken actions against minorities and trans citizens.

“If I ever have to flee this country, those cameras will track me down and I am scared shitless about that,” she said, pleading that the cameras be removed so black, Latino, queer and immigrant people can sleep a little more soundly at night.

The council heard more public comments after a break, along with comments by Trevor Chandler, Flock’s Senior public affairs representative. Councilors, especially Jo Beaudreau, asked questions regarding its security protocols, audits and policies regarding the selling of data.

The council took a break after registered public comments, but due to the sheer amount of information in the four-hour meeting, this story appears in two parts.

The next will appear Jan. 21, the day before the City Council’s work session to continue discussions on the matter.

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GRANT

From Page A1

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ICE

From Page A1

generated significant and genuine fear among many communities nationwide, contributing to trauma, in conflict with the inclusive values held by the community and that the fear affects the quality of life and sense of security for Florence residents.

The yet-to-be-presented declaration, read by City Recorder Lyndsey White, essentially added that the city works to uphold the quality of life and sense of security for Florence residents. It said the City and police department have received inquiries regarding immigration related enforcement at the local level. The statement affirms that the City Council feels it is important for a community to understand how the city interacts with the public on this topic. It included that the Florence Police Department does not enforce federal immigration law and will continue to follow state laws regarding immigration.

A final bullet point is yet to be added.

TAKEN OUT

As a result of the discussion, a paragraph was removed that said the council opposes the stationing of ICE personnel or ICE facilities related to enforcement activities within the City of Florence’s jurisdiction in support of the Oregon Sanctuary Promise Act. The redacted statement closed by saying the City Council agrees to pursue every available legal and legislative avenue, and by cooperation with local, State and federal leaders, to prevent the establishment of ICE activities or facilities in Florence.

Staff will compile the full declaration and return it to the council.

SANCTUARY LAW EXPLAINED

City Attorney Ross Williamson gave a presentation on Oregon’s Sanctuary Law and the implications of a declaration, stressing that he was not making any recommendations to the council.

He said Oregon was the first state in the union to pass a sanctuary law in 1987 that restricted state and local government from helping federal authorities with immigration enforcement.

“It has been updated with what they call the Sanctuary Promise Act, which adjusted our original sanctuary law in 2021. Those additions didn’t create a lot of substantive changes in terms of restricting what local governments can do in terms of immigration enforcement and just added some enforcement mechanisms,” he said. “In 2021, the legislature officially gave citizens the right to sue us if we do something wrong under the Sanctuary Law. That had not been explicit in the



Councilors talked for over two hours to revise a declaration regarding immigration practices and policies. Tony Reed photo

law before.” Williamson gave the example of an inmate being held in the City jail for a city offense, for a particular amount of time. He said if the police department got a request to hold that person for a longer period of time than legal to accommodate an immigration investigation, the department would be in violation of the Sanctuary Law.

He explained that local officers cannot inquire about, or participate in immigration efforts or investigations, generally, but a few exceptions occur.

Williamson said Oregon’s law regarding detention facilities says, “no private entity in Oregon can operate an immigration detention center.”

He said the sanctuary law does not stop deportations or impact federal prosecutions and that federal employees in Oregon do not operate under the Sanctuary Law.

Responding to Mayor Rob Ward, Williamson said that since the City has no authority over federal employees exercising due process, it cannot stop or prevent federal agencies from doing their jobs.

“The Supremacy Clause under the Constitution generally means that federal law applies across the entire United States and it’s the supreme law of the land,” he said. “Underneath that, our states have authority to regulate things that aren’t regulated by the federal government, and our cities and counties have authority to regulate things that are at the local level.”

Williamson’s presentation included that officials may not grant federal immigration authorities access to non-public spaces without a judicial warrant, police are prohibited from acting on non-judicial warrants, and all requests made by federal agencies to local agencies regarding immigration enforcement without a judicial order must be documented, reported, and denied.

He explained that “judicial” means it has been signed by a judge, which he clarified by saying “someone in a black robe.” Non-judicial warrants are simply orders and are not signed by a judge.

“Under our Sanctuary

Law, that [non-judicial warrant] is not good enough,” he said. He later explained that if the City or its police department gets a non-judicial order or information request from a federal agency, the City has to document, report and deny it.

On the other side, Williamson said the Sanctuary Law does not give Florence residents the legal right to ignore federal law, impede federal immigration agents, restrict their vehicles’ movements, or break local laws. Doing so could lead to federal repercussions against that resident.

Part of Williamson’s presentation included recommendations from the Immigration Legal Resource Center, including that if agents do not have a judicial warrant, persons have no obligation to open a door for them. Without a judicial warrant, no obligation or consent to search exists, and there is no obligation to answer any questions. It also reminds that no one is obligated to sign anything without speaking to a lawyer.

COUNCIL VIEWS

Councilor Mike Webb said the declaration, as originally written, calls out ICE, when other Federal agencies like the U.S. Marshal’s Office, the Coast Guard and Homeland Security sometimes do the same job.

“To me... It’s a polarizing document, at a time when we are extremely polarized,” Webb said. “It doesn’t do anything to bring us together or create a solution.” Webb suggested it might be better to write Oregon Senators and ask them to work on immigration law solutions, rather than opposing federal law.

Councilor Robert Carp said he himself was a young immigrant who went through the legal process to become a citizen, serve in the US Military and have a career in law enforcement. He said that in those positions and as a council member, he swore an oath to the Constitution.

“This proclamation goes against my core values,

my ethics, my principles and my moral compass,” he said. “I cannot support any resolution, of any type, that attacks our government or a law enforcement entity.” He said the statement attacks a federal agency, causes division, and polarizes the community without solving any problem.

Mayor Ward said legislators have always talked about immigration reform but that it never goes anywhere and still needs to be fixed.

“As a result of all that’s going on, we really need to address that issue,” he said. Ward later said some community fear comes from not fully understanding the laws.

“What we are really trying to do is put our community at rest in knowing what the rules really are so people understand what can, and cannot, happen in Florence and what the city will, or will not do, related to immigration.”

