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Presidents Day protest in Florence

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

As with many towns and cities around the country, Feb. 17 was marked by demonstrations in front of City Hall. Crowds of people came out in the rain to stand on both sides of Highway 101 for just over an hour.

While no speeches were given, signs carried by demonstrators denounced recent republican party actions, the appointment of Elon Musk without an election and opposition to oligarchy, while promoting peace and unity.

Florence city councilors Jo Beaudreau and Sally Wantz were at the demonstration.

“As a citizen, I’m excited to see the turnout of people here to talk and celebrate freedom of speech and freedom of religion,” Beaudreau said, over honking cars passing by, “and to point out that



TONY REED PHOTO

Demonstrators stood in front of Florence City Hall in protest Feb 17.

it’s important to stay connected and be kind to each other and that we all need to

take part in democracy for our kids, our neighbors and their futures.”

Leonora Kent said she was feeling good about the demonstration overall.

“I’m feeling uplifted,” she said. “I’m feeling a sense of

See **PROTEST**, Page A6

Meyer enjoying his “Bill time”

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

City Councilor Bill Meyer recently announced that after serving on public board continuously since 1981, that he will step down from the council but retain his seat as Vice-Chair of the Port of Siuslaw.

“When you do an exit like this, you want to fist make sure everything is running strong in the City,” he said. “It wouldn’t be fair if there was a crisis going on or issues that hadn’t been dealt with, but that’s not the case. We have a strong council with the mayor and the members we have left and a tremendous City administrative staff, so I’m comfortable taking my exit so I can get a little more ‘Bill time.’” Saying his 83rd birthday is coming up, Meyer disclosed that he’s finally done building his dream workshop where he can spend

See **MEYER**, Page A6



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY WLFEA

A house along Mercer Lake Road before and after firefighters conducted training.

WLFEA burns down house

By TONY REED
The Siuslaw News

Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority firefighters intentionally burned down a house off Mercer Lake Road Feb. 18, but not before using it to conduct some vital fire training.

According to WLFEA Deputy Chief Rob Chance, the house became available to use for a

training burn early this year and all hazardous materials were first removed. About 16 total fire personnel took part in the training.

The single-story house was constructed atop a ground-level storage area, and raised up on pillars and metal channeling.

The structure had several rooms, inside which firefighters conducted various training exercises.

“Because it was a kind of unique house in it’s layout, we did a lot of training without live fire,” he said, noting that the department brought in its smoke machine to fog the interior. “We did a bunch of search training, we did VEI (Vent-Enter-Isolate) and we did a lot of hose deployment. We did a lot of apparatus training because operators

See **BURN**, Page A3

Berkner awaits pretrial

SIUSLAW NEWS STAFF

A Feb. 27 pretrial conference is scheduled for Keith W. Berkner, 42, of Florence, in Lane County Circuit Court. Berkner was arrested Dec. 27, 2024, after receiving and investigating a report of possible sexual abuse of a juvenile.

“From that investigationm, Keith Berkner was developed as a suspect in the case,” according to FPD. “On [Jan. 22] a search warrant was executed on Berkner’s residence, where Berkner was placed into custody and later transported to Lane County Adult Corrections.” Berkner remained in custody as of Feb. 19.

A pretrial conference is a court hearing where prosecution and defense present information to determine if enough evidence exists to go to trial.

Berkner is charged with Sodomy in the First Degree and Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, both felonies. If convicted, the maximum sentences for the two offenses are 70 months (25 years) and

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DIANNE BURCH



Dianne Burch of Florence, Oregon passed away on January 30th, 2025, from ovarian cancer with her loving husband, Wayne and daughter, Sheryl at her side, and with faith as her guiding comfort. Dianne was born in Parma, Idaho on September 24th, 1946, to Elwood and Paloma Gough. She was the oldest of five children. She graduated high school in Enterprise, Oregon and then moved to Eugene where she met and married the love of her life, Wayne Burch. Together

they raised 4 children and founded Burch's Roofing. In 1974 they moved the business and their family to Florence and just last year celebrated 50 years in business in the town they cherished. Dianne loved her community. Through the years she worked a variety of jobs in addition to managing the business side of Burch's roofing. She was elected to Florence City Council, worked as a Constituent Services Consultant for Lane County, served on numerous boards, committees, and councils addressing important environmental and community issues. She participated in events supporting Rhododendron Days and often volunteered for local philanthropic causes. She particularly enjoyed performing as one of the Heritage Players at the Pioneer Museum. She and Wayne were members of the Rhody Cruisers Car Club and spent many weekends

showing their Model A at car shows up and down the coast. She was a wonderful cook, loved to crochet, read and work jigsaw puzzles, and was a fierce Scrabble competitor, often chewing on a licorice stick while pondering her next move. She was devoted to checking in with family and friends and delighted in all that was happening in their lives. Dianne had a large extended family of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends from all walks of life who, along with her adoring husband, Wayne, survive her. She was proceeded in death by her parents, grandparents and a stepdaughter. Her mantra was "Life is good" and she sure lived each day believing that it truly was. There will be a "Life is Good" celebration on April 5th at 3:00pm at the Florence Christian

Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the following charities in memory: CPC - Care & Pregnancy Center, Friends of Florence, & Good Deed Project.

ELNORE FLINT-GOODSON



Elnore (Ellie) was born in Wolf Point, Montana April 7th, 1933. Ellie passed on February 11th, 2025. She is survived by her sister June Clingenpeel and son Ken Gaylord, both of Florence, Oregon, and daughters Colleen Seguin and Karen Haley. Ellie lived in

ROSE MARIE LARSON



Rose Marie Larson went to be with the Lord on Feb. 4, 2025, at the age of 82. Rose was born in Brainerd, Minnesota on June 30, 1942, to Gustave and Lucille Peterson, she was one of 8 children. She married her high school sweetheart, Gary Larson in 1961 after she graduated high school. Once

completing his military service Rose and Gary moved to Oregon. She was a full-time mother. Rose worked various jobs as her children became older; One being the Lane County Sheriff's office until 1979 when the Florence Annex closed. Rose also worked at Bliss's Hotrod Grill for Gene and Sonja Bliss until her retirement. After retirement she enjoyed watching most all sports and especially loved the Oregon Ducks! Rose is survived by her son Kevin and Suzan, daughter Kim and Mike Steele, son Ken and Kristy as well as numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Gary, daughter Kristine and her sister Mona Scarberry. At her request a private family gathering will be held at a later date. Burns's Riverside Chapel Florence Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Expressing gratitude for local Samaritan

Submitted by
AMANDA WATERS
Lakewood, Colorado

I'm not sure this counts as news, but I would love to show my appreciation to the Florence locals who showed us incredible kindness on our vacation in Oregon. My boyfriend and I were

car camping all around Oregon last July - visiting the amazing waterfalls, walking along the beautiful coastline, and hiking the great volcanoes. As we were driving just north of Florence on Oregon Coast Highway (Route 101), we caught a massive bolt in one of the tires in our rental

car right by Heceta Head Lighthouse. Trying our luck, we tried to make it to camp before it went completely flat. And we made it...to just .6 miles away from our campsite in Carl G. Washburne State Park. Here's my first shout out - the Oregon Park Rangers. They all were incredibly helpful with noting our location, checking-in on us on the road, and providing suggestions and local companies to call.

It took all afternoon into the evening with several walks along the road, lots of waving with my phone to catch any miniscule bit of service, and eventually multiple calls to AAA and

the car rental company. During that time, a very nice man, who was headed towards Carl G. Washburne State Park to walk his dogs, stopped by to check-in. We had a brief conversation and he very kindly mentioned that he'd look out for us on the way back from walking his dogs just to make sure we did end up getting a tow.

With the summertime sun slowly setting and not a tow truck in sight, my boyfriend and I slowly started trying to put together Plan B for the night. To my genuine surprise, this very kind man did keep a look out for us on his drive back from the beach and stopped once

more to help us figure out our situation. The details are fuzzy now being 9 months later but I remember he drove his dogs back all the way to Florence and then drove back to where we were on the side of the road. This man then generously gave us a ride with some of our luggage and camping gear to Carl G. Washburne Park, dropping us off at our exact campsite.

We were complete strangers to this man, yet out the kindness of his heart, stopped 3 times to help us driving back and forth between Florence and Carl G. Washburne State Park. I fervently wish this man well and while this is

a woefully small (and not to mention very late) token of appreciation, I sincerely thank this man and I hope he knows that he is being held to legendary status whenever a regale my adventures in Oregon. Also, shout out to the Les Schwab in Florence for getting us in and out and on the road quicker than I've ever been able to...well, ever. Thank you Florence for being so kind to some visitors!!

