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Siuslaw News

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Florence, Oregon

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Number 12 • 134 years

City opens Siuslaw Estuary Trail



Weather cooperated for opening of the Siuslaw Estuary Trail March 13. Tony Reed photos.

By **TONY REED**
 Siuslaw News

About 50 people, along with Public Works personnel, city staff and City Councilors, arrived between local hail and rain flurries to get a first look at the newly opened Estuary Trail. The March 13 opening began with remarks from Mayor Rob Ward, who said the trail represents “a significant step forward in our efforts to provide safe and accessible pathways for walking and biking.” He said the trail project was developed in collaboration with the help of many community members and agency partners. He also acknowledged

See **TRAIL**, Page A5



SVCS newly-hired Head of Schools resigns

By **TONY REED**
 Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Valley Charter School officials are continuing toward opening Whitmore Classical Academy in Florence, despite the recent departure of its newly-hired Head of Schools. In a recent release, the SVCS Board said Arturo Ruelas’ resignation became effective March 7.

“The board is actively working on a leadership transition plan and remains fully committed to fulfilling our mission to offer a high-quality option for the students of the greater Florence Area, using the classical education model. Updates will be provided in the coming weeks,” Board President Kay King said in a release.

The board held a special meeting March 13 to discuss these issues but results were not available as of deadline.

A brief history
 The SVCS Board has been meeting regularly to discuss the implementation of policies but the process to reach this point has been ongoing since before 2024.

In late 2023, SVCS asked the Siuslaw School District to approve its proposed charter school, WCA, along with its classical learning model. In October, 2023, the board approved the SVCS application.

School District attorney Rich Cohn Lee sent a January letter

See **SVCS**, Page A6

Berkner awaits second pretrial

SIUSLAW NEWS STAFF

Another 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 investigation, 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.

At the Feb. 27 pretrial

conference, Berkner waived his 60-day trial right and that a new pretrial Conference date was set for April 7, alongside a trial date of June 24.

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 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.

Officials at Lane County District Attorneys Office did not comment further on the case, since the investigation is ongoing.

Dozens of SHS students make honor roll

SIUSLAW NEWS STAFF

Siuslaw High School Principal Mike Harklerode shared that 177 students in all four grades made the honor roll last semester. He explained that results were delayed about a month to allow some students with outstanding work to complete for credit in the previous semester.

“Students earn honor roll status by earning a 3.5 or higher grade point average in all classes in a single semester,” he explained. “Students who make the honor roll for consecutive semesters are awarded an academic letter at a ceremony next fall.”

To put that number into a visual context, those names are included below.

FRESHMAN

- Ashley N. Bocales,
- Barenger S. Clemons,
- Annalee J. Fleming,
- Willa C. Harklerode,
- Alexandria N. James,
- Jasmine M. Krause,
- Jericho B. Lake,
- Harrison D. Lane,
- Aiyana Lujan,
- Claire M. McNeill,
- Madelyn A. Scribner,
- Zoey V. Stanger,
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- Lucca I. Flosi,
- Aris V. Lade,
- Covina Y. Lobdell,
- Kaydence L. Parker,
- Ethan J. Williams,
- Gunner D. Durgan,
- Avett Z. Dykstra,
- Reese A. Flescher,
- Grace Frank,
- Travis Heckel,
- Clover A. Holbrook,
- Lucian T. Martin-May,
- Aleria D. Mendolia,
- Lorenzo M. Ramsey,
- Sammy Skanes,
- Makaia P. Snider,
- Lilliana P. Hunt,
- Emma K. Beaulieu,
- Mollie A. Burt,
- Aurora D. Carl,
- Maely Chiang,
- Bella R. Garneau,
- Trenten B. Harer,
- Avelynn A. Hulet,
- Jonah G. Marohl,
- Bentley N. Nelson,
- Hannah A. Richard,
- Greyson R. Shrewsbury,
- Fiorenzo Stone,
- Kanati J. Lipe,

SOPHOMORE

- Jaydee C. Beggs,
- Tara I. Boomer,
- Paige N. Bottensek,
- Aidell J. Cadet,
- Chloe J. Clark,
- Lilyana M. Clemons,
- Stella M. Duman,
- Ezra N. Haberly,

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OBITUARIES



JOANN MARIE WESTCOTT

JoAnn Marie Westcott 87, was born April 26, 1937 in Portland, Oregon. She passed away on March 8, 2025 at home. JoAnn retired from Wells Fargo Bank after 27 years of service. JoAnna and her husband Larry moved to Florence 32 years ago she worked for Oregon Pacific Bank until finally retiring. JoAnn and Larry loved to travel in their RV. They traveled all over the US, British Columbia, Canada, Prince

Edward Island and Nova Scotia. She also loved crabbing and fishing. She is survived by her husband Larry K. Westcott, daughter Linda Marie Wilcox, stepson Ralph K. Westcott, his wife Lorrie and their sons Ralph Jr, Kristopher and his wife Alicia, Michael E. Westcott and wife Mattie, daughter Desiree Westcott, Rakyann Westcott Tolman, Christina Westcott, Alileen Westcott, Yvonne Westcott Sanchez and 12 great grandchildren.

KRISTINA "KRIS" ROWELL

Kristina "Kris" Rowell passed away unexpectedly on March 10, 2025 at the age of 72. Kris was born in Clovis, New Mexico on October 2, 1952 to LaVerta (Edwards) and Charles Springer. She was the oldest sister to Charlotte, Shelley and



Jason. She was raised and lived much of her life in the Quad Cities IL before relocating to Florence OR to be near family, and most importantly, grandbabies! Kris had an admirable 35+ year career working as a Civilian for the US Army. She enjoyed and valued the work she did and those she worked with, creating many lasting friendships. Kris married Charlie Rowell on July 16, 1988 and together they had children Jacob and Molly. Kris was an

incredible mother and went on to be an incredible Grammy and Ra-Ra to her three beloved grandchildren. Kris loved to travel, camp and adventure – she would always say yes to a trip with those she loved. She was also a strong Christian and had a heart to serve – she loved the time she spent as a member of Colona United Methodist Church (UMC) and treasured those relationships. She lived a beautiful life and to be loved by her was a gift. Services celebrating her life will be held later this spring at a date to be determined in the Quad Cities, IL. If you would like to give a gift in her memory, we ask that donations be mailed to Colona UMC at 1709 Cleveland Rd. Colona, IL 61241. Those left to carry on her memory include children Jacob (Kristen)

Rowell, Molly (Ben) Schroder, and grandchildren Henry Schroder, Lucy Schroder, and Anika Rowell. She was preceded in death by her parents and Charlie Row

RICHARD DAVID FORSTER

Richard David Forster (Karaoke King) of Florence, Oregon Met his God 02/15/2025 Born 10/16/1934 to Russell and Vasa Opal Forster, Boise Idaho His Baha'i Faith was a blessing to him Survived by his wife Donna Tervo-Forster, Brother Jerome Forster and Sister Judy Maynard, and Son Douglas, Terry Forster, Beloved Nephews, Nieces, Grand Children and Great Grandchildren, Stepchildren and grandchildren. Stepchildren: Rick and



Phyllis Hazel helped care for Rich's last 3 years of life. Deceased: his parents, 2 brothers and 5 sisters also his son Richard D. Forster Jr. Singing was his passion. He performed in Florence at the Elks, where he was a life-time member, as well as Shorewood, Spruce Point, Firehouse Restaurant, Jerry's Bar & Grill and Yachats Big Band. We will miss his Golden Voice New York, New York!!!

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Gazebo to be replaced

After years of faithful service to the Florence community, it's time to replace the gazebo at Old Town Park. The City of Florence placed an order for a 16-foot octagon wood gazebo kit from Amish Country Gazebos. To make room for the new gazebo, Public Works will have to remove the old one. During demolition, City staff will remove the weather vane on the cupola of the gazebo and hold it for safe keeping so it can be placed on top of the new

structure. Once the old gazebo has been removed, a new concrete foundation and slab will be poured. This will be the foundation that the gazebo kit will be assembled on. During construction, Old Town Park will have periods that it is closed. Public Works will endeavor to keep access to the river viewing platform open, but short closures may be necessary for safety. For more information and project updates, when they are available, visit <https://bit.ly/OldTownGazebo>.