Based on the comments, Councilor Jo Beaudreau suggested the declaration include language calling for state and federal legislative action.

“I’d like to add, ‘Whereas, we call for a solution from our state and federal representatives for this local issue that is also a national issue,’” she said. “That’s engaging and calling out the governments that are above us ... to say, ‘Hey, we’re a local government and we are dealing with your national issues that you are, or are not, working on.’” She suggested including a phrase to ask that local governments could help or be a part of the solution.

Councilor Sally Wantz said the declaration could be a valuable tool to show citizens that “We got their back,” while calming fears and also saying the council is going to try to do something about it. She agreed that language could be added to spur state legislators.

“I still would like a compassionate statement from the council to the citizens that ‘we hear you,’” Wantz said. Webb suggested the statement may give false confidence, since Florence can do nothing to stop federal

authorities.

“I don’t see it as false confidence,” Wantz replied. “I see it as saying, ‘We hear you, we understand the trauma, we understand that there are laws in place and we’ll do everything we can to follow those laws, and we’re going to try to make changes to immigration law if that’s what we need to do.’”

Carp suggested such language could alienate “the other half, if not more, of the community,” adding that a process exists for immigrants to become legal citizens.

“Everyone keeps arguing that we need to change immigration law,” he said, noting that he followed the process to citizenship himself. “We have that in place.” He said that while many in Florence would want the declaration, just as many would ask the City to protect their interests. He said that since he and Wantz are on different political sides, she does not hear from residents outside her political group.

“You’re not respecting the other side,” he said.

After further discussion, Wantz said she’d hoped there would be a council-wide desire to tell affected and fearful members of the community that the council hears them.

Mayor Ward said he liked the inclusions, but suggested including the Immigration and Non-enforcement policy of the Florence Police Department.

That policy reads, “the Florence Police Department has received a few inquiries regarding immigration related enforcement at the local level in light of recent national events. We feel it is important for our community to understand how we interact 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 any political subdivision of the state shall use agency monies, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons who are 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 upholding this policy and Oregon state law and will treat each person with their due respect and dignity.

The council agreed, save for Councilor Carp.

It was noted several times that a declaration would be symbolic, not an official direction by the council to staff, law enforcement personnel or the community. The revised version will come to the council for adoption at the next meeting Feb. 7.

Carp repeated that he would not support any declaration attacking the government or law enforcement, adding that if it comes before the council at a regular meeting, he will leave the council chambers during that time.

ICE INCIDENTS

It was an unrelated coincidence that the Council held the work session meeting the morning after a Minneapolis woman, Renee Good, was shot and killed by an ICE officer on Jan. 8. The work session had been scheduled prior to the incident

The Council held a moment of silence during the meeting for her.

Later that day, in Portland, Federal immigration officers shot and wounded two people in a vehicle outside a hospital. According to the Associated Press, Homeland Security officials described the vehicle’s passenger as “a Venezuelan illegal alien affiliated with the transnational Tren de Aragua prostitution ring” who had been involved in a recent shooting in Portland. When agents identified themselves to the vehicle occupants, the driver tried to run them over, the department said in a written statement.

“We are still in the early stages of this incident,” Portland Chief Bob Day told media. “We understand the heightened emotion and tension many are feeling in the wake of the shooting in Minneapolis, but I am asking the community to remain calm as we work to learn more.”

Further details were not known as of press time.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

Low2:13 a.m.....4.7
High.....8:26 a.m.....7.4
Low4:05 p.m.....0.8
High.....11:14 p.m.....5.8

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Low3:24 a.m.....4.7
High.....9:21 a.m.....7.6
Low4:49 p.m.....0.4
High.....11:50 p.m.....6.1

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Low4:20 a.m.....4.6
High.....10:09 a.m.....7.8
Low5:28 p.m.....0.1

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

High.....12:21 a.m.....6.4
Low5:07 a.m.....4.3
High.....10:52 a.m.....8.0
Low6:03 p.m.....-0.2

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

High.....12:51 a.m.....6.6
Low5:48 a.m.....3.9
High.....11:31 a.m.....8.2
Low6:35 p.m.....-0.5

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

High.....1:19 a.m.....6.8
Low6:27 a.m.....3.6
High.....12:09 p.m.....8.2
Low7:06 p.m.....-0.6

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

High.....1:47 a.m.....7.0
Low7:06 a.m.....3.2
High.....12:47 p.m.....8.0
Low7:36 p.m.....-0.5

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

High.....2:14 a.m.....7.3
Low7:45 a.m.....2.8
High.....1:27 p.m.....7.7
Low8:05 p.m.....-0.3

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

High.....2:42 a.m.....7.5
Low8:28 a.m.....2.4
High.....2:10 p.m.....7.3
Low8:36 p.m.....0.2

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

High.....3:10 a.m.....7.7
Low9:14 a.m.....2.1
High.....2:58 p.m.....6.8
Low9:08 p.m.....0.9

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

High.....3:41 a.m.....8.0
Low10:06 a.m.....1.7
High.....3:54 p.m.....6.2
Low9:43 p.m.....1.7

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

High.....4:17 a.m.....8.1
Low11:08 a.m.....1.5
High.....5:03 p.m.....5.6
Low10:23 p.m.....2.6

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

High.....5:00 a.m.....8.2
Low12:19 p.m.....1.2
High.....6:33 p.m.....5.2
Low11:15 p.m.....3.5

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

High.....5:54 a.m.....8.2
Low1:36 p.m.....0.7
High.....8:22 p.m.....5.2

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Low12:30 a.m.....4.2
High.....7:02 a.m.....8.2
Low2:49 p.m.....0.2
High.....9:55 p.m.....5.7

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Low2:04 a.m.....4.5
High.....8:17 a.m.....8.4
Low3:53 p.m.....-0.4
High.....10:56 p.m.....6.2

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Low3:28 a.m.....4.3
High.....9:26 a.m.....8.6
Low4:48 p.m.....-0.9
High.....11:42 p.m.....6.7

Viking girls secure fifth win

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

The Siuslaw girls basketball team has secured a fifth win, the highest number of victories in a season since 2018-2019, when the Vikings went 5-19.