Editor's note: This came in a little long to be a letter to the editor, but was left full length to highlight the effort made by this unnamed local Samaritan.

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2 Weeks Ready Tips:

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

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

This message is brought to you by the West Lane Emergency Operations Group.

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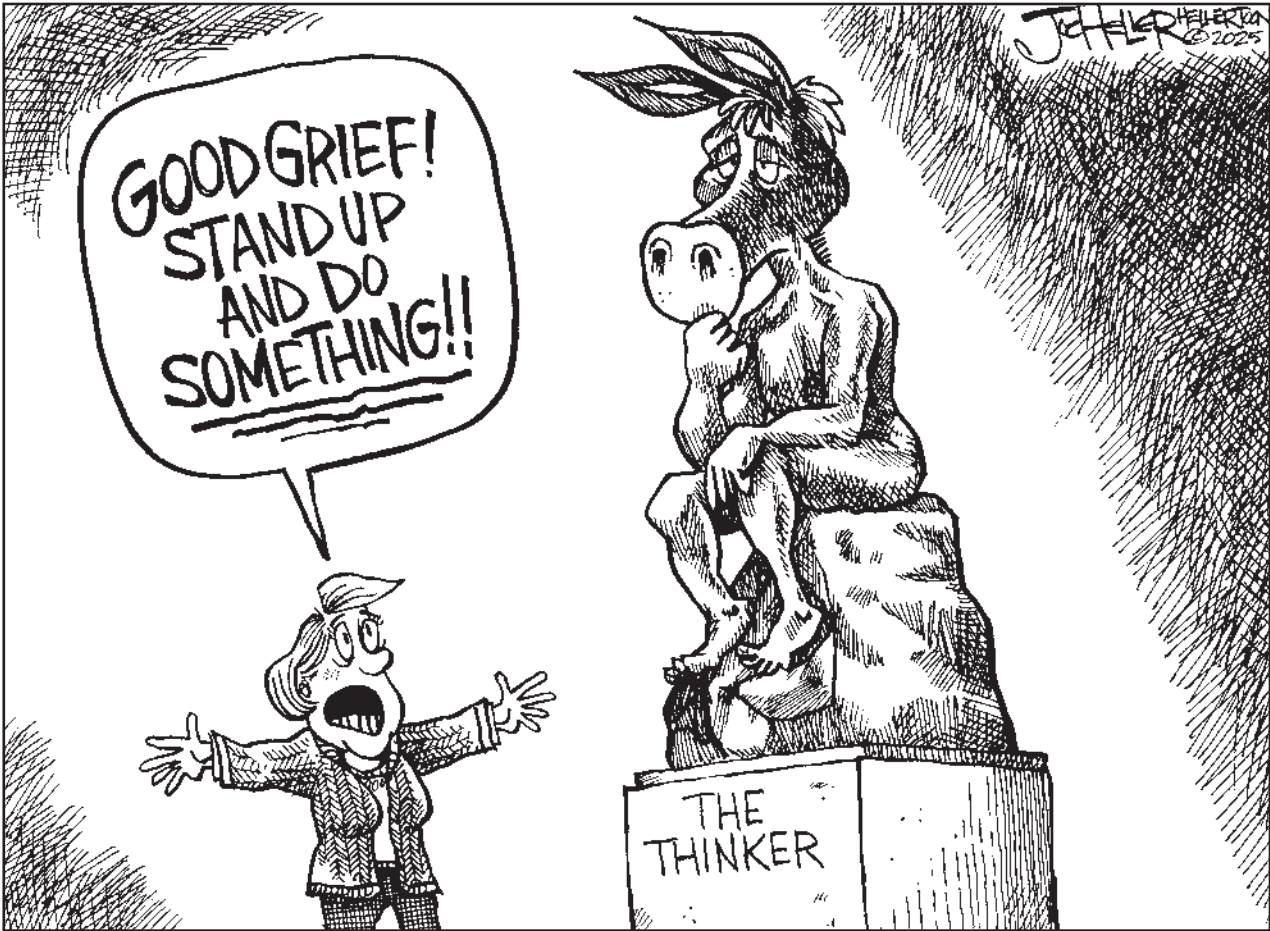
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LETTERS

THE US HAS GIVEN UP ON UKRAINE

Trump wants Putin to be allowed back into the G7. Secretary Hegseth has said Ukraine should be kept out of NATO and US forces will not provide any security guarantees for Ukraine. The US has also made it clear that Russia will be allowed to keep most/all of the Ukrainian lands it has seized, while at the same time making no new promises of aid to Ukraine. (thanks to Phillips O’Brien).

All of this assumes that Russia is winning the war; It’s simply not the case.

Russia controls only 20% of Russia. Ukraine is almost the same size as Texas (it is 81% of the size).

It is also losing on the battle field. The troops provided to North Korea have lost 300 combatants and the rest have been removed from the battle-field. Russia’s advances are very slow and come with very high losses. (O’Brien). Records show that Ukraine has lost 62,000 soldiers; Russia has sustained almost 855,480 soldiers. Other losses: Tanks 10,057 (+17); Armored combat vehicles – 20,910;

Artillery systems – 23,115, We to support Ukraine.

*Michael Charlton
Florence*

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

“Freedom of religion” includes “freedom from religion.” Our founders wisely rejected state-imposed religion in favor of a secular government that respects the rights and beliefs of all, as enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution. It means our government cannot endorse or elevate any particular religion over another. It is NOT “anti-Christian bias” to maintain that separation, rather it protects religious freedom for all by keeping religion out of government. Citizens are free to believe or disbelieve as they like, free to practice their faith in their homes and religious institutions. But tax-supported government agencies and public schools (which serve all faiths) should remain neutral on matters of religion. I urge citizens of all faiths (and none) to speak out against the current encroachment of Christian Nationalism into our secular government. Protecting the

separation of church and state protects everyone!

*Terese Keller
Florence*

RILED UP AFTER RALLY

My friends and I attended Florence’s “Not My President’s Day” rally on February 17th and were heartened to see all the people joining in. For the most part, it was well-received by passersby.

There were many interesting signs displayed; mine said “No Musk” on one side, and “No Oligarchy” on the other. As we were walking back to our car, a blue jeep-like vehicle drove past. The disgruntled driver leaned out his window and yelled “I love Musk and I love oligarchy”. He then called us communists and more. He later went out of his way to pass by us again, this time yelling “what about the Clinton’s and oligarchy?” My first thought was that he was mistaking a political dynasty for an oligarchy. Then I wondered if he was referring to President Clinton’s cutting of 377k federal jobs back in the 1990s in order to balance the budget. Apparently there have been some

social media claims that Trump and Musk had simply “learned from the master” trying to justify all the federal job cuts they are responsible for. It is true that Clinton did make those cuts. However, it was done in a correct manner: A 6 month review took place ahead of time, the implementation took even longer, and some required legislation to be passed through Congress. Clinton also offered a buyout plan, but that plan had overwhelming bipartisan support from Congress and the law was signed after a review period. Trump and Musk have too quickly offered buyouts and fired staff haphazardly and dangerously with no review process and no input from Congress. To the man in the Blue jeep-like vehicle I say... open your mind a bit, educate yourself, and understand that right-wing media is manipulating you, which by the way, is exactly what the oligarchs running our Country want. Oh, and it would behoove you to look up the definition of oligarchy.

*Pat Briggs
Florence*

BURN

From Page A1

needed pump time.” Chase noted that the position of the house also presented challenges regarding the position of the fire engine. He said operators had to position the engine in a way that the hoses could connect to reach the upper parts of the structure.

“That was a challenge but it was fun to watch,” he said. “Some people wanted to do forcible entry [training] inside, so we forced open some doors and windows and walls.”

When it was time to ignite the building, fire-fighters went inside to observe fire behavior and learned how to manipulate its spread.

“Watching flow path was really awesome... being able to break certain windows and open certain doors to get it to burn the way we wanted it to, we started upstairs and we were able to pull it exactly how we wanted, downstairs into the kitchen/living room area and back into another room,” he said, expressing that he was happy about how the exercise progressed. “Part of it’s technique but I think most of it’s probably luck. There was no wind and just the right amount of moisture so everything went great, in my book.”

ONLINE POLL

IN LAST WEEK’S ONLINE POLL, WE ASKED,
How much do you like Florence and how much would you change about it if you could?