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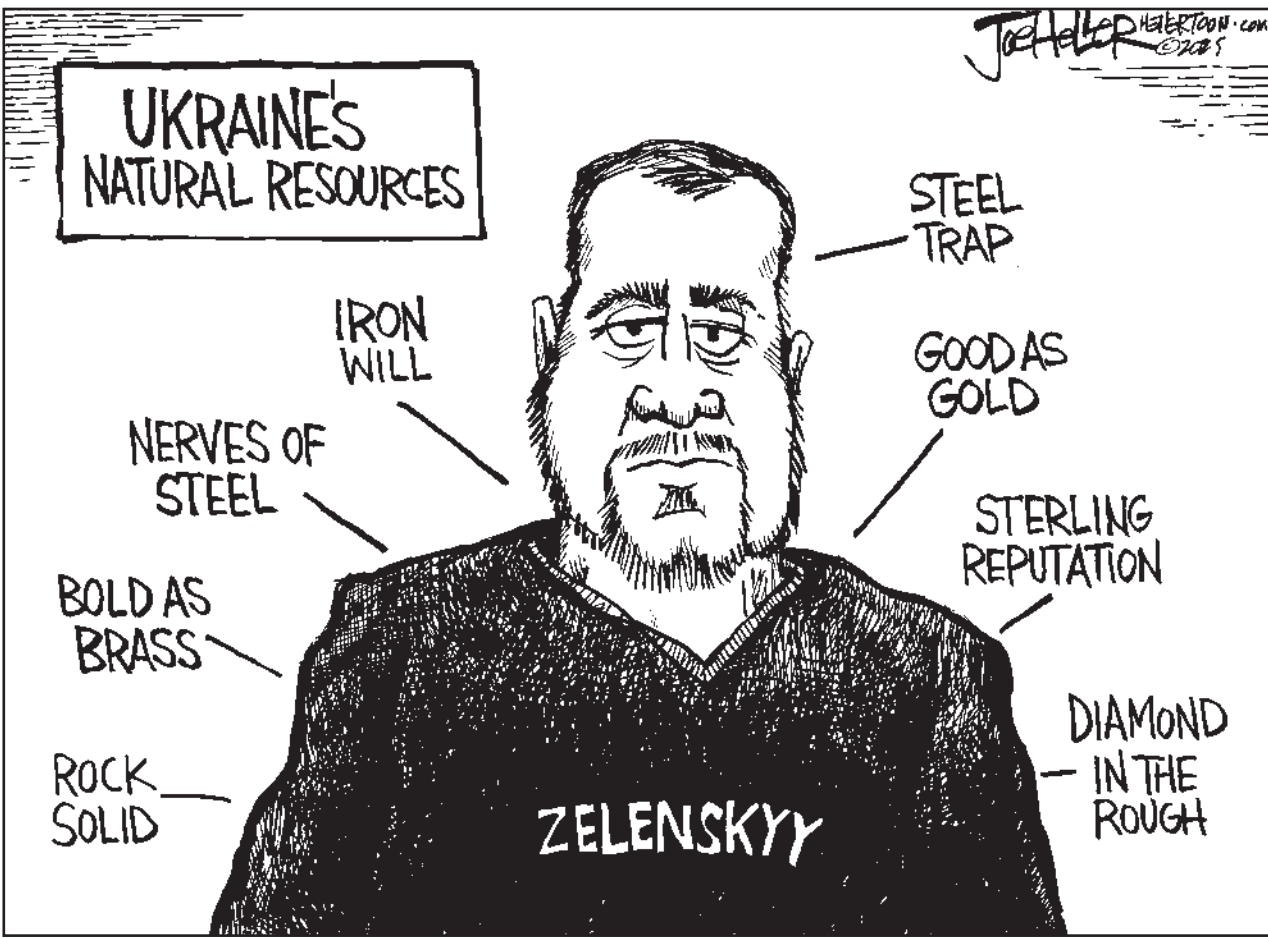
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LETTERS

Regarding recent approval by the Planning Commission of the Wyndham Microtel, I strongly urge the City to consider employee housing when deliberating on this project. No need to educate here regarding our housing shortage — or the ripple effects that shortage creates. This development will add to the already difficult challenge faced by folks in the service industry to find affordable local housing.

Please explore the possibility of requiring the developer to provide employee housing. I don't mean building housing on the hotel site. I'm talking about requiring the developer to contribute to some sort of a long-term solution to the employee housing problem — whether that be paying into a housing fund or actually building dorms, apartments, or the like. This is done in many resort communities.

Where I lived in Colorado in the 1990s developers were required as part of the approval process to contribute to employee housing. When the ski resort wanted permission to expand the resort, they were required to build dorms to house seasonal employees. A new business was required to include an apartment above the business or an off-site unit for the employee housing pool. That was part of the cost doing business in the town -- a town that was virtually 100% dependent upon tourism. Those same provisions could work here.

I realize this concept is larger than this microtel. I'm also sensitive to current economic uncertainties that make it seem like a bad time to consider a housing plan that might increase costs to the developer. It will take time to set up a program/processes but you have to start somewhere. Make some sort of contribution to employee housing solutions a requirement of the project approval. Businesses want the opportunity to make money in our community and they brag about bringing jobs. They should be required to address the real problems their developments/businesses create — further exacerbating the lack housing for employees.

*Dolly Brock
Florence*

In their March 3 meeting, when the City Councilors were discussing candidates for the then-vacant seat, Councilor Robert Carp said, "The reason Laurie Green was not in my top three -- uh, it would be disparaging, so I'm not going to say; I don't think that's fair to the candidate. Anyway. End of Discussion." Perhaps his intention was good, but Carp's unfinished comment was in fact disparaging and rude; it created the suggestion of some failure or weakness on the part of a candidate, but Carp won't tell us what it is. I don't know Laurie Green, but I respect her

service to the city, and she should not have been the subject of conjecture and insult. Carp blew it, and Mayor Ward should have called him on it.

*Bruce Hadley
Florence*

Donald Trump is not fit to be President of the United States and never was. How did he get there? Born into wealth, an undergraduate degree without honors, school records sealed, he had no experience in government and opted out of military service. What he did have was arrogance, his father's money and training in the art of corruption by Roy Cohen, infamous for escaping incarceration when indicted for stock swindling, obstruction of justice, perjury, bribery, conspiracy, extortion, blackmail, and cheating on taxes. Always be on the attack, never apologize, deny everything and lie was the mantra he taught Trump.

Failed businesses, bankruptcies and lawsuits are not a qualification for running for president, but Trump did and saddled the government with the largest deficit ever accumulated by a president. Failed policies included bail outs on farm tariffs and delayed "it's only the flu" policy on covid while suggesting drinking bleach to kill the virus.

We are now in a terrifying redux. Unqualified Cabinet members, government agencies invaded and staff arbitrarily fired,

opposition taken out reminiscent of the McCarthy purges. A new tariff war threatens our economy and our relations with our strongest allies. Ukraine is handed to the will of Putin and Gaza touted as a real estate opportunity. He plots to eviscerate social security and health-care, risking the lives and welfare of our people. He administers by threats and punishes those who do not echo his wishes but pardons the worst of those who kneel to him. The right to vote is at risk. He grifts government and followers to keep financially afloat and awards donors with tax breaks at the expense of the nation

Trump has put out the welcome mat for tyranny, and opportunists are begging to be let in.

*Karen Mahoney
Florence*

Just curious why Florence does not have a nice Welcome to Florence sign at its 3 main entry points. Traveling up and down the coast, it seems every other city, both small and large, has some type of sign with a motto or slogan representing their city. I have emailed the City a couple of times but have not gotten a response. I would think with all the wonderful artists our community has, we could come up with something depicting our city other than the standard population signs we now have.

*Sandy Ramsey
Florence*

POLICE LOG

Florence Police Department responded to the following calls from March 5 to March 11.

MARCH 5

At 5:11 a.m., officers made a traffic stop in the 3700 block of Highway 101. Officers identified a passenger in the vehicle not wearing a seatbelt, and it was determined the subject had a warrant for his arrest. He was taken into custody.

At 10:09 a.m., officers responded to the area of 9th and Kingwood streets for a report of a dog at large.

At 11:57 a.m., officers responded to a report of a dog at large in the area of 9th and Elm Street.

At 12:59 p.m., officers responded to the 500 block of 9th Street for a report of a dog at large.

At 8:06 p.m. officers responded to the 1200 block of zebra wood to conduct a death investigation. officers determined

death was natural.

At 10:39 p.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Highway 101 for a reported dispute occurring.

At 11:11 p.m., officers responded to the 5600 block of Highway 101 for a report of suspicious conditions.

MARCH 6

4:36 a.m., an officer on patrol observed a subject

known to have a probable cause warrant on another case. Subject was arrested for four counts of theft 3, and criminal trespass 2.

At 7:48 a.m., officers responded to the 500 block of Kingwood Street or a report of an abandoned camp trailer. Officers arrived to find the trailer had been moved.

At 12:03 p.m., officers responded to Highway 101 for a report of a

subject moving erratically. Officers contacted the subject to find he has a medical condition which causes the described movement.

At 12:27 p.m., officers responded to the southeast corner of Highway 101 and 126 for a report of a suspicious person.

At 1:01 p.m., officers responded to the 1100

See **POLICE**, Page A4

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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:

Emailed 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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ci.florence.or.us

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Public invited to Sip and Stroll in Yachats

Wine lovers, mark your calendars! The annual Sip & Stroll Yachats returns on Saturday, April 19, 2025, inviting visitors and locals to enjoy a delightful afternoon of wine tasting, shopping, and exploration in the heart of Yachats.

This popular event will feature up to 18 Oregon wineries stationed at participating businesses throughout the very walkable Central Coast village. In addition, there will be beer by Depoe Bay Brewery at the SeaNote Restaurant and Lounge, cider at Wildcraft Cider

Company, and rums by Stillwagon Distillery of Reedsport at Coastal Balance Chiropractic and Massage. The event offers a unique opportunity to sip, stroll, and discover Yachats' charming shops, galleries, eateries, and other businesses—and to help participants discover a new favorite adult beverage.