After closing the 2025 ledger with a 48-19 win over Oakridge, the Vikings went to play a challenging field at the Bandon Dunes tournament Jan. 1-4. The Vikings took

stinging defeats to Umpqua Valley Christian and Brookings-Harbor, but saved their best performance of the tournament for their final game.

Facing off against South Umpqua at Harbor Lights Middle School, the Vikings pieced together a 39-31 victory over South Umpqua. It will serve



as a nice confidence booster against a familiar foe, as the Lancers are an opponent Siuslaw will play as part of the Far West League. It also marked the first time the Vikings have defeated South Umpqua in a game since January of 2017.

Following the win, Siuslaw faced Toledo High School on Jan. 6. It was a heavy defeat for Siuslaw, who lost to the Boomers 60-16. The final non-league game of the Vikings' early season was against Harrisburg Jan. 9. The result of that game is unknown at the time of press.

Next up for the Vikings is the league schedule, which will see Siuslaw play 10 games between now and Feb. 19. The

Vikings will play each of Sutherlin, Coquille, South Umpqua, Glide, and Douglas twice: once at home, once away. The first game of Far West play will be against Sutherlin away from home on Jan. 15.

If the Vikings can win more than two league games, it will be the first time since 2013-2014, when Siuslaw won four. For a team that's already grabbed some big wins, history seems more than possible in 2026.

Peters photo exhibit at Siuslaw Public Library

Curt Peters is pleased to announce his photo show at Siuslaw Public Library. This show consists of 35 unreleased images from Curt's journeys to Costa Rica.

Curt has been traveling to and photographing the vibrant heart of Costa Rica's rainforests for over 30 years. He loves spending hours in the humidity, waiting motionless amid sudden rains and insect swarms with some of his photographic treasures which include: fiery red-crowned woodpeckers, soaring white-fronted parrots, blazing summer tanagers, cobalt land crabs, curious white-faced capuchins, golden-mantled howlers, rainbow scarlet macaws, crested plumed basilisks, jewel-like hummingbirds, velvet gartered trogons, emerald great green macaws, cascading pagoda flowers and



lobster-claw heliconias, massive-billed chestnut-mandibled toucans, scarlet-gazed red-eyed treefrogs, jade-tailed resplendent quetzals, slow-dreaming brown-throated sloths and a spectacled owl. These images capture the rainforest's explosive colors, intoxicating smells, and untamed sounds-a living tapestry of wonder.

Curt Peters is an award-winning photographer and master printer based in Florence, Oregon. With over 50 years of experience in photography, he has dedicated his career to capturing the beauty of landscapes, wildlife, and human moments while mastering the art of digital imaging and fine art printing.

Curt's journey began in his youth, sparked by early experiments with cameras that quickly evolved into a lifelong passion. After brief studies at Oregon State University, he transferred to the University of Arizona in Tucson, honing his skills amid diverse environments. Post-college, he pointed his lens at the landscapes of 27 countries, from the Caribbean to Alaska, building a vast portfolio of hundreds of thousands of images. Upon settling down in Florence in 2006, he founded "Digital Dunes Photography". Digital Dunes Photography offers a full spectrum of services: wedding, portrait, senior, family, event, and product photography, alongside expert photo restorations, custom fine art printing, and reproductions.

While the commercial

work at Digital Dunes Photography sustains the studio, Curt's true passion lies in fine art landscape and wildlife photography where he has showcased dramatic coastal lighthouses, Thor's Well, the Siuslaw River Bridge, to name a few locally. A full scope of his images can be found on his "Curtis Peters Photography" website, curtpeters.com. Curt says, "I strive for perfection in every stage from ethical wild shooting, meticulous post-processing in Adobe Lightroom Classic to preserve natural tones and details, and obsessive calibration for prints that breath life into the scene."

This show will be on display from January 2 through the end of the month in the lobby of the Siuslaw Public Library located at 1460 9th Street in Florence.

Siuslaw boys starting new year with wins

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Siuslaw started 2026 in style, winning three of their first games in the new year and taking third at the Bandon Dunes Tournament on Jan. 1-3.

Hosted by Bandon High School, the tournament was the first taste

of action for the Vikings in 2026, and they played some of their best basketball of the season.

Siuslaw opened with a 47-41 win over Umpqua Valley Christian to lead off the competition on Jan. 1. It was a gutsy win for the Vikings, who struggled to find their rhythm for most of the contest, but found their

footing in the clutch to secure the victory.

"The boys struggled for the majority of the game but found a way to fight through it all and play their best basketball in overtime to figure out a way to win," Head Coach Dylan Perry said.

Sophomore Jericho Lake made a tremendous impact on the game,

scoring almost half of Siuslaw's points. Lake netted 23 points and was lethal from beyond the arc, knocking down six three-pointers. Seniors Asher Borgnino and Tom Morgan also chipped in on the score sheet with 10 and six points, respectively.

After the overtime win against the Monarchs,

Siuslaw took on a different challenge. The semifinal game of the tournament was against Del Norte. Del Norte is in California and has a student body almost three times the size of Siuslaw's. Under the circumstances, Perry was proud of the way his

See **BOYS**, Page B3

Interact and Grow with Local Authors: Valerie Davisson and Dr. Ruth Ballard

Please come join us for an enlightening time with our dual coastal spotlight speakers, Dr. Ruth Ballard and Valerie Davisson, for our January 17, 2026 Willamette Writers Coast Chapter meeting at the Newport Public Library from 2-4 p.m. Both authors will have Q & A and book signing opportunities after both presentations at 3:55 p.m. Come join us with great expectations!

Science speaks to crime enthusiasts and writers in Dr. Ruth (Ruthy) Ballard's presentation

from 2-3 p.m. on what forensic DNA can do these days and how this creates fertile ground for story ideas. Dr. Ballard will relate how "getting the science right will inspire age-appropriate science fantasy novels." Dr. Ruth E. Ballard, Ph.D., is a human molecular geneticist who specializes in forensic serology and DNA. As a professor at California State University, Sacramento from 1996-2023, she comes to us with extensive knowledge about legal discovery including

her role as the DNA expert on the recent University of Idaho student murders case. We will discover in her session: The Devil's in the DNA: Inside Info for Crime Writers and True Crime Aficionados in the Era of the University of Idaho Student Murders her vast assessment of evidence and how this relates to examining, solving, and writing about crime! Science matters!