7.9 percent said they love it and wouldn’t

change a thing.

42.9 percent said they are content and would only make minor changes

30.2 percent said they like it, but it needs a lot of work

and 19 percent said the town needs a complete overhaul.

THIS WEEK WE ARE ASKING
How likely are you to believe things posted on local social media?

Very likely

Somewhat likely

Not very often

Never

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
FEB. 26	FEB. 27	FEB. 28	MARCH 1	MARCH 2	MARCH 3	MARCH 4
Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	AM Showers Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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The newspaper is published every **WEDNESDAY**. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Country Media, P.O. Box 35, Salem, OR 97301.

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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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Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414
TTY/TDD: 202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek
900 Court St., Suite 254
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047
503-378-4582
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U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
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www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley
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www.merkley.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Val Hoyle (4th Dist.)
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State Sen. Dick Anderson (Dist. 5)
503-986-1705
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State Rep. Boomer Wright (Dist. 9)
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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 Mehlfarth 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

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POLICE LOG

Florence Police Department officers responded to the following calls from Feb. 12 to Feb. 18

FEB. 12

At 4:29 a.m., officers responded to the 5600 block of Highway 126 for a report of trespassing. Officers warned a subject not to return to the business.

At 10:14 a.m., officers responded to the 100 block of Harbor Street or a report of harassment. Officers investigated and found that a subject from out of the state had been calling a business repeatedly. officers attempted to contact the caller and the investigation is ongoing.

At 12:53 p.m., officers responded to the area of 29th Street and Pine Street for a report of a hit and run vehicle accident. Officers investigated to find a subject had bumped into another car and left the area, a follow-up investigation ensued.

At 1:08 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of 43rd Street to issue a trespass warning.

At 5:13 p.m., and officer responded to the 2200 block of Kingwood Street or a report of a found dog.

At 6:35 p.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of Spruce Street for a report of suspicious

activity. Officers contacted the caller who said they observed suspicious activity, possibly involving drugs. no suspect was identified or arrested.

At 9:14 p.m., officers responded to the area of Oak Street and 20th Street for a report of a vehicle honking its horn for over 10 minutes. Officers arrived in the area to listen, but Did not hear a vehicle honking.

FEB. 13

At 8:48 a.m., officers responded to the 2100 block of 18th Street for a reported burglary. Officers someone had broken into a shop and taken various items. The case remains under investigation.

From 9:20 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., dispatch received four 911 disconnect calls.

At 10:54 a.m., officers responded to the area of 8th Street at the bus stop for a report of a disorderly subject.

At 11:30 a.m., officers responded to the 1500 Block of Highway 101 for a report of a hit and run accident. Officers investigated to find a vehicle in the lot had been hit and that witnesses had video of the incident. The case remains under investigation.

4:05 p.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of Spruce Street for a report of a subject yelling and screaming in

the area. Mental Crisis Response was also called, and the situation was calmed.

At 6:41 p.m., an officer responded to the 87,600 block of Highway 101 for a report of a vehicle versus pedestrian accident. Officers contacted a female subject who suspected that the mirror of her vehicle hit a male subject wearing dark clothing who was walking. The subject said she gave the man a ride home after the accident. Officers contacted the man who did not want medical attention or to pursue legal action.

At 8:45 p.m., officers responded to the 4700 block of Highway 101 to issue a trespass warning.

FEB. 14

At 12:39 a.m., officers responded to the area of 15th Street and Highway 101 for a report of a subject in crisis. Mental Crisis Response Personnel were also called and were able to deescalate the situation.

At 4:59 a.m., officers made a traffic stop in the 800 block of Highway 101. officer found the driver had an active warrant, for which he was arrested.

At 7: 08 a.m., officers responded to the 1900 block of 24th Street or a report of damage caused to a residence.

At 9:26 a.m., officers responded to the Estuary trail near Quince Street for a report of damage caused to a newly installed City bench.

At 12:52, officers responded to the 1400 block of 12th Street or a report of a family dispute. Officers investigated and found the situation was not as it was reported. One subject was arrested for an active warrant.

At 3:38 p.m., officers made a traffic stop in the area of sailors Ravine Court, and arrested David Marsden, 61 for driving under the influence.

At 7:17 p.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of Highway 101 or a report of a loose dog.

FEB. 15

At 12:01 a.m., an officer stopped a vehicle in the area of Highway 126 and Quince Street and arrested Robin Mendolia, 53 for DUII.

At 2:34 a.m., officers made a traffic stop in the area of Spruce Street and 19th Street and arrested Brian Brunetto, 52 for DUII.

At 11:55 a.m., officers responded to the business center area of Florence for a report of theft. Officers investigated to find a personal dispute over ownership of a phone.

At 12:50 p.m., officers responded to the 200 block of Azalea Street for a death investigation. Ifficers determined it to have been of natural causes.

At 1:26 p.m., code enforcement tagged a vehicle for illegal camping in the 2000 block of Highway 101.

At 3:26 p.m., officers, fire and medical personnel responded to the 4700 block of Highway 101 for a report of a subject thought to have overdosed. Officers arrived to find no one in the area matching the description.

At 5:39 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of 2nd Street for a report of animal abuse. Officers investigated to find a family dispute over an animal there. officers found no evidence of abuse.

At 6:18 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of Highway 126 for a report of a disorderly subject.

At 9:10 p.m., officers responded to the area of Rhododendron Drive near the Coast Guard Station for a report of a found dog. The caller reported that the dog appeared to be blind and took it to the Humane Society. Officers contacted the Humane Society, and staff reported that someone already reported the dog missing and that they were returning it to its owner.

FEB. 16

At 7:26 a.m. officers responded to the public

bathroom on Bay Street for a report of a disorderly subject.

At 3:43 p.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive for a reported assault. Officers investigated and arrested one subject.

At 4:32 p.m., officers responded to the 3100 block of Kingwood Street for a report of criminal mischief. Officers investigated, and arrested one subject (see Page 1A).

At 8:37 p.m., officers responded to the area of Highway 126 and Quince Street for a report of a vehicle accident. Officers found two vehicles have been involved in an accident. no major injuries were sustained and no citations were issued.

At 10:28 p.m., officers responded to Quanaugh Court for a report of a dog barking.

FEB. 17

At 7:56 a.m., officers responded to the 1800 block of 42nd Street for a reported burglary to a business.

At 8:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of illegal camping/ sheltering in an area near the bay.

At 8:52 a.m., officers responded to the 2800 block of Kingwood Street, for a report of damage to a medical facility building.

At 12:55 p.m., officers responded to the 200 block of Highway 101, for a reported assault related to the demonstration in front of City Hall. No citations were issued or arrests made.

At 6:17 p.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Highway 101, for a reported violation of a restraining order.

FEB. 18

At 4:25 a.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Myeena Loop for a report of a deceased subject in a residence. Officers investigated, determined it to have been by natural causes.

At 7:41 a.m., officers returned to a business in the 1800 block of 42nd Street, for a second burglary attempt there.

At 8:16 a.m. officers arrested a juvenile subject in the area of 21st Street and Highway 101 for a warrant.

At 11:08 a.m., officers responded to an area of King Street for a report that a subject was cutting City trees. Officers found no evidence of such activity. officers contacted a driver parked in the area and found him to have a warrant for his rest. Subject was arrested.

At 2:42 p.m., officers responded to the 1800 block of 18th Street for a report of theft of construction materials. Officers investigated and located the materials, which were returned. Caller did not wish to press charges.

8:43 p.m., officers responded to the 600 block of Maple Street for a report of a missing person. Officers investigated and the subject was located.

At 10:22 p.m., officers responded to the 1000 block of Highway 101 for a report of a dispute occurring.

Officers also conducted 7 welfare checks, responded to 4 parking complaints and made 46 traffic stops.

Officers have responded to 2,884 calls from Jan. 1 to Feb. 18, according to the dispatch call counter.

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Gazebo Project in Old Town

CITY OF FLORENCE

The City will be replacing the gazebo at Old Town Park on Bay Street. The current gazebo has been in place since 1989 and has been part of many a holiday, wedding, and live music event at the park. The years of our harsh coastal environment and weather have taken a toll on the structure, including dry rot on structural members, rafters, and other items. With a generous donation from the Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors, the City has ordered a replacement gazebo. Old Town Park is a 0.14 acres site located on at the south end of Laurel Street on the south side of Bay Street. The park is actually right-of-way that was created in 1887. Old Town Park was the site of the old ferry landing before the Siuslaw River bridge (Hwy 101) was built. The park serves as a scenic attraction and rest area for tourists and residents alike. It is a peaceful and relaxing setting for community events, small public concerts, seasonal events and weddings.