"Participants start their journey at The Pavilion, 441 Highway 101, where they'll receive an event map detailing all the wine stops," explained Chamber Director Nichole Lippincott. "A shuttle service will run

continuously, stopping at all participating businesses and ensuring easy travel between locations. The event runs from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m."

NEW & RETURNING FEATURES

"The Courier Service is back," she added. "Participants can buy wine, tag it with their registration number, and official event couriers will pick it up and safely store it at the Pavilion for pick up after you're done tasting. This year, those who visit every wine stop can collect a stamp at

each location and return their completed map to the Pavilion to enter a drawing for a chance to win an exclusive weekend getaway in Yachats. Commemorative tote bags will also be available for purchase."

Tickets include event admission, five wine sample tickets, a commemorative wine glass, and an event map/booklet. Free parking is available at the Yachats Commons, 441 Highway 101. Kids are invited to join the walk, but samples and ticket purchases are restricted to those over 21 years of age.

JOIN THE BEACH CLEAN-UP ON APRIL 20!

"Extend your stay and help preserve the beauty of our coastline," added Lippincott. "On Sunday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to 1p.m., Saturday's 'Sippers and Strollers' are invited to join our community beach clean-up and help keep Yachats' beaches pristine." Clean-up participants will be provided collection bags, gloves, and snacks.

Tickets go on sale in March. For more information, visit yachats.org or email director@yachats.org.

Last week we asked, *With which of the following statements would you most agree?* Climate change is the single-most important topic humanity needs to address- 33.3 percent
Climate change is super-important but not the top priority right now- 23.1 percent
I think it's important, but I don't see any reason to panic right now- 15.4 percent
Climate change is fake news - 28.2 percent
This week we're asking What's the reason you live in Florence?
Its a great place to live
My job is here
My friends/ family are here
It's a great place to retire

POLICE

From Page A3

block of Bay Street for a report of illegal camping. Officers contacted the owner of a small trailer and advised them to

move, which they did.

At 2:22 p.m., officers located a vehicle in the brush along Highway 101. Officers conducted a field sobriety test and arrested Kyle Price, 27, for DUII.

At 2:48 p.m., officers responded to a trespassing call in the 1600 block of

12th Street. Officers made contact with the subject and took him into custody for an active warrant.

At 9:44 p.m., officers were notified of a juvenile problem at an undisclosed address.

At 10:52 p.m., officers responded to the 1500 Block of 9th Street for a report of an intoxicated subject. Officers arrived to find a dispute occurring and separated to subjects for the night.

MARCH 7

At 10:56 a.m., officers responded to the 4600 block of Highway 101 or a non-injury traffic collision. Officers investigated and cited one subject for careless driving.

At 11:59 a.m., officers were called to the 1600

block of Willow Loop or a report of a barking dog.

At 1:36 p.m., officers responded to the 3700 block of Highway 101 for a reported traffic collision. Officers found that there were no injuries and no citations were issued.

At 4:59 p.m., officers were called to the Bay Street bus stop for a report of suspicious behavior. Call her told the officers that a vehicle had been driving by and that the driver was making inappropriate comments out the window.

At 7:08 p.m., officers responded to the 1500 Block of 9th Street for a report of a reckless driver in the area using a megaphone. Officers were unable to locate described vehicle.

At 7:16 p.m., officers responded to the 2200 block of Oak Street for a report of juveniles fighting.

At 10:50 p.m., officers responded to the 100 block of Park Village Loop for a report of a dirt bike and a quad in the area. Officers located a vehicle in the area matching the description, but the operator denied any activity. Officers informed the operator of the law regarding use of off-road vehicles there.

MARCH 8

At 2:19 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop in the area of Maple Street and arrested Brian Brunetto, 52 for DUII.

At 9:04 a.m., a subject reported finding a phone in the area of Highway 126 near the casino.

At 6:58 p.m., a caller reported losing wallet and identification in the 1300 block of Bay Street.

At 9:28 p.m., a caller reported a disorderly subject and the 1600 block of 12th Street.

MARCH 9

At 11:09 a.m., officers responded to the 3500 block of Oak Street for a report of theft. Caller told officers he had given weapons to another subject to sell for him but that the subject discontinued contact. Second subject was contacted by officers and returned the weapons.

At 1:38 p.m., officers

contacted a subject in the 4800 block of Highway 101 and warned them about improper use of 911.

At 5:20 p.m., a caller reported a non-injury accident in the 1700 block of Highway 126.

MARCH 10

At 12:08 a.m., a patrol officer observed illegal camping near the Events Center on Quince Street. Subjects were informed of the city ordinances and moved along.

At 11:29 a.m., officers responded to the 1600 block of Rhododendron Drive or a report of burglary. Call her said she had been away or sometime and Upon returning, discovered items missing. Officers investigated and found no sign of Entry. Case remains under investigation.

At 11:42 a.m., a subject came into the police department to turn over unused ammo for destruction.

At 6:09 p.m., officers responded to the 400 block of Highway 101 to issue a trespassing notification.

At 6:51 p.m., a caller in the 2300 block of 22nd Street reported a possible scam attempt.

At 7:47 p.m., a caller from outside the Florence area reported that her daughter had been left at the casino. As of this report, officers had not been able to contact the daughter.

At 11:38 p.m., officers responded to the 2200 block of 12th Street for a report of a dispute. officers separated to subjects for the night.

MARCH 11

At 1:45 a.m., officers responded to the 1300 block of 9th Street for a reported dispute occurring.

At 9:51 a.m., officers responded to the 2000 block of 20th Street or a death investigation.

Officers determined natural causes.

At 10:35 a.m., a caller in the 400 block of Myeena Loop reported that someone had slashed tires on a vehicle.

At 9:12 p.m., officers responded to the 1700 block of 20th Street for a report of a subject banging on a door. While investigating, officers were told the subject also tried to enter the back door of a business nearby. Officers were unable to locate the subject.

At 10:50 p.m., a caller in the area of 52nd Street and Spruce Street reported loud music in the area.

At 11:25 p.m., an officer on patrol observed the subject from the 9:12 p.m. call. Subject told the officer he had been having a crisis at the time. Subject was told not to return to the business.



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March 2025

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Mixed Media Drawing with Peggy Ross

Dive into alternative surfaces, tools and approaches. Explore graphite, ink, collage, embossing, frotage and more. 5 class series, Thursdays, March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10, 1:00-3:00 pm. Cost \$155 for FRAA members, \$175 for non-FRAA members with \$20 material fee.

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Big Wave Poetry 1st Tuesday Open Mic

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This free meet-up hosted by FRAA and the Society of Children's Writers and Book Illustrators offers illustrators the opportunity to informally meet, share work and ideas. 4th Friday of each month, 5-7 pm. Next one, March 28th. For more info, contact [Kassy at kkeppol@gmail.com](mailto:kkeppol@gmail.com).

For more information about classes, visit fraaoregon.org. To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our Art Center on Maple Street.

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- Personal hygiene items
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- Knee-high rubber boots and work gloves
- Whistle
- Dust mask
- Duct tape
- Copies of essential documents



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



See more photos at thesiuslawnews.com



TRAIL

From Page A1

Community Development Director Wendt Farley-Campbel played a major part in the project, which has been in the City's plans for along time.

Public Works Director Mile Miller listed those, thanking the City of Florence, the Florence Urban Renewal Agency, the Port of Siuslaw, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, as well as our state and federal agency partners: the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Oregon Department of State Lands, ODOT, the Siuslaw Watershed Council, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

"Of course, this project would not be possible without a generous grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department," he said. "The Recreational Trails Program provided a \$115,000 grant to help fund this project." vision to life. Laskey-Clifton Corporation of Reedsport constructed the trail.

City Manager Erin Reynolds noted that the trail lies within the Florence Urban Renewal Agency Boundaries and

the trailhead and parking lot property were secured over five years ago FURA has donated a lot to the project since.

She acknowledged the Siuslaw Watershed Council, for their help in planning, along with the Confederated Tribes for their partnership.

Miller noted that more improvements are coming.

"Lighting will be installed in the new parking area, interpretive signs will be placed along the trail, and another bench is waiting to be added in a prime viewing spot," he said, at the opening. "As you walk the trail today, I encourage you to take a moment at the first park bench overlooking Munsel Creek—personally, I think it offers one of the best views in town."

The viewing spot overlooks a calm and open area of the creek, where public works personnel

say herons and egrets like to visit in the morning.

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians Tribal Chief Doug Barrett incited laughter by saying he wished it could have been a mud trail.

"We walked on muddy trails, and yes, we walk on cement now, but it's great to have a trail right next to Munsel Creek and the estuary. Maybe we can bring in a canoe landing and come in there somewhere..."

Jesse Beers, Cultural Stewardship Manager for the Tribes, said interpretive signs will share some of the native language of the Siuslaw.

Beers noted spoke of the area where the creek enters the river, noting that its Siuslaw name, translated into English means "canoes get stuck place."

See **TRAIL**, Page A6

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

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TRAIL

From Page A5

"When you go on the trail and look out there, you'll see why that is," he said, asking walkers to be cognizant that Native American ancestors have been here for thousands of years.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Asked later about the first ideas for an Estuary trail, Miller said it has

been on the City's mind since about 1999. In 2012, the city's comprehensive plan highlighted the need for such a trail and the city developed a vision for the trail in 2013. Miller said that the original trail design had input from local Native American tribes, the Army Corps of Engineers, birding enthusiasts and walking groups, among others.