Check out her following resources before our meeting: Ruth Ballard YouTube Channel,

DrRuthBallard.com

Writers of every experience level know that coming up with a great idea for a book is the easy part. Turning that idea into a polished, published book is the challenge. Join author Valerie Davisson from 3-4 p.m. as she walks you through each of the 15-steps of this intricate journey using the production schedule she created and now shares with other authors.

No matter where you are on your author's path, From Lightbulb

to Launch: Creating a Production Schedule That Works will leave you inspired and empowered, with a better understanding of your publishing options-Indie, Hybrid, or traditional- and a customizable template to map out your own path to publication. Davisson is the author of the 11-title, character-driven Logan McKenna Mystery Series, set primarily here on the Oregon coast! Check out her website before our meeting: valeriedavisson.com



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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 McElhally attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant • Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

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

Cross Road Assembly of God

Sunday 9:00
1st Service in person
Sunday 11:00
2nd Service in person & Online
Children's Church
(0yrs-12yrs)
in person & Online
Corner of 10th & Maple
541-997-3533



Community Briefs

Crafting Your Family Legacy

From Stories to Published Books, 2-part Series

Join in Thursday, January 15 and February 19, at 3 pm in the Bromley Room, Siuslaw Public Library
1460 9th St, Florence, OR

Start writing your family history today. You may have years of research, or perhaps a relative just shared a new anecdote. Whatever the case, document it now. You can write an article, a book, or make an electronic recording. The important thing is to start before more memories

fade.

First meeting (Jan 15): come hear a presentation by local genealogist, Cindy Webb, who will give ideas in what to include.

The second meeting is Feb 19. Come share portions of your creations!

WLT meetings

West Lane Translator, Inc., a not-for-profit organization providing free television and radio re-transmission to the Florence area, will hold its Annual Meeting, including election of its officers, on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Siuslaw Library, Bromley Room

and virtually with attendance details provided to all current WLT members via email. For the convenience of the public, a summary of the meeting will be posted to the WLT website, westlanetv.org.

Florence Garden Club TO DO LIST, 2026

Check out the Florence Garden Club so:

- I can be a better gardener,
- I can learn what grows best here
- I can grow indoor plants without killing them
- I can grow bulbs the deer won't eat

-I can meet interesting people who share ideas and won't intimidate me.

Meetings are held at First Presbyterian Church, Florence (except January meeting)

2nd Wednesday of the month, 12:30pm-2:30pm

Visitors are welcome!

For more information: Facebook page: Florence Garden Club, Florence, Oregon

Dahlias are delightful in the Siuslaw region

Please join the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society for a presentation on Dahlias by Dan Green. Multitalented Green

has been an Aerospace Engineer, Construction manager, and started Dan's Dahlia's while living in Cornelius, OR. He had to stop when he took a job in France. After retirement, he moved to Florence and found the weather and soil favorable for Dahlias as well as our beloved rhododendrons. Dahlias with their diverse colors, sizes, shapes, and long season can be excellent companions to rhododendrons. This free event will occur on January 20 at 6:30 pm at the Presbyterian Community Church, 3669 Highway 101, in Florence.

Contact Day Farrald at 541-579-5544 for further information.

Oregon parents disproportionately exempt school-age children from vaccines

KHUSBOO RATHORE
Oregon Journalism Project

Oregon's already low kindergarten vaccination rates may worsen after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this month stopped recommending the hepatitis B vaccine at birth.

Public health experts decried the controversial decision, which overturned 30 years of guidance that cut rates of liver disease and cirrhosis.

Oregon is part of a new public health collaborative with Hawaii, California and Washington, the West

Coast Health Alliance, that works to support evidence-based vaccination schedules and policy, and recommends the vaccine.

Compared with those states, however, public health officials here may face a tougher task. By law, Oregon parents can claim both "medical" and "personal" exemptions to leave their children unvaccinated.

At 9.7%, Oregon has the third-highest kindergarten vaccine opt-out rate in the country, nearly triple the nation's 3.4%. Idaho ranks first (15.1%), followed by Utah (10%).

Kindergartners in nearly all Oregon counties have been vaccinated at rates lower than the national average for measles, mumps, rubella, whooping cough and hepatitis B, diseases that

can lead to lifelong consequences, even death.

This leaves the state far from what experts call "herd immunity," which requires a 95% vaccination rate for a community in order to thwart highly contagious diseases such as measles.

Morrow is the only Oregon county where over 95% of children in grades K-12 were up to date on vaccinations for the past school year.

"We try not to shame them, just provide them with information and education that they can make an informed decision," Morrow County public health director Robin Canaday says.

Nearby Grant County, at the other end, had a vaccination rate for the 2024-25 school year of only 85%.

"I think it's kind of out of sight, out of mind for some of these major diseases that people don't even have to interact with anymore," says the county's public health administrator, Trey

Thompson.

"Post-COVID, there's still a lot of distrust in just general vaccinations, even ones that have been long standing," he says.

U.S. Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. of the Department of Health and Human Services has publicly said, without citing evidence, that vaccines cause far more harm than good. Earlier this year, he appointed members to the CDC immunization panel who largely share his views.

Unvaccinated Oregon children have led to record cases this year of whooping cough, also known as pertussis. Through November, 1,453 cases have been reported in the state, a 43% increase over the same time last year, and the highest number since 1950.

"It's really, really hard to see a child that is so sick from pertussis," Canaday says, "and to think that vaccines can protect against the severity of those diseases."