The City has placed an order for a 16-foot octagon wood gazebo kit from Amish Country Gazebos to replace the existing structure. The new gazebo will feature a metal ribbed roof and a 19-inch octagon cupola. It will be different in a very important way from the existing gazebo in that the gazebo will be placed on a concrete slab on grade foundation. With the decking (floor) of the gazebo about 6 ½ inches above the surrounding ground, we will be able to have a ramp to the gazebo that will allow it to be fully ADA accessible. The new structure will be placed in the same location as the existing gazebo but will be slightly larger (the current one is approximately 14 feet). The new gazebo will enhance the park and make it an even greater community gathering spot, especially for weddings and during the holidays.

Once we get closer to the actually delivery date, Public Works staff will begin the process of removing the existing gazebo and preparing the site for the new building. At certain times, the park will need to be closed for safety reasons, as the old gazebo is dismantled and excavation is taking place for the new foundation. As construction progresses, Public Works will install barricades to keep people from entering the work zone, but still allow access to the observation platform next to the river.

New Art will be coming to Old Town

CITY OF FLORENCE

Continuing into March, the City of Florence’s Art Exposed Rotating Outdoor Art Gallery is installing eight new pieces of art in Historic Old Town. Art Exposed offers the community a chance to view interesting, fresh artwork every two years at a low cost, while providing artists with an opportunity to display and sell their work to a wide audience.



Since 2018, this program has installed public art in Florence, first in Old Town and then on Highway 101 in the ReVision Florence Streetscape Corridor.

Learn more, including information on the new art and how to purchase the art, at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac/art-exposed-old-town>.

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PROTEST

From Page A1

joy and hopefulness.” Asked if another demonstration is planned, Kent, said no, but noted that the group, Florence ORganizes, will be holding Coffee and Conversation meet-ups at the Bridgeport Market to discuss such issues in a casual setting.

Demonstrators were peaceful, as individuals crossed Highway 101 back and forth between the two groups. However, on two occasions over the course of the hour, two large pick-ups slowed to a crawl in front of the demonstrators, before accelerating away, leaving them in a cloud of dark diesel exhaust smoke.

One woman, who was standing north of the protest, said the occupants of one of the trucks assaulted her when she took photos of their vehicle. Police were called and a report was filed but all parties declined to press charges, according to Chief John Pitcher.

Kent said the demonstration was sponsored by the local group, Indivisible, which also holds regular demonstrations at the corner of Highway 101 and 126. The demonstration coincided with others around the US, including in Salem and Portland.



MEYER

From Page A1

time rebuilding vintage engines and car projects.

Meyer expressed that he still loves serving the Port, which is not as time-consuming as a council position. The deadline to fill the vacancy has expired and

the Council will interview applicants before appointing one to fill the seat. Interviews will be open to public in City Hall or online.

BERKNER

From Page A1

75 months (10 years) in prison.

According to court records, Berkner entered a not guilty plea to the indictment on Jan. 29. At the time of arrest, Berkner was listed online as the owner of Keith

Berkner Home Daycare, a license-exempt childcare provider in Florence. As of this publication, an online listing and phone number for the business could not be located.

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For more information visit www.theflorencerotary.org

Man arrested for damaging tsunami siren, power box

FROM FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On the afternoon of Feb. 16, Florence Police Department was contacted by a Public Works employee who stated a subject had caused damage by cutting some electrical wires at the Rolling Dunes Park located on 35th St. The employee had observed the male suspect at the electrical box and saw him walk

away. Florence Police responded and while at the scene the Public Works employee saw the male suspect walk out of the golf course property and go onto 35th St. Officers made contact with the suspect, who was identified as Gage Miller, of Florence. During the investigation officers determined that Miller had caused the damage to Rolling Dunes Park and had also damaged

property of Hyak on Kingwood St. While placing Miller under arrest, Miller became combative and resisted, but was placed under arrest and detained without injuries. While investigating, Officers discovered that Miller had not only damaged the property at Rolling Dunes Park and to Hyak, but Miller had also caused damage to the Tsunami Siren located at

Rolling Dunes Park on 35th St, damaged property located on Kingwood St belonging to the Confederated Tribes and damaged property of the Fresenius Medical facility located on Kingwood St. Miller was lodged at the Florence City Jail and later transported to Lane County Adult Corrections. Miller was charged with 4 counts of Criminal Mischief I, Resisting Arrest and Disorderly

Conduct. Additional charges are pending further investigation.

The case was turned over to the Lane County District Attorney's Office.

Museum needs local support

SIUSLAW PIONEER MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The climate here can be unforgiving. High humidity, rainfall and salt air are all part of what makes this region so special, but they're also incredibly hard on buildings and require a lot of maintenance to keep up with. Wooden historical buildings are particularly susceptible to our moist climate, and that is sadly one reason why there are so few remaining. Our beloved Pioneer Museum is one of these such

historic buildings – house in the original Florence School, built in 1905 – and is in need of major maintenance. Please join us, in whatever way you are able, to help preserve this amazing building and our shared history.

WEST WALL PROJECT DRY ROT REMEDIATION

As you may be aware, we began this project in 2023 with dry rot removal in the South wall of the Museum. Unfortunately, during that process, we learned that the problem had spread and will need

to be addressed in additional walls. The West wall has been identified as our next priority, and we need to secure approximately \$70K in funding, to match with anticipated grants, to complete the repairs. This is a big number and a big ask, but we hope you will agree that protecting this historical building – as well as all of the amazing items it contains – is well worth the effort and expense. We are committed to remaining accessible, accountable, and

transparent during this process. We are currently working to get firm numbers and timelines for work and will report all progress to members and the public via the quarterly newsletter. Thank you for your support and for being part of our community!

HOW TO HELP

Your tax-deductible donation can be made by sending a check to: Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Association PO BOX 2637 Florence, OR 97439

A celebration of Ireland at Siuslaw Library

On Saturday, March 15, “A Celebration of Ireland – music, poetry, history & folklore from the Emerald Isle” with Four Shillings Short, at the Siuslaw Library. The performance takes the audience on a journey to the Emerald Isle with Traditional toe-tapping tunes, songs in Gaelic and English, folklore, history and Irish poetry.

Four Shillings Short, the husband/wife duo of Aodh

Og O'Tuama from Cork, Ireland and Christy Martin from California, have been touring in the US & Ireland since 1997 and “bring musical diversity, captivating storytelling and humorous side notes to create an amazing show.” They will perform Traditional and Original music from the Celtic lands on a fantastic array of instruments (over 30) including Hammered

& Mountain Dulcimer, Mandolin, Mandola, Bouzouki, Tinwhistles, Recorders, Medieval and Renaissance Woodwinds, Native American Flutes, North Indian Sitar, Charango, Bowed Psaltery, Banjo, Bodhran, Guitar, Percussion, vocals and even a Krumhorn. “Their musical virtuosity makes old songs sound new and new songs sound like time-worn Celtic spells.

Four Shillings Short are independent folk-artists who perform 100 concerts a year, have released 13 recordings and live as full time Troubadours traveling from town to town performing at music festivals, theatres & performing arts centers, folk societies, libraries, house concerts and schools. Admission is free, visit <https://www.siuslawlibrary.info> for more information.

Wyden, Merkley, Colleagues Demand Answers About Elon Musk and DOGE's Access to Disaster Victims' Personal Data

US SENATE NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley said today they have joined Senate colleagues to demand answers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator, on the potential security breach created by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which has reportedly accessed the sensitive personal data of disaster victims.

The senators in their letter to Cameron Hamilton, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the FEMA Administrator also sought more information on the procedures FEMA follows to protect data from misuse, and if DOGE's unaccountable agents complied with federal law.

“The United States has suffered from a growing number of natural disasters over the past several years—from severe flooding in Vermont and hurricanes in North Carolina, to catastrophic wildfires in Hawaii and California.

In order to register for federal disaster assistance and receive help rebuilding their communities, our constituents have provided their personally identifiable information to FEMA. They did not do so with the expectation that their sensitive information would be turned over to unvetted, unaccountable DOGE agents,” the senators wrote.