Miller noted that the flashing crossing at Redwood Street was put in knowing the trail would be

installed at some point. When asked, Miller said more local trails are in the works, and that the original plans envisioned a connection to the port campground and boardwalk. He said that while the idea of creating cantilevered paths and a bridge was a cool concept, it would be very expensive to build. However, he said the city will always be working on improving the trail network and it's hoped that at some point a trail will connect to the Munsell Lane bike path.

Another future improvement still in planning will be a Footbridge over Munsell Creek between the parking lot near the car wash and the North End of the trail. Currently, users can park in the lot, walk the sidewalk along Highway 126 over the creek to access the trail. He said the city will continue to look into grants to fund the project.

Miller said the trail meets the forest service standards for Ada accessibility. The trail surface is

constructed of hard compacted gravel and slopes are gentle enough that a wheelchair user could traverse the trail, he said. The total cost of the trail, which change orders and grants, came in just over \$505,000, Miller said. Minus the entry walk from Highway 126, the trail is just over a quarter mile long and connects Quince Street South of the Event Center to the edge of Highway 126 next to Munsell Creek.

HONOR

From Page A1

- Novalee Herring,
- Oksana S. Jensen-Norman,
- Charley S. Johnson,
- Rylan R. Pierce,
- Kortni Todd,
- Pedro Urioste Aguilar,
- Emma M. Meier,
- Bianca A. Berghuis,
- Ava R. Dahms,
- Emma L. Erwin,
- Caleb J. Gray,
- Kyndra A. Griffin,
- Roberto A. Guerrero,
- Christian R. Knapp,
- Skyler K. Wiley,
- Emmy O. Center,
- Jesus Efrain Rojas Garcia,
- Haylea J. Rapp,

- Owen N. Burtt,
- Garin R. Fidler,
- Sylvia J. Hand,
- Hailey M. Hilsdorf,
- Adylin M. Holbrook,
- Andrew W. Hopper,
- Gracie L. Hunt,
- Abigail B. Jones,
- Kiera C. Koszuta,
- Dan E. Lacouture,
- Camden M. Linton,
- Mia M. Snider,
- Ethan M. Spencer,
- Kylee A. Stinger,
- Elliot Dotson,
- Maximus G. Ceska,
- Keira M. Johnson,
- Mia A. Venegas,
- Micah D. Blankenship,
- Aster F. Charmley,
- Logan Harris,
- Will M. Johnson,
- Seamus S. Burke,
- Braylon R. Evans,
- Andrew R. Hester,
- Makenna L. Holt,
- Miles C. James,
- Helja Kosunen,

- Alayna A. Krause,
- Hawken J. McIlvaine,
- Austin J. Nunez,
- Emmanuel Ponce Zamora,
- Gabriel O. Detar,
- Terrance G. Masterman,
- Swarali A. Palinkas,
- Samantha C. Condy,
- Nyx F. Harklerode,
- Jessica Lopez,
- Jacob E. Mann,
- Madison A. Condy,
- Benjamin J. Bourgeois,
- Katelynn R. Masterman,
- Corey Wilks,
- Areonna Charles,
- Cayden J. Knapp,
- Laila Rose M. Gates,
- Colton T. Johnson,
- Johnson, Max
- Dalton D. Kepler,
- Michaela W. Norton,
- Martin Zhen,

- Madison Bush,
- Travis D. Clark,
- Darcy E. Edman,
- Elizabeth X. Edwards,
- Carmanie A. Evans,
- Daniel Gorbett,
- Jacob R. Hamel,
- Madeleigh I. Hartzell,
- Marley M. Kelley,
- Tyler G. Killmer,
- Kamorah A. Lake,
- Sawyer A. Larson,
- Claire A. Lindell,
- Abbigail A. Maldonado,
- Addison M. McNeill,
- Macy L. McNeill,
- Tianna M. Mobley,
- Olivia A. Moore,
- Chroma G. Murphy,
- Robert W. Ramsey,
- Nik L. Shelton,
- Bobbi R. Smith,
- Maya R. Wells,
- Marcus I. Whitmire,
- Remy L. Wilcox,
- Chance C. Jones,
- Ryan K. Klampe,

- Kimberly M. Martinez Munoz,
- Nicholas D. May,
- Emilio McIntosh Gutierrez,
- James A. Greenwood,
- Ashlyn G. Hart,
- Macali R. Lade,
- Ryann M. Snyder,
- Jordyn Breeden,
- Christopher D. Duffy,
- Berkley A. Tregoning,
- Justin L. Allen,
- Makayla R. Bender,
- Sophia G. Montoya,
- Landon J. Peck,
- Jane C. Wilks,
- Raymundo A. Brito Xilot,
- Jackson K. Hickman,
- Catrina L. Parrish,
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SVCS

From Page A1

to Siuslaw Valley Charter School, asking that it disavow, for the record, any affiliation with Hillsdale College.

In January 2024, Lee warned the District Board of Directors that approving a charter with affiliations to a known religious and political institution could have severe legal consequences.

Lengthy public and board comment followed, and the Board voted to require that SVCS disavow any affiliation with Hillsdale College in order for the contract to be considered further. SVCS later agreed to discontinue any affiliation with Hillsdale.

the Siuslaw School District Board held a first reading of a contract with Siuslaw Valley Charter School. The contract mandates that WCA will set enrollment dates and provide a list of student names and information, will comply with district policies, provide services for talented and gifted children, and meet insurance and indemnification requirements, among others.

In September 2024, Siuslaw School District board of directors voted 6 to 2 to ratify the contract for SVCS to operate Whitmore Classical Academy. Director Maureen Miltenberger cast one dissenting vote, saying she was concerned that SVCS might be unable to reach its fall 2025 opening date without a Head of Schools

or a building to host the school. With the September signing of a contract and agreement between Siuslaw School District and SVCS, officials worked out the details to hire a head of schools and find a building in Florence. Ruelas was hired as Head of Schools in November, 2024, and set to work on the school vision and master plan. In late September, it was reported that about 82 families, totaling 144 students, had shown interest in enrolling in the school. It was also stated that the school will serve K-4 the first year and add a subsequent grade every year until it is K-8, but will not be a high school. Ruelas unveiled the plan in early February, saying the priority is to find a building. However, requirements for opening a public charter school are extensive. Regarding operational readiness, Ruelas said it will be necessary to establish and test all the critical technological systems for record-keeping and perform regular safety audits and staff readiness. He said the district will also have to finalize service agreements with area providers, train administrative personnel as to procedures and protocols, and provide staff with an operations manual. Regarding management and compliance, Ruelas said the district will also need to obtain permits and licenses, insurance policies, workers compensation and cybersecurity, along with developing policies for discipline, attendance and conduct that meet legal requirements. The three stages are preparations, active planning and development, and the final preparation stage before the school opens, he said. Asked in March if SVCS has located a building, King said a prospective location was being considered but fell through.

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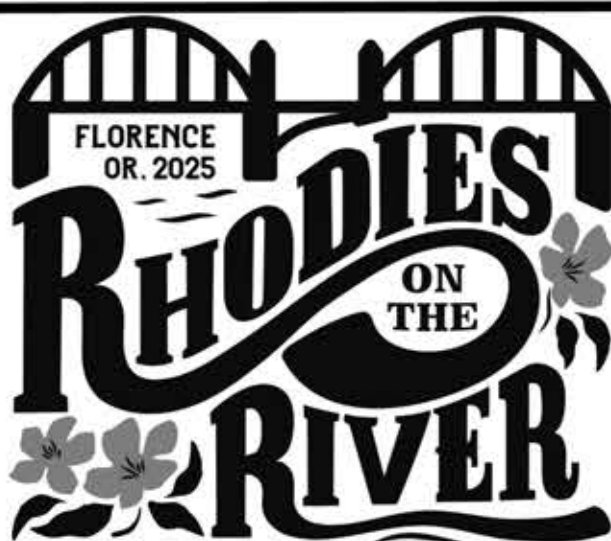


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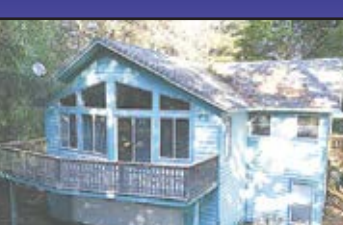
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NEW PROPERTIES AND UPDATES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 19, 2025