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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
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Saturday 5:30 PM and Sunday 11:00 AM
Fr. Amir Welcomes All to Attend

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


CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Corner of 10th & Maple- 541-997-3533
Sunday Services 9am
1st Service in person
Sunday Services 11am
2nd Service in person & livestreamed
Wednesday kids/youth night is at 6:30 NOT livestreamed.
https://www.florencecrossroadag.org/church-online
Other platforms update after the service.
florencecrossroadag.org
office@florencecrossroadag.org

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2nd & Ivy - 541-997-2961 - Non-Denominational
Service is on Sunday at 10:00 am
Sunday Service also streaming live at 10am at florencechurch.com

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Medication assisted treatment clinic town hall meeting

From LANE COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES

Lane County will be hosting a townhall meeting January 20th at 6 PM at the Florence Events Center to discuss the county’s purchase of the property at 4480 US-101 and the proposed Medication Assisted

Treatment Clinic to be located there. Following a due diligence process, Lane County purchased the property on January 8, 2026 and will continue broad community engagement in order to provide information about the proposed clinic, timelines for the project, and opportunities for community

members to provide feedback about the proposed clinic. The townhall is open to all community members and will feature a digital tour of the Eugene Medication Assisted Treatment facility, comments from local leaders, a presentation about the clinic, and a question

and answer session. Refreshments will be provided. For more information about the townhall, please contact Jason Davis at jason.davis@lanecountyor.gov. For more information about the proposed clinic, please visit www.lanecountyor.gov/florencetreatmentcenter

How you can be more confident in yourself

By: STAN POPOVICH

Having a healthy level of self-confidence can help you become successful in your personal and professional life. Here are some suggestions on how to improve your self-esteem.

1. Be kind to yourself: Get to know yourself. Determine what makes you happy and what you value in life. You might find it helpful to write things down in a journal. It’s important to challenge unkind thoughts about yourself. You might automatically put yourself down and not realize it.
2. Practice positive affirmations: These are statements that reflect your strengths, values, and aspirations. By consistently repeating positive self-affirmations, you’re rewiring your brain to focus on your capabilities and worth rather than dwelling on self-doubt or criticism.
3. Do things you’re good at: Your self-confidence starts to soar when you do things that you are good at. Your strengths become even stronger, which helps improve your belief in yourself. Your ability to build on your personal strengths is related to life satisfaction levels.

Building on your strengths can help you increase your self-confidence in your personal and professional life.

4. Surround yourself with positive people: Take a moment and think about how your friends make you feel. The people you spend time with can influence your thoughts and attitudes about yourself. Surround yourself with people who care about you and want the best for you. Find others who are positive and can help build your confidence.
5. Remember your successes: Some people downplay their successes and focus on the things they struggle with. Remind yourself of your past accomplishments no matter how small they may be. Stop focusing on the negative parts of your life and remember your past achievements.
6. Create realistic goals: Set achievable goals on a regular basis and take small steps to accomplish them. Make sure your goals are measurable and monitor your progress. Don’t get upset if you don’t accomplish all your goals. You can always change direction. The more you achieve things, the

greater your confidence in yourself and your abilities.

7. Step outside your comfort zone: Those with low self-esteem tend to avoid challenges and new opportunities. This can be due to fears or self-doubt. When you succeed in any big or small way, this will show you that you can persevere through life’s rough moments.
8. Do not compare yourself to others: Your self-worth shouldn’t be connected to how well other people are doing. People only share the best, most flattering parts of their life. A person who looks happy doesn’t mean they really are. Do not be deceived by outward appearances. Rather, look for ways to improve yourself. Remember there are always other people who are worse off than you. It is all on how you look at things.
9. Determine whose feedback matters: Just because someone gives you feedback, and criticism doesn’t mean you

have to accept it. When it comes to opinions that do not make the cut, just listen as it comes in. Focus on finding the truth in what’s being said that you can grow from. Distinguishing constructive criticism from that is unhelpful and meant to damage your self-esteem.

10. Learn from your mistakes: Understanding your mistakes is crucial for building self-confidence. By acknowledging errors, analyzing what went wrong, and focusing on growth, you can transform setbacks into opportunities for improvement and build resilience. Mistakes are usually inevitable when implementing plans and goal-setting strategies.

BIOGRAPHY Stan is the author of “A Layman’s Guide to Managing Fear” which covers 200+ techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan’s website at <http://www.managingfear.com>

Stan Articles

Boys

From Page B1

team fought in the 41-50 defeat.

“Our guys played their hearts out in this one. We started off really well, but struggled to score points down the stretch to pull off the victory,” Perry said. “Hats off to our guys for battling strong.”

Lake and senior Micah Blankenship led the way for the Vikings in the scoring column, with 10 apiece. The first quarter was the best one for Siuslaw, and they came out swinging, scoring 19 of their 41 points in the period. The middle of the game was a bit of a swoon for the Vikings, and they scored just 12 points between the second and third quarters combined. Still, Siuslaw took solace from the fact that they punched above their weight against a larger school.

The final game of Siuslaw’s Bandon Dunes run was against the host for third place. Perry said the team was “disappointed” to not have a chance to play in the championship game, but the Vikings were quick to recalibrate. Siuslaw “came out strong” against Bandon. The performance was resolute from the Vikings, and they made the Tigers work hard to score the ball. In the end, Siuslaw did enough to get the bronze medal.

“Our defense was as strong as it’s been so far this season,” Perry said.

The Vikings muscled their way to a 45-35

win, riding a 16-point game from Lake, with assistance from Morgan and Borgnino, who each notched 10.

Lake was honored for his outstanding play over the three games with a place on the All-Tournament team. Lake averaged a little over 16 points and five rebounds per game during the tournament.

The final win of Siuslaw’s 3-1 start to the new year came against Toledo on Jan. 6. The Vikings won their penultimate non-league game against the Boomers 62-48, their third-highest scoring game of the season.

“Good win on the road against a solid Toledo squad. The boys made some great adjustments at halftime and came out and executed them well,” Perry said.

Lake had his fingerprints all over the result, with 23 points. It was another sharp-shooting performance for the sophomore, and he nailed five three-pointers, including three in the fourth quarter. Morgan scored 15 points in the game, providing a scoring spark for Siuslaw.