“Mr. Musk has stated his desire to eliminate waste at FEMA. We agree the country must examine and thoughtfully consider reforms to the operation of FEMA. Our constituents have experienced first-hand the frustrating bureaucracies that hinder the federal disaster recovery process. Congress must take steps to equip FEMA and communities with the tools needed to better assist disaster victims after the storm has passed. We stand ready to work with anyone willing to fix it,” the senators continued. “But such reforms do not require, or come close to justifying, the invasive measures DOGE has

reportedly undertaken.”

“When disaster strikes, Americans should have confidence the government will safeguard their data, regardless of the Administration at the helm. Reports indicate you have breached that trust—perhaps in violation of federal privacy law,” the senators concluded.

In their letter, the senators requested responses to the following questions to understand the scope of that breach and the extent of FEMA's compliance with federal law:

Please provide a complete list of individuals authorized by FEMA to access disaster victims' data and records during the period between January 20, 2025, and February 14, 2025. Please indicate whether those individuals are employees of FEMA, the White House, DOGE, or another federal agency and specify the agency. If the individuals are not federal employees, please indicate that in your response.

What are the individuals

specified above authorized to do with disaster victims' data and records, and what types of data were obtained?

What procedures does FEMA follow to protect disaster victims' data from misuse? Are DOGE-affiliated individuals required to follow those procedures?

How many Americans' personally identifiable data has been accessed by DOGE-affiliated individuals? What vetting did these individuals undergo prior to their being granted access to FEMA systems?

The letter was led by U.S. Senators Peter Welch, D-Vt., and Alex Padilla, D-Calif. In addition to Wyden and Merkley, the letter was co-signed by U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.

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NEW PROPERTIES AND UPDATES FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 26, 2025

3340 31ST ST.

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\$535,000

648 JUNIPER ST.

NEW



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\$368,000

1521 RANCH RD. REEDSPORT

NEW



Bring your imagination, goals and dreams to this unique creative home. Two distinct living areas. 4 Bed/3 Bath, 2076 SF.

\$449,500

6010 LITTLE WOAHINK DRIVE

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1680/84 22ND ST.



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1566 20TH ST.



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\$341,000

89492 SUTTON PLACE



Stick-built home with great views and privacy on .75 acre. Lots of potential for future projects. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 864 SF.

\$269,000

1868 TAMARACK ST.



Cozy home with RV garage, loft & additional square footage. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1211 SF.

\$469,000

5938 VIEW LOOP



2 level home w/Mercer Lake access plus oversized garage & workshop. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2110 sq. ft.

\$549,000

1301 20TH ST.


10,000 in buyer incentives



Bright open floor plan, modern kitchen. 2 fireplaces. Quiet dead-end street. Garage + workshop. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1797 SF.

\$495,000

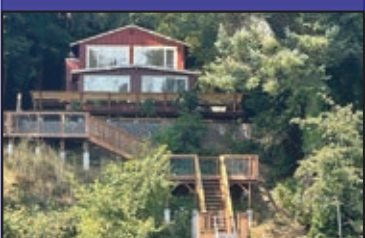
83049 SILTCOOS STATION RD.



2 story lake view home w/ workshop on .65 acre of park like grounds. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1818 SF.

\$625,000

5360 BUCKSKIN BOB



Siltcoos Lakefront cabin with boat dock! End of road privacy. 3 Bed/2 Baths, 1560 SF.

\$789,000

87179 MUNSEL LAKE RD.



Cottage with Munsel Lake views & fishing a few steps away. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 1028 SF

\$415,000

1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #694



Cozy home with LVP flooring, ductless heat pump & large living room. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1539 SF.

\$349,997

4 BONNETT WAY



Brand new. Construction beginning soon. Popular floor plan but can be customized. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2121 SF.

\$829,300

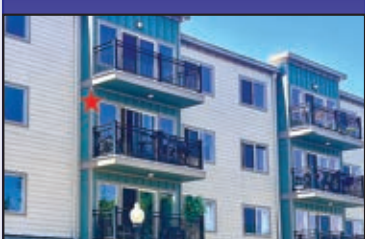
4743 STONEFIELD CT.



Brand new home in beach area neighborhood. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1914 SF

\$619,000

211 HARBOR ST. #32



Enjoy river views from this 3rd floor east facing condo. Secured parking garage. 1 Bed/1.5 Bath, 960 SF

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5412 BUCKSKIN BOB



Custom built Carter Brothers home is an architectural masterpiece. Siltcoos Lake front w/dock. 3 BD/2.5 BA 2296 SF.

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211 HARBOR ST. #38



3rd story end unit with river views and full laundry. Upgraded primary bathroom. Secure parking garage. 1 Bed/1.5 Bath, 945 SF

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246 HORSESHOE BEND



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\$129,900

176 NOB HILL ST.



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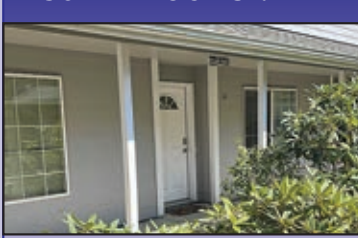
1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #638



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1150 HEMLOCK ST. #D-14



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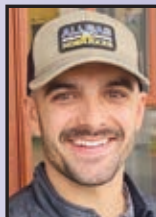
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Tide Table

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26		
Low	4:33 a.m.....	2.9
High.....	10:34 a.m.....	8.0
Low	5:20 p.m.....	-0.7
High.....	11:55 p.m.....	6.8
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27		
Low	5:20 a.m.....	2.1
High.....	11:23 a.m.....	8.2
Low	5:57 p.m.....	-0.7
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28		
High.....	12:27 a.m.....	7.3
Low	6:06 a.m.....	1.4
High.....	12:11 p.m.....	8.1
Low	6:33 p.m.....	-0.5
SATURDAY, MARCH 1		
High.....	12:59 a.m.....	7.7
Low	6:52 a.m.....	0.8
High.....	1:01 p.m.....	7.8
Low	7:09 p.m.....	0.0
SUNDAY, MARCH 2		
High.....	1:33 a.m.....	8.1
Low	7:40 a.m.....	0.3
High.....	1:53 p.m.....	7.3
Low	7:45 p.m.....	0.7
MONDAY, MARCH 3		
High.....	2:09 a.m.....	8.3
Low	8:30 a.m.....	0.0
High.....	2:47 p.m.....	6.7
Low	8:23 p.m.....	1.4
TUESDAY, MARCH 4		
High.....	2:47 a.m.....	8.3
Low	9:25 a.m.....	-0.1
High.....	3:48 p.m.....	6.0
Low	9:05 p.m.....	2.3
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5		
High.....	3:30 a.m.....	8.0
Low	10:27 a.m.....	0.1
High.....	5:00 p.m.....	5.4
Low	9:55 p.m.....	3.1
THURSDAY, MARCH 6		
High.....	4:22 a.m.....	7.7
Low	11:38 a.m.....	0.3
High.....	6:31 p.m.....	5.1
Low	11:03 p.m.....	3.6
FRIDAY, MARCH 7		
High.....	5:26 a.m.....	7.2
Low	12:56 p.m.....	0.3
High.....	8:10 p.m.....	5.2
SATURDAY, MARCH 8		
Low	12:34 a.m.....	3.9
High.....	6:46 a.m.....	7.0
Low	2:11 p.m.....	0.3
High.....	9:22 p.m.....	5.6
SUNDAY, MARCH 9		
Low	3:04 a.m.....	3.7
High.....	9:06 a.m.....	6.9
Low	4:14 p.m.....	0.1
High.....	11:12 p.m.....	6.0
MONDAY, MARCH 10		
Low	4:16 a.m.....	3.3
High.....	10:13 a.m.....	7.1
Low	5:05 p.m.....	0.0
High.....	11:50 p.m.....	6.3
TUESDAY, MARCH 11		
Low	5:11 a.m.....	2.8
High.....	11:08 a.m.....	7.2
Low	5:47 p.m.....	0.0
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12		
High.....	12:22 a.m.....	6.6
Low	5:56 a.m.....	2.2
High.....	11:55 a.m.....	7.2
Low	6:23 p.m.....	0.1
THURSDAY, MARCH 13		
High.....	12:51 a.m.....	6.8
Low	6:36 a.m.....	1.7
High.....	12:37 p.m.....	7.2
Low	6:54 p.m.....	0.4
FRIDAY, MARCH 14		
High.....	1:18 a.m.....	7.0
Low	7:12 a.m.....	1.3
High.....	1:17 p.m.....	7.0
Low	7:24 p.m.....	0.7

Siuslaw boys slated for playoff push

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Vikings boys basketball is on a roll, and a place in the state playoffs seems well within reach, as Siuslaw has continued to navigate choppy waters to the top of the 3A Far West League.