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<p>3340 31ST ST</p>  <p>Quiet and secluded with a backdrop of Munsel Creek. Neutral inside and out with modern updates. 3 Bed/2 Bath.</p> <p>\$535,000</p>	<p>4743 STONEFIELD CT.</p>  <p>New home located in beach area neighborhood. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1914 SF</p> <p>\$619,000</p>	<p>4787 STONEFIELD CT.</p>  <p>Newly constructed. Open floor plan connects living, dining and kitchen areas. Covered back patio. 4 Bed/2 Bath, 1852 SF.</p> <p>\$634,000</p>	<p>4788 STONEFIELD CT.</p>  <p>Currently under construction. Perfect blend of style and functionality in this home design. 4 Bed/2 Bath, 2258 SF.</p> <p>\$659,000</p>	<p>4773 STONEFIELD CT.</p>  <p>Newly constructed. Quality finishes throughout. Large primary suite. Enjoy the outdoors under covered patio. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 2046 SF.</p> <p>\$675,000</p>
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<p>90778 SOUTHWIEW LANE</p>  <p>Stunning ocean & coastal views in gated Southview community. Dual primary suites. A must see! 2 Bed/2.5 Bath, 3134 SF</p> <p>\$1,329,000</p>	<p>83049 SILTCOOS STATION RD.</p>  <p>2 story lake view home with workshop on .65 acre of park like grounds. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1818 SF</p> <p>\$619,000</p>	<p>1301 20TH ST.</p>  <p>Bright open floor plan, modern kitchen. 2 fireplaces. Quiet dead-end street. Garage + workshop. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1797 SF</p> <p>\$495,000</p>	<p>1601 RHODODENDRON DR. #638</p>  <p>Converted park model and bunkhouse nestled among the trees. Deck, fire pit and hot tub. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 312 SF</p> <p>\$209,900</p>	<p>4055 CADDINGTON LN.</p>  <p>Custom built Kramer Construction home in Fairway Estates. Meticulous craftsmanship throughout. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1776 SF</p> <p>\$627,900</p>
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<p>1566 20TH ST.</p>  <p>Peaceful neighborhood. Fully fenced backyard. Near Miller Park and schools. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1008 SF.</p> <p>\$341,000</p>	<p>1868 TAMARACK ST</p>  <p>Cozy home with RV garage, loft & additional square footage. 3 Bed/2 Bath, 1211 SF</p> <p>\$469,000</p>	<p>5360 BUCKSKIN BOB</p>  <p>Siltcoos Lakefront cabin with boat dock! 3 Bed/2 Baths, 1560 SF</p> <p>\$789,000</p>	<p>89492 SUTTON PLACE</p>  <p>Stick-built cottage with great views and privacy on .75 acre. Lots of potential for future projects. 2 Bed/1 Bath, 864 SF</p> <p>\$269,000</p>	<p>5938 VIEW LOOP</p>  <p>2 level home w/Mercer Lake access plus oversized garage & workshop. 3 Bed/2.5 Bath, 2110 sq. ft.</p> <p>\$549,000</p>
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<p>580 N. HWY 101, YACHATS</p>  <p>LeRoy's Blue Whale Restaurant Includes building and business.</p> <p>\$1,000,000</p>	<p>1277 BAY STREET</p>  <p>Rare offering. Quaint Bay St. building currently leased. Prime location. Shown by appt. only.</p> <p>\$392,500</p>	<p>88274 RHODODENDRON DR.</p>  <p>Jerry's Place. Property+ Business. Full service bar & grill, ATM & Lottery.</p> <p>\$1,350,000</p>	<p>TL3900 ELK MOUNTAIN RD.</p>  <p>Ocean view lot w/city services available. .44 acre. Yachats.</p> <p>\$100,000</p>	<p>TL4200 ELK MOUNTAIN RD.</p>  <p>Ocean view lot w/city services available. .26 acre. Yachats.</p> <p>\$75,000</p>
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Tide Table

Siuslaw River Entrance saltwaterfides.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

High.....3:24 a.m.....7.3
 Low.....10:21 a.m.....0.8
 High.....4:45 p.m.....5.4
 Low.....9:44 p.m.....3.1

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

High.....3:54 a.m.....7.1
 Low.....11:09 a.m.....1.1
 Low.....10:14 p.m.....3.6

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

High.....4:33 a.m.....6.9
 Low.....12:11 p.m.....1.3
 High.....7:00 p.m.....4.7
 Low.....10:58 p.m.....4.0

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

High.....5:27 a.m.....6.7
 Low.....1:26 p.m.....1.2
 High.....8:41 p.m.....4.8

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Low.....12:24 a.m.....4.3
 High.....6:45 a.m.....6.5
 Low.....2:40 p.m.....1.0
 High.....9:57 p.m.....5.1

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Low.....2:17 a.m.....4.2
 High.....8:13 a.m.....6.5
 Low.....3:41 p.m.....0.5
 High.....10:41 p.m.....5.6

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Low.....3:39 a.m.....3.6
 High.....9:29 a.m.....6.8
 Low.....4:31 p.m.....0.1
 High.....11:14 p.m.....6.1

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Low.....4:40 a.m.....2.7
 High.....10:31 a.m.....7.1
 Low.....5:14 p.m.....-0.2
 High.....11:45 p.m.....6.7

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Low.....5:31 a.m.....1.7
 High.....11:26 a.m.....7.47
 Low.....5:54 p.m.....-0.3

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

High.....12:15 a.m.....7.3
 Low.....6:18 a.m.....0.7
 High.....12:18 p.m.....7.5
 Low.....6:32 p.m.....-0.1

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

High 12:46 a.m.....7.8
 Low.....7:04 a.m.....-0.2
 High.....1:10 p.m.....7.4
 Low.....7:10 p.m.....0.3

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

High.....1:19 a.m.....8.3
 Low.....7:50 a.m.....-0.9
 High.....2:02 p.m.....7.2
 Low.....7:48 p.m.....0.9

MONDAY, MARCH 31

High.....1:54 a.m.....8.6
 Low.....8:37 a.m.....-1.3
 High.....2:56 p.m.....6.9
 Low.....8:27 p.m.....1.6

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

High.....2:32 a.m.....8.6
 Low.....9:26 a.m.....-1.3
 High.....3:53 p.m.....6.4
 Low.....9:08 p.m.....2.3

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

High.....3:14 a.m.....8.5
 Low.....10:19 a.m.....-1.0
 High.....4:54 p.m.....5.9
 Low.....9:53 p.m.....3.0

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

High.....4:01 a.m.....8.1
 Low.....11:18 a.m.....-0.5
 High.....6:04 p.m.....5.5
 Low.....10:47 p.m.....3.5

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

High.....4:57 a.m.....7.5
 Low.....12:26 p.m.....0.0
 High.....7:28 p.m.....5.3

Siuslaw wrestling's special season

Will LOHRE
 Country Media, Inc.

Head Coach Neil Wartnik said when he looks back on this year's wrestling team, he will remember it for the positive attitude and the work ethic the group brought all season.

Wartnik started as head coach in 1995, and in his three decades at the helm, this season was one for the books. The culmination of the season was the 2025 OSAA Oregon State Wrestling Championships on Feb. 27-28, and Siuslaw sent seven wrestlers to battle it out with the state's best.

"You never know coming into the tournament how you're going to compete. I knew from practice that week that we were really moving well," Wartnik said. "The kids in practice looked great, so I had a sense coming in that we'd wrestle pretty well at state."

And so they did. Siuslaw returned from the weekend with two finals appearances, a state championship, and several other wrestlers who finished among the top five in their weight classes. As a team, both the boys and girls marked themselves as formidable opponents, placing well among schools that sent more wrestlers.

"The teams did great. For the level of expertise that



Siuslaw's 2024-2025 wrestling squad. Courtesy photo from Sara Mann

we had on the mat, the attitudes; the growth was phenomenal. Our boys placed 14th out of 33. They're in the top half with only four wrestlers and only two that won matches. The boys did well," Wartnik said. "The girls were amazing! After Macali won, we were in fourth place in the tournament with three girls. Eventually, they were surpassed by Nyssa and Crook County, but Crook County had seven wrestlers. Our girls did amazing. They exceeded what I thought they would do."

GIRLS TEAM PLACES WELL

As referenced by Wartnik, the girls team score was impressive, especially considering the few wrestlers they had competing. As covered by the Siuslaw News, Macali Lade won the state championship in the 4A/3A/2A/1A 120-pound division, but senior Abby Riggs and junior Danin Lacouture put together impressive tournaments themselves. (Find the full story on Lade's run to the state title at <https://www.thesiuslawnews.com>)

thesiuslawnews.com)

Wartnik said the team was a tad tentative early on in the tournament. It didn't look like the team was "firing on all cylinders" yet. Riggs and Lacouture took tough losses in their first bouts in the championship bracket, putting them in the consolation race. But as they got into the swing of things, they started to put it together.

"Danin, after that first loss, she just caught fire. On Friday, she was sensational," Wartnik said.

Lacouture pinned opponents in three straight

consolation rounds, taking care of Sutherlin's Keeley Guthrie, Newport's Camille Keck, and Riverside's Katelyn Wiseman. Her dominant display set up a matchup with Mazama's Shyla Sells with a bronze medal on the line. Sells was the district champion at the Special District 2 Championships, but Lacouture did not wrestle her there; now would be a good test for both.

"Danin got a chance to wrestle her on Friday, and she dominated the match,"

See **WRESTLING**, Page B2

Siuslaw Dunes trail run returns

Will LOHRE
 Country Media, Inc.

A couple hundred enthusiastic distance runners flocked to the staging area at Honeyman State Park, ready to traverse the famous Oregon Dunes as part of the 4th Siuslaw Dunes trail run.

The event included 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 Daybreak Racing and its founders, Jeremy and Aaron Long, to whom Florence remains a special place.