The win pushed Siuslaw’s record to 8-6, and put them within one win of matching their 9-6 record in non-league games last season. The Vikings played against Harrisburg in their final non-league game on Jan. 9, but the result of that game is unknown at the time of press.

The Vikings will be back in action against Sutherlin in the league opener on Jan. 15.

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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>

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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Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

FCART

6	2	1	7	3

TIGNTINK

5		3	3			

ISTRAT

1	2			4	3

NTIPA

				3

1	2	3	4

		D
1	5	

6	2	1	7	3	4	

Answer: Pottery

Answer: Arts and crafts

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1909: Ernest Shackleton and his expedition find the magnetic South Pole.

1920: The League of Nations holds its first council meeting in Paris, France.

1969: Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 perform the first-ever docking of crewed spacecraft in orbit.

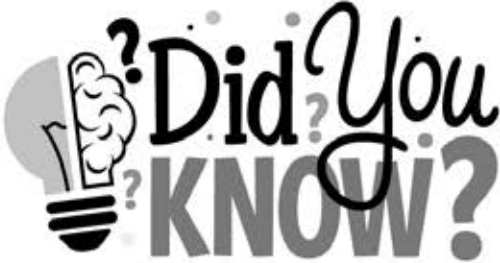


NICHE

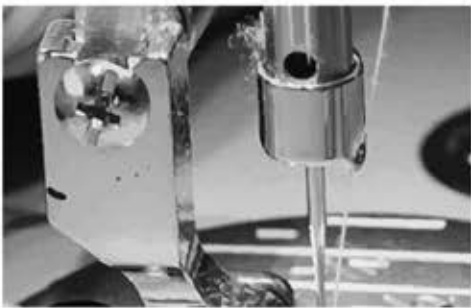
a specialized segment of the market



English: Hobby
Spanish: Pasatiempo
Italian: Passatempo
French: Passe-temps
German: Zeitvertreib



Hobbies have many benefits, including reducing stress, improving mood, fostering social connections, and encouraging community involvement.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Sewing machine

SKI SLOPES WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- APRES-SKI
- AVALANCHE
- BASE LAYER
- BINDINGS
- BLACK DIAMOND
- CARVING
- CHAIR
- DROP
- EDGE
- GLADE
- GONDOLA
- GROOMER
- HELMET
- JACKET
- LIFT
- MOGULS
- POLES
- POWDER
- SLOPE
- SNOWPLOW
- TERRAIN
- TICKET
- VERTICAL
- WAX

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GUYS, THOSE NEW GIRLS ARE COMING THIS WAY AND YOU BOTH ARE COVERED IN MUD!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? THAT'S A TERRIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION!

WE FIGURED IF WE SET THEIR EXPECTATIONS LOW, ANYTHING WE DO WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT.

NEWS FLASH... YOU ARE MALE. THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU ARE ALREADY VERY LOW.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

SVEN DIAGRAM

PICKLED HERRING

PICKLED UNCLES

TYPICAL FAMILY GATHERING

SVEN

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I PUT ALL OF OUR PLANTS INTO ALPHABETICAL ORDER

WOW, WHERE DID YOU FIND THE TIME??

RIGHT NEXT TO THE SAGE!!

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

WILL YOU ADJUST THAT PICTURE, TIGER?

LESS WASHED-OUT-STRONGER YELLOW

SHARPER-MORE BLACK

LESS RED-STRONGER TINT

NOW, A LITTLE LESS CONTRAST

PERFECT!

I HATE THAT SHOW

OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland

BEHOLD! DIRKS ISLAND. GENTLEMEN, WE MUST TRAVERSE TO THE FAR SIDE OF... UH...

DOES THIS PLACE SEEM EMPTY?

BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WUZ HERE, BUT IT USED TBE BUSTLIN.

MEBBE ERYONE WENT TTHE STORE.

WHAT STORE DOES AN ENTIRE TOWN GO TO?

I DUNNO. WHERE YE GO TO BUY TH BACK HALF OF A TOWN?

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IF MY OWN HUSBAND WON'T SHARE HIS MONEY WITH HIS WIFE?

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: H equals S

VPHHSDK VKUWICITSH ZJIQJ

YIW SUH ORWSIRH MREK

CICRTPUSIJ IY HMPEEX NPNX

NIDSJKH: JKQ XPZ OSUX.

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SCRABLERS

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!

Discuss ENFORC

Inherent ANTENI

Classic GIANTEV

Plod MCHES

TODAY'S WORD

"Frankly, I'm against aid to education — we've got too many educated _____ on hand as it is."

January 12, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Post-WWII alliance
- 5 Life story
- 8 Quick kiss
- 12 Challenger's words
- 14 Oklahoma tribe
- 15 Misses an opportunity
- 16 Without acting
- 17 Prattle
- 18 Contacts, e.g.
- 20 Vowel group
- 23 " — Misbehavin' "
- 24 Japanese noodle
- 25 Anthology
- 28 Pvt.'s superior
- 29 To the third power
- 30 Green shade
- 32 Cruised in style
- 34 Furnace fuel
- 35 Region (Abbr.)
- 36 Natural talents
- 37 Nap
- 40 Extinct bird
- 41 "Hulk" star
- 42 Distributes
- 47 "Smallville" girl
- 48 Coffee bar order

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15								16		
			17			18	19			
20	21	22			23					
24				25				26	27	
28				29				30	31	
	32		33					34		
			35				36			
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50				51		

- 9 LAX postings
- 10 Natalie or Nat
- 11 Piano pieces?
- 13 Isaac's eldest
- 19 Author
- 20 Ger. neighbor
- 21 Jittery
- 22 Speck
- 23 Fossil resin
- 25 Incensed
- 26 Atop
- 27 Bicycle part
- 29 Guitarist
- 31 Gore and Pacino
- 33 MD's diagnostic order
- 34 Stopped
- 36 Dutch word for "farmer"
- 37 Actress Ward
- 38 401(k) relatives
- 39 Drei minus zwei
- 40 Star athletes, briefly
- 43 Equi-
- 44 Sugary suffix
- 45 Mex. neighbor
- 46 Great weight

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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At the bagel shop

C	H	O	S	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.fivespotpuzzles.com

02622

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

1. One of the earliest and most complete written legal codes established by the Babylonian King Hammurabi

2. Q and Z

3. Mr. Bigglesworth

4. Sleepwalking

5. Neptune, California

6. "A Raisin in the Sun," by Lorraine Hansberry, 1959

7. German

8. 2

9. Maine

10. Asgard

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY: What is the Code of Hammurabi?
- GAMES: Which letters in the English version of Scrabble are worth 10 points each?
- MOVIES: What is the name of Dr. Evil's cat in "Austin Powers in Goldmember"?
- MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for somnambulating?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the town where "Veronica Mars" is set?
- THEATER: What is the first play written by an African American woman to be produced on Broadway?
- LANGUAGE: What is the official language of Austria?
- MATH: What is the smallest prime number?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the only U.S. state with a one-syllable name?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Norse gods?