Going into Siuslaw’s final league game against Douglas on Feb. 18, the Vikings were riding high on the back of an eight-game win streak. Though the result of the matchup against Douglas is not known at the time of writing, Siuslaw beat Douglas in their previous matchup 59-45 on Feb. 4.

Going into the game, Siuslaw was atop the Far West League with an 8-1 league record and 17-6 overall, ahead of second-place Sutherlin (7-2, 15-8) and third-place Douglas (7-2, 13-10).

Looking at Siuslaw’s eight-game winning streak, the Vikings have found their stride over the past month. Over the span of wins, Siuslaw has averaged 58 points per game while only allowing 37.75 to opponents in those games. That 21-point difference has shown itself in the number of blowouts they’ve been handing out, with seven of the eight victories coming by 10 or more points.

Siuslaw’s two closest games in that span were a 67-58 win against Sutherlin on Feb. 7 and a 48-38 win versus South Umpqua on Feb. 14. The contest



Above, Just before the half, the score of 37 to 14 was reflected in the backboard as Michael Felkins drops a bomb through the net on the Glide Wildcats. Below, Vikings girls played hard but lost last week against Glide and South Umpqua.



Sandmaster Park named a fan-favorite



Peruvian pro sandboarder, Gerson Valle Mesa chases Gabbi Malone down a steep dune with a 360 camera as Sandmaster instructor Caleb Van Winkle watches.

Oregon Business magazine notified the owners of a Florence business that they had ranked 2nd in the state as a “fan-favorite destination.”

Sandmaster Park Founder Lon Beale said the park was chosen from a thousand or more businesses

“Last year we were ranked at #21 so it’s a

huge jump for us and something for Florence (the sandboarding capital of the world) to be proud of,” he said.”We are pleasantly surprised, of course and did not expect this at all.”

Beale said he received an email from judges congratulating him for the #2 ranking.

“After scouring through tens of

thousands of online reviews, we are excited to announce the 2025 100 Best “Fan-Favorite” Destinations in Oregon list,” the email read. “ Why this is important? This is not a “beauty-contest”. Your destination is truly respected by your guests. We painstakingly analyzed tens of thousands of online reviews from



Miss Oregon Teen, Ashlyn Hart and Sandmaster instructor Caleb Van Winkle walk out on the dunes looking for a long, steep slope.

Google, Yelp and Tripadvisor and ranked them based on their number of 4 and 5-star reviews compared to their overall number of reviews.”

During summer months, one can regularly spot amateur and experienced sandboarders hitting the dunes Near Fred Meyer and other coastal locations.

Lade, Riggs, and Lacouture to wrestle at state

Will LOHRE
Country Media, Inc.

Siuslaw will send three Vikings on the northerly trek to the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland for the girls 2025 OSAA State Wrestling Championships, an achievement earned through hard work and formidable skills on the mats.

Macali Lade, Abby Riggs, and Danin Lacouture cemented their spots in the state championships at the Special District 2 Championships in Cottage Grove, which was hosted Feb. 14-15. It was a regional competition, with 40 programs in attendance from around southwest Oregon.

“It was a 40 team event, and our girls did very well, qualifying three girls for the state tournament and placing 7th overall,” Head Coach Neil Wartnik said. “The team was led (as it has been all year) by Macali Lade.”

Wartnik’s squad more than held their own amid the crowded field. The big point scorers en route to Siuslaw’s seventh-place finish were Lade (30 points), Riggs (22 points), Lacouture (20), Hailey Taylor (9 points), and Molly Mills (4 points).

- The top ten finishing teams at the meet were:
1. Harrisburg - 153.0
 2. Sweet Home - 146.0
 3. Sutherlin - 135.0
 4. Mazama - 123.5
 5. Oakridge - 119.5
 6. Illinois Valley - 87.0
 7. Siuslaw - 85.0
 8. Coquille - 81.5
 9. North Bend - 79.0
 10. Rogue River - 74.0

Lade was again the showstopper for Siuslaw, as she came away with a first-place finish in the 120-pound weight class, pinning all who stood in her way. Though she took down each of her four opponents by fall, it was no easy feat. Lade had to fight from behind in both the semis and finals.

“In the semis, she entered the second period behind 3-1 but then took control of the match, pinning Cottage Grove Lion Allison Pollack in the waning seconds of the period,” Wartnik said.

Pollack was the 2023 state champion in the 120-weight class, and a win over her will be a confidence builder going into the state championships. But after pinning Pollack in the semis, Lade still needed to worry about the finals.

“In the finals, Lade was opposed by outstanding freshman

See **WRESTLING**, Page B3

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Community Briefs

Backstreet Gallery Reception for Judy Fleagle and John Leasure

Come to Backstreet Gallery’s striking show and reception honoring the “Bridge Lady” author and painter/teacher extraordinaire John Leasure on March 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. The dynamic duo captures a bit of Oregon’s amazing beauty in script and oil paintings.

Judy Fleagle is the author of an eclectic mix of non-fiction books. Four are regional, including “Crossings, McCullough’s Coastal Bridges” and “The Oregon Coast Guide to the unexpected!” Three are personal, including her latest book “Living Life to the Fullest . . . after age 70!”

The Featured Artist reception will launch her eighth book “Chuck & Jean, The Interesting Years.” It’s the second printing of the first book she ever wrote—34 years ago, and copies will be available.

This new/old book is divided into two parts. It’s Judy’s dad’s stories of growing up on a homestead in Montana, until he left for

the Navy (1919–1937). Most stories are humorous, but a few serious, such as when his mother was hit by lightning and survived.

Her mom’s section begins when she meets this Montana cowboy. Her stories continue through their time in Hawaii, where he was stationed, and to the end of WWII. It includes her mom’s first-person account of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and exciting aftermath.

John Leasure’s masterful paintings are breathtaking. No subject escapes John’s interest: roosters, dogs, florals, ocean scenes, mountains, egrets, wandering herds, glassy ponds, waterfalls, picturesque moonscapes, or a lone woman in a sunset.

“I like to create pictures that capture a higher plane in color and light. . . . My hope is that you see what I see.” Rather than photos, John relies on memories and experiences for inspiration. Waves crash, backlit with a dramatic sunset or against a craggy shore. Birds skitter across wet sand, or an eagle soars across a spectacular sky. He illuminates subjects in brilliant light that accentuates a flower petal, a horse’s mane, or a building façade. Whatever subject, he draws you into his painting with a stream of light.

Not only is he a skilled painter, he’s a talented teacher. Find his classes through Florence Regional Arts Alliance, where he’s a Board member. Most Saturday mornings, you’ll find John teaching painting to a group of rapt students. Whether a beginner or not, his adept instruction guarantees an appealing result.

Meet John and Judy at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay Street, during the reception. Enjoy live music by Denny Weaver, wine and refreshments. Backstreet is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Want to become a member? Backstreet Gallery is accepting applications available at the Gallery or online at www.backstreet-gallery.org.

and ultramarathon event producers throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Mt. Hood, the Columbia River Gorge, Mt. St. Helens and other Oregon Coast locations.

A donation to the Siuslaw High School Track and Cross Country program is made from event proceeds each year.

For more information, to sign up to participate, or volunteer at the event, please visit www.daybreakracing.com/siuslaw-dunes.

FUUF: A Call for Cultural and Spiritual Transformation to Combat Climate Change

Join us on March 2nd for a spirited discussion with Michael Allen, Climate Activist, as he shares his thoughts in response to a powerful statement by Gus Speth, former dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Speth, reflecting on the shifting priorities of environmental challenges, explained:

“I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystems collapse, and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy... and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation. And we scientists don’t know how to do that.”

In light of this perspective, Michael Allen will discuss the need for a cultural and spiritual transformation in response to climate change. He will explore how overcoming apathy, greed, and selfishness is crucial for achieving real change.

Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) is dedicated to fostering the will to act and create lasting change to protect our planet. This Sunday program is part of our ongoing efforts to inspire action and engagement in the fight against the danger of climate change.

Event Details:

- Location: Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – 87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road
- Date: March 2, 2025
- Time: Doors open at 9:30 a.m.; Service begins at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this special program.