"My brother Aaron and I were born and raised in Florence in the late '70s. And all through the '80s and '90s we were always outdoorsy kids," Jeremy Long said. "About 10 or 11 years ago, I had a side gig hosting some long-distance trail runs in the Portland region, and I really enjoyed doing it. I always thought it would be fun to host something back in our home town. My first initial idea was to capture that uniqueness of the dunes south of Florence, and that ended up being our fourth event in our lineup."

Jeremy and Aaron graduated from Siuslaw High School in 1996 and 1997, respectively. Each loved taking part in distance running and cross country at Siuslaw and got involved and saw success as trail running and ultramarathon event



Tyson Long of the Dalles hits the trail during the 4th Siuslaw Dunes trail run. Tony Reed photo

producers throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Daybreak Racing produces other distance running events, but the Siuslaw Dunes race is its own beast. Its path takes runners across the sand dunes rather than the company's more traditional forest and mountain trail running events, which take place at locations including Mt. Hood, the Columbia River Gorge, Mt. St. Helens, and other Oregon Coast sites.

As such, Long said that this year, there were just over 200 folks signed up and that the event has grown by about 10-15% each year since it began in March of 2020. The participants in the race came from far and wide; Long said there were sign-ups from 15 states and two Canadian provinces.

The fastest folks on the sand in each race this year were:

- Joshua Bibbee of Newport, who finished 50

kilometers in 4:48:45

- Michael Eaton of Seattle, who finished the 20-miler in 2:31:45
- Parker Farabee of Portland, who finished the 12K in 1:16:14

While someone has to finish first, Long said that every participant gets an award, the "medal," so to speak, is a mason jar that folks receive, whether they finish or not. Once the race is over, there's a celebration at the finish line, where folks can enjoy soup, snacks, and kombucha.

Each year, Jeremy and Aaron donate a portion of the proceeds to Siuslaw High School's Track and Cross-Country Programs. This year, Jeremy said that they will be donating \$1,000 of their proceeds to fund running camp registration fees and running shoes for kids who need them.

One of the other events

See **DUNES**, Page B3



(L to R) Bob Keeling (Ops Coordinator), Cindy Sandcamp (Purchasing Agent), George Bandy (Elks Exalted Ruler/PER), Pastor Dale (CrossRoads Church), Tom Hornback (Elks Treasurer/ Board of Directors), Darren Williams (FB4K), Diane Williams (Co-Director), Debbie Anderson (Purchasing Agent)

Elks helps Backpack for Kids

The Florence Elks #1858 donated part of their Beacon Grant of \$3000 to Backpack for Kids, to help provide weekend food supplies to over 131 at-risk, insecure students during the school year. This enables those students, chosen by the schools in Florence to have nutritional meals on weekends which

expands their attention span to concentrate on their studies during the week. When families have to choose between eating and paying their bills, the social matrix plummets, so Backpack for Kids steps in to help.

Elk volunteers help to pack up the meals for the kids so they have them for the weekend.

Mapleton Community Foundation grant applications available

"Mapleton Community Foundation" grant applications and guidelines for 2025 are available at the Mapleton and Deadwood Post Offices and at the Mapleton Library on Thursdays from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Funds are to be used to benefit students or residents living within the Mapleton School District boundaries.

Grant applicants must be a qualifying, not for profit organization (501c3).

Funds will not be awarded to individuals, or for operating expenses.

Please contact Cari West at 541-268-4665 or Jay Hendricksen at 541-268-9900 for any questions or to receive an electronic copy.

The deadline for submission is April 30th, 2025.

Randy Paredes
 Broker

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WRESTLING

From Page B1

Wartnik said. “She scored the first takedown, and then they got in a flurry, and Danin was able to get into a good pinning combination; we call it an arm bar and a half nelson, and her opponent did an amazing counter. It looked like she was going to get free, but Danin was able to retain the hold, adjusted, and ended up putting the girl on her back and pinning her.”

Wartnik said it was an exciting match, and Lacouture’s pinning flurry was one of the most exciting flurries of the tournament, which had him saying, “Wow.” Lacouture ended up taking home third place in the 135-pound division.

For Riggs’ part, she also rebounded after a disappointing first match. After losing in the quarterfinals to Neah-Kah-Nie’s Krista Bozley, Riggs righted the ship. Wrestling at 115-pounds, Riggs beat Nestucca’s Betsy Mondragon by a 7-1 decision and then pinned Crook County’s Maylee Yancey. What came next in the consolation semifinal was unusual and may have thrown her off a bit.

“Something weird happened. Her opponent for Friday morning didn’t make weight. So she ended up not wrestling her first match on Friday,” Wartnik said. “It might have been a disadvantage. In the third-place match, she came in a little bit cold. She didn’t have her best



Siuslaw’s Jacob Mann on the podium after finishing second in the state championships .

match, and so she ended up not winning. I’m sad about that, but still she comes out with a fourth place finish.”

Wartnik categorized the girls’ performance as a great team outcome. Ultimately, Siuslaw placed 6th of the 70 4A/3A/2A/1A programs in attendance.

SIUSLAW’S BOYS

Siuslaw’s boys also came away from the state championships with plenty to show. Four team members earned their way to the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. Seniors Leo Robertson and Chuck Nelson earned their way to states alongside juniors Gage Mills and Jacob Mann.

Neither Nelson nor Mills was able to come out on top in their matches, each going 0-2. Nelson’s run to districts was impressive and close to his high school career. Conversely, Mills was taking on his first state championship, and Wartnik has high hopes for him next year.

For Robertson and Mann, though, the state championships were battles through adversity, each making it deep into the bracket. Both Robertson and Mann entered their semifinals on Friday 2-0. Robertson won both matches to get there by decision, while Mann was dominant on day one, dispatching each of his opponents by technical fall, his specialty.

Robertson entered the tournament as the number one seed in the 150-pound division, and Wartnik said the pressure of the high seed was challenging. Robertson’s semifinal was a tough draw, as he faced the eventual champion, Cannon Kemper of Burns. Kemper was dominant in the match, pinning Robertson in the first round.

Wartnik said the loss was a letdown for Robertson, who dreamed of being state champion. After the dust settled, Wartnik said assistant coach Stecher Buss helped him refocus, and from that point, he “wrestled great.”

“He beat his two nemeses from Harrisburg. Both were boys that he wrestled at districts, one in semis and one in finals, and he beat them both again, and that was good for third place,” Wartnik said.

Mann’s semifinal was a different type of adversity. Throughout the tournament, Mann said he was dealing with flu-like symptoms that made every match a challenge. Despite that, he took on a familiar foe in semis. Sutherlin’s Tauj Flora beat Mann at the state tournament last year, and now it was a chance for revenge.

“Friday, Jacob dominated Tauj. Beat him badly, the final score was 16-4,” Wartnik said. “But Jacob wasn’t feeling well; we didn’t know about this, but he contracted the stomach flu. When he went into the finals match, he wasn’t at his best. He wrestled a gutty match, but he didn’t have the firepower we normally see him have.”

MANN’S SILVER TINGED WITH SICKNESS

Mann was defeated by Burns’ Joe Weil by a 4-0 decision in the state final, a loss he said will motivate him next year and make him more disciplined.

“I’ll have to work harder, take more discipline to win it next year,” Mann said.

But it wasn’t just Weil that Mann was battling. Throughout the tournament, Mann was fighting off bouts of nausea and digestive issues. During his matches, he fought to avoid being sick

on the mats. Mann said the sickness “kind of ruined the state tournament.”

THE DAY AFTER?

“My heart was heavy. You train a whole year for a goal, and to think you lost it because you got sick? I don’t know. It weighs heavy on my heart,” Mann said.

Mann is not someone who takes the sport of wrestling lightly. He doesn’t look back on the competition days with “fondness.”

“I wish I could say I love beating up on kids, and that it’s my passion, but I look at the days where I didn’t want to do it, and I still did it with the most reverence in my heart,” Mann said.

Mann recalled times when he battled sickness, lack of sleep due to school work, or other situations where it was hard to compete, but he still pushed himself to compete at a high level. It’s a grueling physical test, and Mann said sometimes it’s a “love-hate” relationship with the sport.

“It’s such a hard sport. Mentally, physically, emotionally. It’s a one-on-one sport. You’re going to war with the person you’re battling. You have everybody that you love watching you wrestle, and they’re expecting you to win; they want you to win, and you have to go out and take that from somebody else,” Mann said.

“It’s such a war. It’s a great sport, and I love knowing that I can conquer myself in it.”

Jacob Mann was only defeated three times all season while racking up 46 wins. Mann’s been a

dominant force this season, with many of his tournaments featuring him pinning his way through the bracket or beating opponents by technical fall. Mann’s hallmark is his “top game,” controlling the match as his opponents struggle to break free after early takedowns.

Mann comes from a wrestling family, he said he was “born into the sport.” His grandfather, father, and uncle wrestled, and his parents (Sara and Shawn Mann) are on the Siuslaw coaching staff. The values of perseverance, discipline, and resilience are things he has taken from his time on the mats. Being coached and pushed by his parents brings out the best in him; he even wrestles his dad at practice, as there aren’t a lot of other wrestlers in his weight class on the team.

While his parents are on the staff, he said that the bond he’s formed with his teammates is a special relationship.