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SCRABLERS

Today's Word

3. Vintage; 4. Scheme

1. Confer; 2. Innate; solution

N	I	V	A	L	P
L	I	A	N	S	
S	N	A	N	S	
S	E	N	C	A	
E	O	N	S	C	
E	S	C	H	O	

Solution

FiveSpot™

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Massive metropolis known for its curious huge population of shaggy baby bovines: New York City.

CryptoQuip

answer

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Two bedroom, 1 bath home with 924 sq. ft. of living space and a single car garage in the gated 55+ community of Greentrees. Private covered outdoor area, 2 storage sheds. **\$219,000 List #1298/229601328**

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Updated 1 bdrm, 1 bath singlewide with 576 sq. ft. of living space located in the 55+ community of Greentrees. Large paved parking pad, serene garden and small pet area. Hookups for small RV. **\$197,500 List #1328/203192262**

13+ acre parcel with zoning for Mobile Home Park and platted for 102 spaces. Property has two paved access points from North Spruce Street. **\$1,490,000 List #1339/146354341**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TSN26-102 A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CENTRAL LINCOLN PUD
will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan-

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

uary 21, 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 or litigation likely to be filed. To review the meeting agenda, please go to cpud.org. Customers interested in attending the meeting virtually can email info@cpud.org to make a request.

TSN26-103 PUBLIC NOTICE CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOAN C. DAOUST, OF FLORENCE, OREGON

Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 25PB11015, are required to be presented, with proper vouchers, to the Personal Representative, JANICE THORSELL, c/o Joan C. Daoust Estate, 2660 NE Hwy 20, Suite 610, PMB 60, Bend, OR 97701, within four (4) months from January 14, 2026, the date of publication, or such claims may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the court records,

the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative, Laurel L. Ferguson Attorney for Personal Representative PO Box 1153 327 Laurel St Florence, OR 97439 Publication Date: Jan. 14, 2026

TSN26-104 PUBLIC NOTICE: THE FLORENCE PLANNING COMMISSION

will hold a public hearing at 5:30 PM on Jan 27, 2026, in the Florence City Hall Chambers at 250 Hwy 101 to hear and consider the following matter: RESOLUTION PC 25 26 EXT 03 - Extension of Approval Request for Attached Single-Units Dwellings in the Commercial Zoning District. Metro Planning, Inc, on behalf of Duman Inc and L&B Development, is requesting a one-year extension to the approval of the Conditional Use Permit for 10 single-unit attached dwellings (5 buildings) in the Commercial District Development, as approved by Resolution PC 24 01 CUP 01. The Property is 1.15-acres located at 5439 Hwy 126, approximately 450 ft. SW of the intersection of Hwy 126 and Xylo St. and shown on Assessor's Map # 18-12-26-31, Tax Lot 02300. The Commercial District is regulated by Florence City Code Title 10, Chapter 15.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

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.

DIFFICULTY: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Difficult
★ ★ ★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
+		×		÷	
	×		+		11
×		-		+	
	×		+		13
10		10		10	

1 2 3 4 4 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. Chimpanzee's home	— U — — —	Catchy tune	— I — — —
2. Bank safe	V — — —	Flaw	F — — —
3. Spring month	— C — — —	Swamp	— S — — —
4. From Deutschland	G — — —	Novelist Melville	H — — —
5. Eatery	— N — — —	Frogman	— V — —
6. Ice cream spoon	— C — — —	Sailing vessel	— L — — —
7. Food cupboard	— N — — —	Trifling	— L — — —
8. Fire-starting stone	— N — — —	Coquette	— R — — —
9. Physical well-being	H — — —	Financial prosperity	W — — —
10. Goblet or beaker	— L — — —	Lawnmower target	— R — — —

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Fun Fact

Some jellyfish create their own light. This light is a result of energy released by certain chemical reactions that occur within the tissues of the jellyfish. It is called “bioluminescence.” It enables them to camouflage themselves from predators, lure their prey and even “communicate” with other jellyfish.

Source:
www.originaldiving.com

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Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of Jan. 19, 2026.

- 20-Jan: “Star Search” (Season 1) — Netflix
- 21-Jan: “Steal” (Season 1) — Prime Video
- 21-Jan: “Kidnapped: Elizabeth Smart” (Documentary) — Netflix
- 22-Jan: “Venom: Let There Be Carnage” (PG-13) — Disney+
- 22-Jan: “Free Bert” (Season 1) — Netflix
- 22-Jan: “Canada Shore” (Season 1) — Paramount+
- 22-Jan: “Mel Brooks: The 99-Year-Old Man!” (Docuseries) — HBO Max
- 23-Jan: “Real Time with Bill Maher” (Season 24) — HBO Max
- 23-Jan: “Skyscraper Live” (Live Sporting Event) — Netflix
- 23-Jan: “Gabby’s Dollhouse: The Movie” (G) — Peacock

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Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

1. Jungle, Jingle	6. Scoop, Sloop
2. Vault, Fault	7. Panty, Palty
3. March, Marsh	8. Flint, Flint
4. German, Herman	9. Health, Wealth
5. Diner, Diver	10. Glass, Grass

to your good health
WITH
Dr. Keith Roach

How Red Blood Cells Can Impact a Person's A1C Level

DEAR DR. ROACH: I had an eye issue last year that led to blood tests resulting in an elevated A1C. I said that it wasn't my blood; I am plant-based, exercise regularly, and don't drink sodas or alcoholic beverages. Of course, they wanted to start me on medication for prediabetes, but I opted to see if I could fix it with dietary changes first.