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



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Dunes Trail Run coming

The 4th running of the Siuslaw Dunes trail run is being held on Saturday, March 8th, staging at East Woahink Day Use Area at Honeyman State Park. The event includes three race distances of 50 kilometers (31 miles), 20 miles and 12 kilometers (7 miles), each crossing the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area between Tahkenitch Campground and Honeyman.

The event is produced by Jeremy and Aaron Long of Daybreak Racing. Both Jeremy and Aaron are Florence natives, having graduated from Siuslaw High School in 1996 and 1997, respectively. Each enjoyed successful running careers at Siuslaw and have seen success as trail running

the spotlight

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

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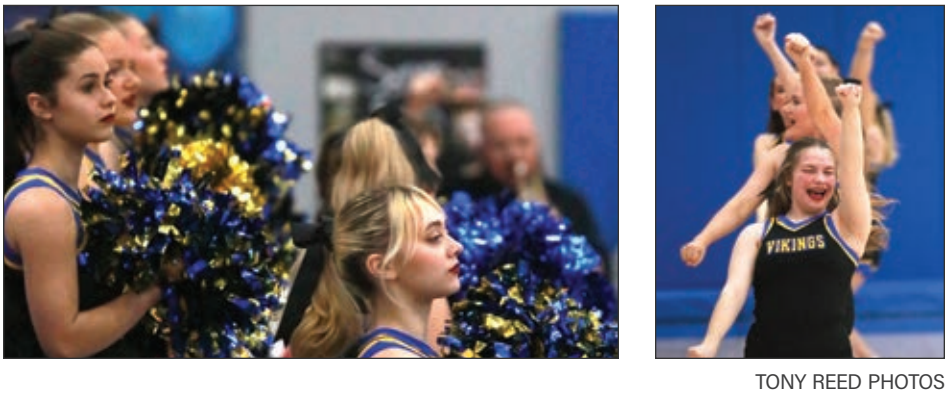
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Siuslaw Cheerleaders at every game



TONY REED PHOTOS

Whether Viking athletes are winning, trailing or losing, the Cheer team keeps the volume and energy up. Cheerleaders performed between quarters, and yelled from the sidelines, letting teams and families know they are supported.



Friendship - Fellowship – Fun FAITH DIRECTORY

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

ANCHOR OF HOPE CHURCH
Live like Jesus, share His Love.
1318 Rhododendron Drive
www.anchorofhopeflo.com
Sunday Service 11am
Livestream on Facebook @anchorofhopeflo

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

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

FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road
RUAUU? Come explore the answer with us.
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FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025
Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for adults is at 9:00 a.m.
Online services at www.florenceunitedmethodist.org or find us on Facebook.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH
1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) — 997-6337
Pastor George Pagel – Something for the entire family.
Sunday Service 10:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study returns this Fall.
Website: florence4square.com

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN E.L.C.A.
NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.
“Serving Christ by serving others.”
21st & Spruce Streets—(541) 997-8113
Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m.
Online services available on our Facebook, YouTube, and website: www.florencenewlifelutheran.org

PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3996 N Hwy 101 541-997-7136
Internet and in person Sunday Services at 10:30am, Adult Sunday School is at 9:30am.
Call the church for details.
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Pastor Steve Waterman
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BASKETBALL
From Page B1

against Sutherlin marked a revenge game for the Vikings, and they did it in style scoring their second-highest total in a league game through nine played.

Against South Umpqua, the Vikings put together a solid four

quarters, outscoring the Lancers each period to build up to the 10-point winning margin. As has been the case for much of the season, it was two of Siuslaw's seniors who were difference-makers in the game. Vikings Gave DeLeon and Chaz Edblom were stuffing the stat sheet, almost registering triple-doubles.

DeLeon finished the game with 12 points, 13 rebounds, and eight assists, making significant contributions across the board. Edblom led the Vikings in scoring with 17 points and also chipped in nine assists and seven boards. Michael Felkins added nine points to the scoring column, and Justin Allen added six.

The super seniors for Siuslaw have been heavily impactful amid the best season the program has had in more than a decade.

Even before playing Douglas on Feb. 21, Siuslaw's 8-1 record is the best mark for the Vikings since the 2006-2007 season when the team ended the season 9-1.

The Vikings hope to have a shot at not just a Far West League title this year but also a potential deep run into the 3A playoffs in March.

SIUSLAW GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls team will not be able to make the playoffs this season, but the work the team has

done to earn their first league win should be lauded. Despite tough losses against South Umpqua, Coquille, and Glide, they will end the season with more wins than have been achieved in the league since before the pandemic.

The result of their game against Douglas on Feb. 21 is also unknown at time of press.



WRESTLING
From Page B1

Victoria Keller of Oakridge. Keller took a 3-0 lead into the second period, but Lade was able to win a scramble that allowed her to trap Keller on her back and pin her," Wartnik said.

The 2025 120-pound title is Lade's second district championship, and it earned her a fourth trip to the state championships. But she won't be going alone. She will be joined by teammates Riggs, who placed second in the 115-pound division, and Lacouture, who placed third in the 140 division.

Riggs put together an impressive district run, pinning opponents in her first two matches before handing Lakeview's Riley Stubbs one of her few season losses in the semifinals. In the finals, Riggs lost to Oakridge's Emmalee Brissette by major decision but still earned her second trip to state in the process.

Another vet of the program, this will be Lacouture's third trip

to the state championship. After pinning her opponent in the quarterfinals, Lacouture lost to Sutherlin's Keeley Guthrie in the semis. Lacouture bounced back to earn the third and final bid to state, beating Sweet Home's Madi Looney by fall in the third-place match after winning a consolation match to get there.

Though Riggs, Lacouture, and Lade made up for a majority of the team's points, Mills and Taylor each won matches that would be critical to the Vikings' seventh-place team finish. Without Mills' victory, which earned 4 points, and Taylor's sixth-place finish, which netted 9 points, Siuslaw would have placed 11th behind Rogue River.

While the season may be over for the team at large, the journey will continue for three Vikings who will compete with the state's best!

"The three state qualifiers will have a week to rest and prepare for state, which will take place at Memorial Coliseum in Portland on 2/26 & 2/27," Wartnik said.

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

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Florence Area Chamber of Commerce
290 Hwy 101, Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-3128
www.florencechamber.com

CHURCH

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

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541-999-0126
www.CindyWobbeEstates.com

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

FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

FOOD BANK

Florence Food Share
2190 Spruce St., Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-9110

HUMANE SOCIETY

Oregon Coast Humane Society
541-997-4277
Shelter
2840 Rhododendron Dr.
Thrift Store
1193 Bay St.

NEWSPAPERS

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

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Randy Paredes, Broker
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Florence, Oregon 97439
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97439
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4981 Highway 101, Florence, Oregon 97439
541-997-4856



Body **FACT:**

Children are born with 20 of these, which will increase to 32 as they age.

Answer: Teeth

“How they say that in...”

- English: Dental
- Spanish: Dental
- Italian: Dentale
- French: Dentaire
- German: Zahn

What’s the Difference?
Find the four difference between pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Missing tooth 2. Smile on tooth is bigger 3. Missing toothbrush 4. Missing controls on machine

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 1775: The British East India Company factory on Balam-bangan Island is destroyed by pirates.
- 1909: Kinemacolor, the first successful color motion picture process, is first shown to the public.
- 1995: Barings Bank in England collapses after a broker loses billions.

NEW WORD

TARTAR
a hard deposit that forms on the teeth

Did You KNOW?

It is important to visit the dentist at least twice per year for a thorough dental cleaning and examination of the mouth.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Brushing teeth

DENTIST OFFICE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ALGINATE
- AMALGAM
- BRUSH
- CAVITY
- CHECKUP
- CLEANING
- CROWN
- CURING LIGHT
- DAM
- ELEVATOR
- EXPLORER
- EXTRACTION
- FILLINGS
- FLUORIDE
- GLOVES
- IMAGES
- MASK
- MIRROR
- PANORAMIC
- RESIN
- SEALANT
- SPRAY
- SUCTION
- XRAYS

Shopping Starts Here

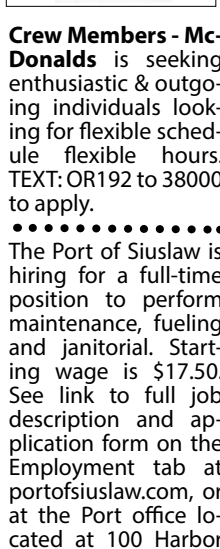
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105
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312
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500
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SLN 25-110
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en that the Florence Planning Commission will hold a public

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

hearing in person and via videoconference on February 25, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of Florence City Hall Chambers located at 250 Highway 101, The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council, which will hear this matter at their March 17th, 2025, meeting at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers, to consider and deliberate on the following: Resolution PC 24 42 ANNEX 07 and PC 24 43 ZONING 07 - 88327 Hwy 101A - 4760 S Harbor Vista Annexation and Zone Change: a petition from Kathryn Socea and Allan Socea to annex approximately

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

36 acres of property and apply Medium Density Residential zoning. The property is described as Assessor's Map No. 18-12-15-22, Tax Lot 05400 4760 S Harborview Vista Dr, Florence, OR 97439-9021. The property is proposed to be zoned Medium Density Residential (MDR). Meetings are live on Cable Channel 191 and stream at www.ci.florence.or.us/citymanager/public-meetings-live. Testimony can be given in writing or at the meeting. Those wishing to testify via webinar must submit a speaker's card at www.ci.florence.or.us/citymanager/public-meetings-live.