“Just like in any hard human endeavor, when you have a brother next to you, you get closer. You see it in the army, see it in football. It’s really what makes wrestling a team sport. The practices are really difficult, so getting through them with your partner, you form a bond with your teammates; it’s pretty strong,” Mann said.

The friendships Mann has made through the sport extend beyond the gym, and the relationships are forged in the heat of competition.

Mann is already looking to get back to work for next season, but he is nursing a knee injury that is keeping him from jumping back in just yet. As he looks ahead to next season, Mann said he’s been reflecting on the story of Gub from the Bible. Gub was a figure who lost everything but never lost his faith despite the efforts of the devil. Mann said he sees some similarities in his own situation.

“The reason I connect and I testify the story of Gub is because I feel, being sick on the day of my tournament, I feel like Satan played a big part in that,” Mann said.

the spotlight

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

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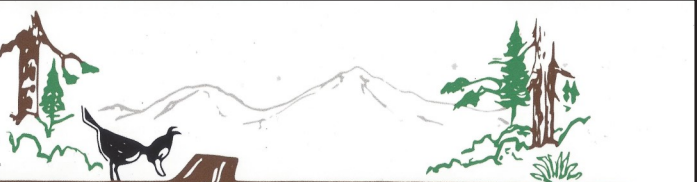
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WRESTLING

From Page B2

"Taking that away from me, hurting my knee, getting me sick even though I trained so hard for it. It's just a powerful story for me, and I'm not going to forsake Jesus, not going to forsake God, and be thankful that I got to participate in such a hard sport."

SOLID IMPROVEMENTS AND SEASON RECORDS

One of the big highlights for Wartnik with the state tournament was the improvement the group showed.

"Looking at what can change in a year, last year Danin didn't place, Leo didn't place, Abby didn't place, Jacob placed sixth, Cali placed second, all those kids came to state and made major improvements over a year," Wartnik said.

The improvement was a credit to the individual work ethics of the athletes, and Wartnik was also sure to mention the tireless work of the other coaches on the staff, as well as the alumni who came back to give their time to the program.

"When you put a group of adults who are united working together who have the same heart and goal for the kids, it's pretty powerful. That happened this year and it was a joy to be a part of

it," Wartnik said. "There's a lot of love in the coaching staff."

Wartnik said that certain years stand out, and this is certainly one of them.

GIRLS SEASON RECORDS:

- Hailey Taylor: 13-16
- Abby Riggs: 37-16
- Macali Lade: 48-3
- Molly Mills: 11-18
- Hailey Richard: 0-9
- Tosha Abraham: 16-11
- Danin Lacouture: 40-12

BOYS SEASON RECORDS:

- Thomas Gentry: 1-2
- Yair Brito-Xilot: 8-4
- Gavyn Taylor: 6-8

- Nicholas Sprague: 7-30
- Bentley Nelson: 17-23
- Gabe Moran: 1-5
- Leonardo Robertson: 42-9
- Chuck Nelson: 25-23
- Ali Ijaz: 23-20
- Jesus Infante-Marquez: 2-7
- Martin Zhen: 5-12
- William McCord: 0-2
- Aris Lade: 17-15
- Jameson Hubner: 22-18
- Dalton Kepler: 2-4
- Quentin Stidham: 5-12
- Gage Mills: 36-19
- Deegan Smith: 2-2
- Achilles Gonzaga: 0-2
- Jacob Mann: 46-4
- Aiden Webb: 5-8
- Gabby Sweet: 10-20
- Deegan Smith: 2-2
- Achilles Gonzaga: 0-2
- Aiden Webb: 5-8
- Gabby Sweet: 10-20

DUNES

From Page B1

in Daybreak Racing's series is the Cape Mountain Trail Run, to the north of Florence, and will be from May 30 to June 1 this year if you're feeling the itch to

join in.

For Jeremy and Aaron, coming out to Florence and running the dunes is always special, and they hope to keep the race coming back each year.

"It's a fun way to celebrate where our roots in running came from and

share it with people that come from near and far," Jeremy Long said. "We love going to Florence, my dad still lives there, and it definitely holds a special place in our heart. It's a really great place to share with runners. It's a great outdoor destination."

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Health **FACT:**

This type of activity keeps the brain active and can be relaxing and reduce stress.

Answer: Crafts/hobbies

Crossword Puzzle

1		2				3
				4		
5						
		6				
7						

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

MARCH

19

1649: The House of Commons of England passes an act abolishing the House of Lords.

1918: The US Congress establishes time zones.

2003: U.S. President George W. Bush announces the invasion of Iraq in an address to the nation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infant 4. Uncultivated land 5. Without other people 6. A popular “Cap’n” 7. Unique | <p>DOWN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bed coverings 2. Holds books and items 3. Yarn craft 4. Lists restaurant offerings |
|--|---|

Answers:
 Across
 1. Baby 4. Moor 5. Alone 6. Crunch 7. Special
 Down
 1. Blankets 2. Bookcase 3. Crochet 4. Menu

NEW WORD CHAIN


starting stitches of crochet projects

How they say that in...

English: Yarn
Spanish: Hilo
Italian: Filo
French: Fil
German: Garn

Did You Know?

Crochet patterns feature a lot of abbreviations for stitches. Learning them can make projects easier.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Crochet project

REMOTE WORK WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ANNUALIZED
- ASYNCHRONOUS
- CLOUD
- COMMUNICATION
- COWORKING
- DIGITAL
- FLEX TIME
- FREELANCE
- FULLY
- GIG ECONOMY
- GLOBAL
- HOURS
- HYBRID
- LOCATION
- MESSAGE
- OFFSHORING
- REMOTE
- SOFTWARE
- SOLOPRENEUR
- TEAM
- TELECOMMUTE
- VPN
- WORKLOAD
- WORKPLACE

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

March 17, 2025 Posting Date

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



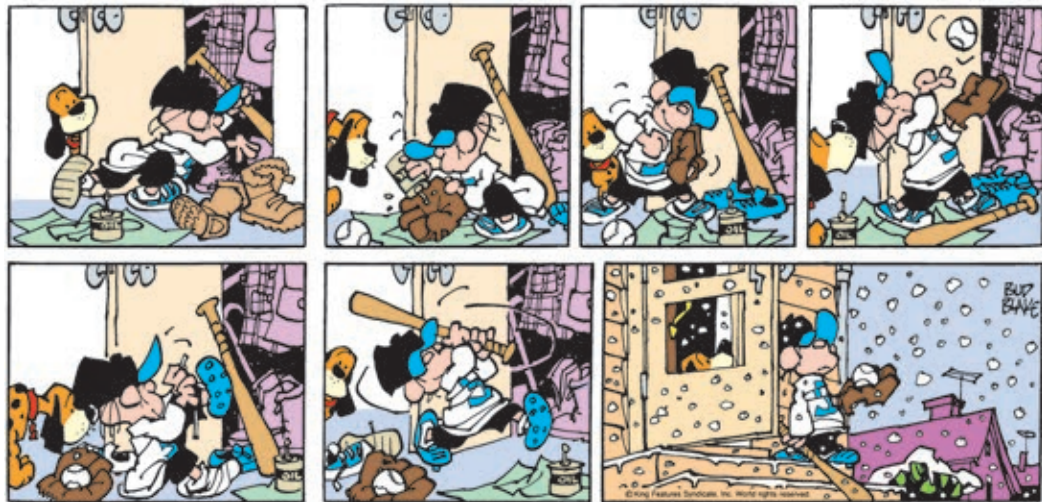
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



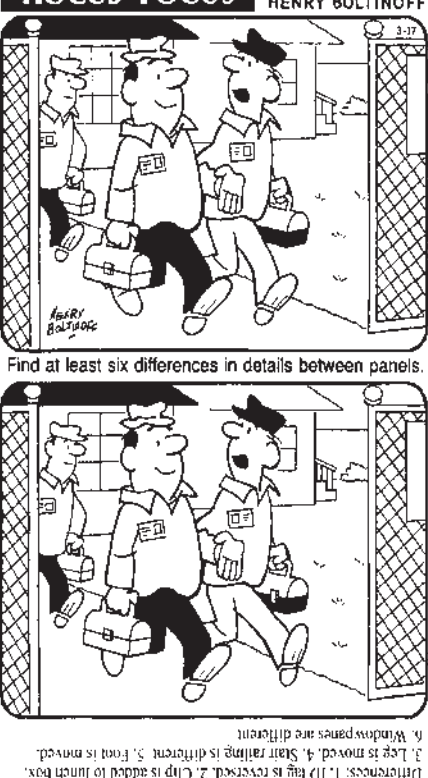
OLIVE

By Emi Burdge



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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 M

IKTDC GFOG HV YPD'Y RTLK
 IPZZPRKB O XOZCK OHPQDG
 PL HPDKV LZPH HK, TY YFK
 HV BKIGPZ-TD-XOR?