I was told to limit bread, pasta and rice, among other things that vegans eat, and proceeded to lose a lot of weight. (I don't have much to spare.) During my recent blood test, my A1C was still high at 6.1%. Looking into it a bit further, my physician's assistant realized that low iron can impact A1C readings, and I have always had low iron. I take a supplement almost daily with an orange.

Please tell your readers about this so as not to scare them into taking medicine that they might not need. There still may be something going on with me, and I will be getting more tests to be sure that this can be corrected. But I am somewhat relieved that it is not prediabetes. — *M.K.*

ANSWER: The A1C level measures the amount of sugar that is found on red blood cells. For most people, it's an excellent indication of how high their blood sugar has been over the past few months. Half of red blood cells die after 60 days in most people, so the normal ranges of A1C are appropriate for people who have red blood cells that live a normal life.

Several conditions lead to red blood cells that live much shorter than this.

Sickle cell disease, autoimmune hemolytic anemias, and severe heart valve disease are among the diseases that have markedly shortened the lifespan of red blood cells. This can cause a person's A1C level to be falsely low. A person with poorly controlled diabetes may have a normal A1C because the red blood cells don't live long enough to accumulate as many sugar molecules on them.

People with iron deficiency have slower red blood cell turnover or longer-lived red blood cells. This means that there is more time to accumulate sugar and a falsely elevated A1C level. Before we had the A1C test, we had blood sugar levels and glucose tolerance tests to make the diagnosis of prediabetes and diabetes. In people with abnormalities in their red blood cells, these are more reliable than the A1C level.

DEAR DR. ROACH: When I lay down, my toes tingle. This has been going on for several years. I've read that this is a sign of diabetes, but my annual physical shows that my sugar level is normal. — *B.Y.*

ANSWER: Tingling toes are a common symptom of neuropathy, but there are many types of neuropathies. So, it isn't a diagnosis as much it is a description of a nerve problem. While diabetes is among the most common types of peripheral neuropathies, it isn't the only one.

Since both legs are affected, it is less likely due to the direct compression of the peripheral nerve, which normally occurs on one side. The fact that it only occurs when you are laying down does suggest that there may be compression higher up, possibly in your spinal cord.

Other neuropathies that normally affect both sides of the body include vitamin B12 deficiency and thyroid disease. Some medications can do it, but sometimes no cause is ever found. A neurologist is the ideal specialist to help diagnose this condition, especially one who specializes in neuropathy.

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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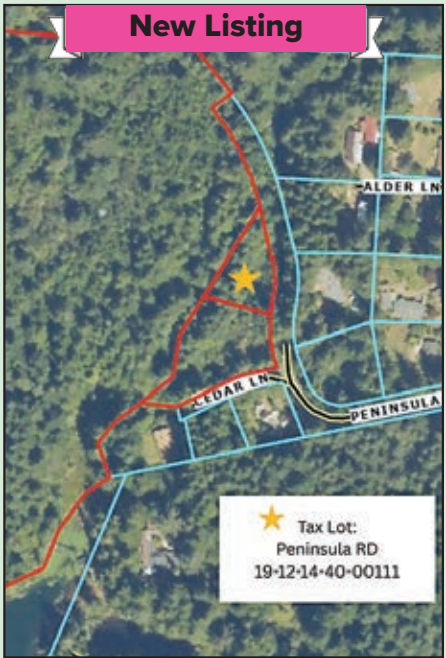


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1600-29 Rhododendron Dr. - \$249,000
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5129 N Loftus Rd - \$1,345,000
3 Baths, 4000sqft. Newly built commercial building. 4 potential office spaces, ADA compliant, massive storage/work area. #3538- 24223879



1308 Bay St. - \$135,000
The Jolly Egret. Business opportunity in a 600 sqft Old Town building with endless potential. Includes fixtures and inventory. #3696-677178133



1495 8th St. - \$429,000
1722 SqFt Commercial/Residential. Prime location with lots of parking, alley access, and potential for various uses. #3644-752771591



12300 Hwy 126 - \$499,000
3092 SqFt Commercial building and land. Whimsical gingerbread-style restaurant on 3+ acres with creek frontage, RV access, and charm. #3659-536388720



The Rambling Rose - \$195,000
4200 SqFt Business Opportunity. Turnkey Old Town restaurant offering prime visibility, full equipment, strong tourism, and growth potential. #3715-671951240



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



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



238 Horseshoe Bend - \$199,750
1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, 500 SqFt. Nice corner lot with RV hookups. Home is well cared for with bonus room and garden. #3690-524301067



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



87830 Terrace View Dr. - \$435,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1482 SqFt. Shop/Garage, RV Garage with 30 AMP, private covered deck, enclosed sunroom/greenhouse. #3702-456128863



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



83763 Hwy 101 #10 - \$115,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 800 SqFt. Move-in ready home in 55+ Lakeshore Park. Peaceful, low-maintenance, all-season comfort and charm! #3664-366140328



1601-676 Rhododendron Dr. - \$365,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1512 SqFt. Updated home in 55+ Greentrees Village with vaulted ceilings, skylights, covered porch, and ample parking. #3665-689410988



88416 1st Avenue #222 & #224 - \$309,500
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 780 SqFt. Driftwood Shores! Pacific Ocean Front INCOME Property! #3709-785454857



3890 Spruce St. - \$420,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1478 SqFt. Oversized garage, RV parking, beautiful fir trees, in-town! #3671-699141635



3932 Spruce St. - \$539,000
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
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 924 SqFt. Spacious, clean, and affordable. Appliances included. Lake access. Move-in ready condition. #3679-545143954



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Broker, SRS, SRES
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Brandi Hart
Broker
541 999-2671



Kyle Lewis
Broker
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