999
PUBLIC NOTICES

bc-pc/request-address-planning-commission-speakers-card by 3:30PM on February 25, 2025. Testimony not submitted in compliance with the above procedures, will not be included in the record. For additional information contact the Planning Department at planningdepartment@ci.florence.or.us or 541-997-8237. To be published on February 12, 2025, and February 26, 2025.



Answers: A. toothbrush B. flossing C. fluoride D. dentist

Clue: Cleans teeth

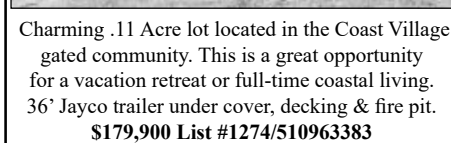
Clue: Interdental cleaning

Clue: Strengthens teeth

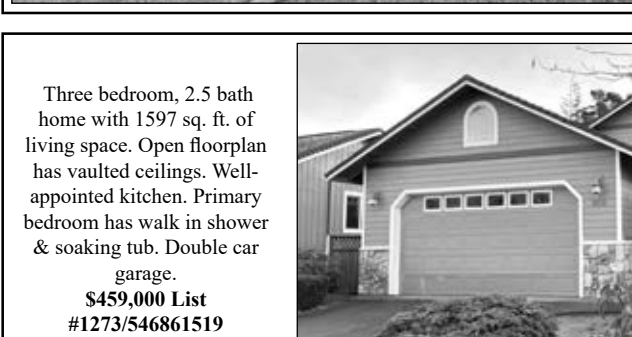
Clue: Tooth doctor

Unique lot located at Maple & 6th Street. Zoned Mainstreet District Area A could be business, single or multiple residences combo. Flat, cleared, ready to build. Utilities available.

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TL #7600 \$74,500 MLS #24079224



Brand new construction on Dunewood Drive in the Reserve at Heceta Lakes. This three bedroom, 2 bath custom home has 2100 sq. ft. of living space, an attached double car garage and high-end finishes. **\$975,000 List #1283/378512803**

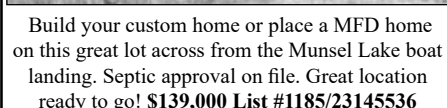
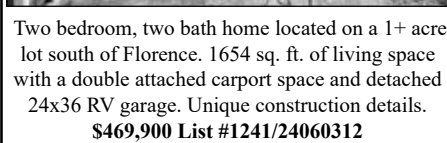
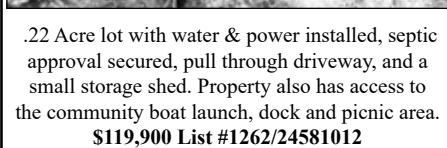


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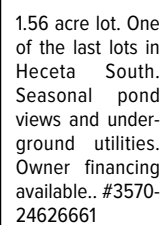
Coast Village .10 acre lot with a ramada, 2010 Rockwood trailer, covered deck, privacy fence, tool shed and outbuilding with washer & dryer and refrigerator. Great space for full or part time living. Lots of parking!
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ASTROLOGY READINGS

<p>PISCES -Feb 19/Mar 20</p> <p>Your good mood will be elevated for much of the week, Pisces. Don't fret about a little hiccup along the way. You will bounce back quickly with a smile on your face..</p> <p>.....</p> <p>ARIES -Mar 21/Apr 20</p> <p>People are not mind readers, Aries. If you want others to know how you are feeling, you are going to have to give them some sort of indication this week.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>TAURUS -Apr 21/May 21</p> <p>You may discover that you enjoy a great deal of support from other people right now, Taurus. This includes those who you didn't realize are on your side.</p>	<p>GEMINI -May 22/Jun 21</p> <p>Even though it can be challenging at certain times, try to see the positives in every situation, Gemini. This may make it easier to overlook some of their faults.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>CANCER -Jun 22/Jul 22</p> <p>Try to stretch beyond your comfort zone and limits this week, Cancer. This likely will involve meeting new people and asking a lot of questions along the way. You will develop and grow..</p> <p>.....</p> <p>LEO -Jul 23/Aug 23</p> <p>Leo, this is a great time to communicate with friends and socialize. Put aside any worries and engage in lighthearted activities that will enable you to laugh and smile.</p>	<p>VIRGO -Aug 24/Sept 22</p> <p>The more peaceful and understanding you are this week, Virgo, the more you will get along with the other people in your life. Be the diplomat instead of a warrior this time around.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>LIBRA -Sept 23/Oct 23</p> <p>Libra, this is a good week for cleaning up your space and devising a better organizational system at work. You might be so good at cleaning up that you forget where you put things.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>SCORPIO -Oct 24/Nov 22</p> <p>Scorpio, do not feel like you have to change your personality to fit certain situations this week. Just be yourself. Those who want to be around you will naturally gravitate to you.</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS -Nov 23/Dec 21</p> <p>A great deal of information is available if you simply request it, Sagittarius. Word your request in a way that guarantees cooperation from others.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>CAPRICORN -Dec 22/Jan 20</p> <p>Capricorn, you are so focused on a personal project that you may completely forget about the needs of others. Make a change this week to be more receptive to others' needs.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>AQUARIUS -Jan 21/Feb 18</p> <p>Aquarius, take a look at the bigger picture to identify what you will need for the next few months. Then discuss your ideas with others to see if what you have planned is plausible.</p>
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9 White Tail Ct. - \$634,900.00
3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, 1884 SqFt. Gorgeous custom home with upgrades throughout; solar, heated bath-room floors, high end appliances. #3625-713405916

Price Reduced

5600 N Fork Siuslaw Rd. - \$475,000
15.66 acre lot. Large shop on this lot only one mile up the North Fork Siuslaw. Water, power and septic in. #3615-24205696

Price Reduced

5929 N Mercer Lake Dr. - \$449,900
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1296 SqFt. North Lakes home on 1.38 acres. Oversized 2-story garage with bonus room. New roof 2024. #3617- 449947625

Price Reduced

83720 Hwy 101 - \$799,000
2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1096 SqFt. Ranch-style home, updated kitchen, 2 master suites, updated decks, newly built detached office space, 4.72 acre. #3621- 387092922

494 Hwy 101 - \$375,000
2860sqft Commercial/Residential building close to Old Town right on Hwy 101. Perfect investment opportunity in Florence! #3280- 21490746

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

179 Laurel St. D - \$230,000
859 SqFt Commercial building. Investment opportunity in Old Town with endless potential. Business and personal property not included in the sale. #3624-520183170

1198 Winsome Cir • \$599,999
3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 2246 SqFt. Lovely home in the center of Florence. Great floor plan on a quiet cul-de-sac. #3418-23197925

63 Shoreline Dr - \$820,000
3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2142 SqFt. Ocean and river view home in Shelter Cove. Large deck with views for entertaining. #3443- 23215919

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

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

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

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

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

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

231 Horseshoe Bend • \$310,000
1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, 648 sqft. 2024 Park Model with additional building for guests, and another building for laundry. #3598-24607041

11801 E Mapleton Rd. - \$699,900
3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 2418 SqFt. Secluded living on 2.75 acres with a quarter mile of river frontage on the Siuslaw River. #3603-24320221

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

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

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

6007 View Lp. - \$264,000
3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 1932 SqFt. Wonderful tri-level home with Mercer views, deeded access, and RV parking. #3618-315828313

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

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

1601-693 Rhododendron Dr. - \$305,000
2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 840 SqFt. 2016 Golden West home with double garage and ample parking on a sunny cul-de-sac in Greentrees. #3623-770836151



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