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SCRAMBLERS

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

Spring PALE
 Deride CORNS
 Degree TEXTEN
 Answer LOVES

TODAY'S WORD

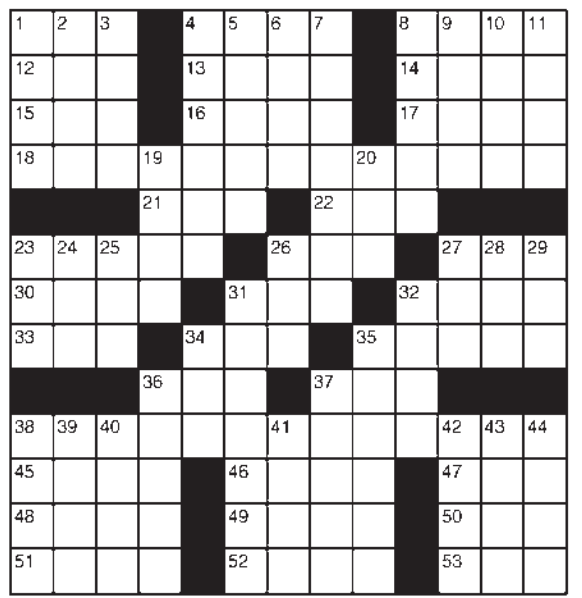


"I'd like to invest some money in _____, I hear they're going up!"

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Huck's raft-mate
- 4 Peeve
- 8 "Phooey!"
- 12 Docs' bloc
- 13 List-ending abbr.
- 14 Bassoon's kin
- 15 Dyeing vessel
- 16 Video-streaming brand
- 17 Radiate
- 18 Vulnerable spots
- 21 Physique
- 22 Youngster
- 23 "Taste!"
- 26 Chaps
- 27 Brit. sports cars
- 30 Stretches (out)
- 31 Polite address
- 32 Hawaiian coast
- 33 Speck
- 34 Aunt, in Mexico
- 35 Nodded off
- 36 Cyndi Lauper's "— Bop"
- 37 Tennis feat
- 38 Spinning disks used by ceramic artists
- 45 Latin love
- 46 Authentic



- 47 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 48 Hindu royal
- 49 Bern's river
- 50 — carte
- 51 Journey
- 52 Dance move
- 53 Tourist's chart
- 8 Thesaurus compiler
- 9 Competent
- 10 Hammer or sickle
- 11 Gives a darn?
- 19 Nile wader
- 20 Sweetie
- 23 "Dilbert" engineer
- 24 MGM rival
- 25 Still
- 26 Soccer's Hamm
- 27 "The Simpsons" barkeep
- 28 Econ. statistic
- 29 Plopped down
- 31 Western ranges
- 32 Swiss artist Paul
- 34 "That'll be — day!"
- 35 Drag
- 36 Vegas area
- 37 Cognizant fraction
- 39 Sharif of film
- 40 Author Morrison
- 41 Pants part
- 42 Physical
- 43 Classic Kinks song
- 44 Bath bar

DOWN

- 1 Coffee, slangily
- 2 Apple since 1998
- 3 Calc. or trig
- 4 Red wine
- 5 "— you so!"
- 6 Bogus
- 7 Befuddle

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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Five Spot™

Y	I	E	L	D

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.

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who was Time Magazine's First Man of the Year in 1927?
- MOVIES: Who was the male lead in the film "Risky Business"?
- LITERATURE: In which novel does the character of Emma Woodhouse appear?
- LANGUAGE: What does the acronym "sonar" stand for?
- TELEVISION: What was the name of the Dukes' car on the show "The Dukes of Hazzard"?
- HISTORY: The first atomic submarine was built in which decade?
- GEOGRAPHY: What modern-day country is in the area known in ancient times as Lusitania?
- MEDICINE: What disease is caused by a deficiency of Vitamin A?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president's image appeared on a dollar coin in 1971?
- MATH: What does the symbol "r" stand for in geometry?

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- Answers
1. Aviator Charles Lindbergh
 2. Tom Cruise
 3. "Emma" by Jane Austen
 4. Sound navigation and ranging
 5. The General Lee
 6. 1950s
 7. Portugal
 8. Night blindness
 9. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 10. Radius

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word solution

1. Leap 2. Score 3. Extend 4. Solve

A	B	O	R	T
B	R	O	A	D
R	A	B	I	D
D	I	A	R	Y
D	A	I	L	Y
Y	I	E	L	D

Five Spot™ Answer

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

King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins. Answers

CryptoQuip answer: Being that my son's wife borrowed a large amount of money from me, is she my debtor-in-law?

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ASTROLOGY READINGS

<p>PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20</p> <p>Pisces, if you hope to make progress, you may have to change tactics. What you have been doing simply isn't working. Start looking at other strategies.</p> <hr/> <p>ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20</p> <p>Aries, forcing an agenda right now might backfire. It is best to be patient and let things unfold organically. A few new people may come to your aid this week and support you.</p> <hr/> <p>TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21</p> <p>You might need to reconsider what you have been fighting for, Taurus. A current battle could be particularly hard to win, so you will have to rethink your strategy.</p>	<p>GEMINI - May 22/June 21</p> <p>Someone in a position of power might try to convince you that their way is the best approach this week, Gemini. You are determined to stick with what you think is right, but keep an open mind as well.</p> <hr/> <p>CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22</p> <p>Cancer, avoid impulsive decisions right now, particularly those that are financial gambles. Poor or selfish actions can deliver consequences that are hard to reverse.</p> <hr/> <p>LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23</p> <p>Leo, what you desire could be in direct conflict with what a loved one in your home wants. Instead of trying to force your ideas on them, figure out a way to compromise.</p>	<p>VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22</p> <p>Virgo, the universe is calling the shots right now and time is moving at whatever speed is right. It might seem like very slow progress, so you'll need to remain patient.</p> <hr/> <p>LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23</p> <p>Libra, this week you might be tempted to put wants before needs. Self-control is needed or you could start spending more than is financially wise right now.</p> <hr/> <p>SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22</p> <p>Scorpio, frustrating exchanges between you and loved ones might leave you retreating to quieter spaces. Any communication is better than no communication, so keep that in mind.</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21</p> <p>Sagittarius, you can resist a certain situation, but you might need to remain flexible as you do so. Don't fight battles unnecessarily right now. Look for the silver lining if need be.</p> <hr/> <p>CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20</p> <p>Capricorn, shortcuts can compromise your personal growth. The pathway to greater success is to work hard and put in the hours necessary to reap the most lasting rewards and the solutions will come.</p> <hr/> <p>AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18</p> <p>Aquarius, you have more power than ever before, but remember it comes with extra responsibility. Always use your authority wisely and think through decisions thoroughly.</p>
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75 Harbor St #204 - \$575,000

2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1250 SqFt. Stunning riverfront condo in the heart of Old Town with panoramic views and luxury finishes! #3632-191540927



New Listing

1600-230 Rhododendron Dr. - \$125,000

2 Bdrms, 1 Bath, 840 SqFt. Affordable coastal retreat in Greentrees Village 55+! Covered patio, storage sheds, carport, great amenities! #3634-694527015



New Listing

826 Munsel Creek Lp. - \$175,000

0.18 acre lot. Florentine Estates gated, 55+, Rec. Facilities, community center, pool, Spa, tennis courts. A favorite! #3631-186565989



Price Reduced

100 Rhododendron Dr. - \$849,000

3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths, 1952sqft. Riverfront home with 3-car garage and RV parking pad. Potential for boat ramp and dock. #3537-24452689



Price Reduced

83720 Hwy 101 - \$775,000

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



95469 Hwy 101, Yachats - \$650,000

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2044 SqFt. Ocean-view home in Yachats! Vacation rental friendly, remodeled, spacious lot, near town! #3630-608501985



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



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



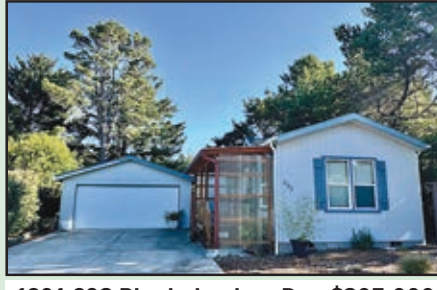
11801 E Mapleton Rd. - \$699,900

3 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 2418 SqFt. Secluded living on 2.75 acres with a quarter mile of river frontage on the Siuslaw River. #3603-24320221



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



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



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



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



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



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



89388 View Dr - \$105,000

0.18 acre cleared lot in the North Lakes Neighborhood. Ready to build with septic inspection and partial permits. #3524-24114590



83410 South Cove Drive - \$195,000

1.12 acre lot in a gated community, nestled between Woahink and Siltcoos lakes. Woahink lake access. #3599-24507375



Shoreline Dr #116-120 - \$40,000

0.35 acre lot. 5 lots in gated Kla-Ha-Nee. Investment opportunity. May be buildable once serviced by city sewer. #3328-22033562



Aileen Sapp
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SRES
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Brandi Hart
Broker
541 999-2671



Kyle Lewis
Broker
541 991-6728



Nichole Lewis
Broker
541 999-8786



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Principal Broker,
CRS, SRS, SRES
541 991-9487



Mike Blankenship
Broker,
ABR, SRS
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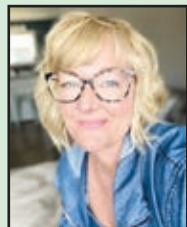
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Owner /
Principal Broker
541 999-8230



Richard Beaudro
Principal Broker
541 991-6677



Melody Beaudro
Principal Broker
541 991-2151



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