

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW *continued*

Review from 9A

Hanging on, letting go

A week to the day after the tragic auto accident that injured three Mapleton students and claimed the lives of MHS freshman Weston Bowman and senior Abby Boydston, friends and family gather Nov. 13 to remember and celebrate their lives by writing messages on balloons and then letting them go. After a quiet moment, the group simultaneously released their wishes, prayers and memories into the sky in memory and celebration of Bowman, 16, and Boydston, 17, who will be "Sailors Forever."



Mapleton students and staff send thoughts and prayers skyward in memory of two students who died in a car crash in November.

Improvement project planned for bridge

Representatives of the Oregon Department of Transportation hold an open house Nov. 19 at Florence City Hall to discuss plans for a Siuslaw River Bridge preservation project that is slated to begin in 2015 and continue for up to three years. Crews will

be contracted to repair damaged concrete, cut out and replace bridge railings, install earthquake retrofits, re-shape the ends of the sidewalks to make them more accessible, and finally apply a zinc coating to protect the bridge from the coastal climate.

DECEMBER

Fire destroys 3 offices

Arson is suspected in a Dec. 7 early morning fire that destroyed a single-story com-

mercial building housing three businesses, Emergence drug and alcohol treatment program and the law offices of Scott Bailey and Ron Gerber. Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue responded to the blaze at 1932 Pine St. and extinguished it after four hours, but the investigation continues.

Wobbe ends era of food drive

After 14 years and more than 80,000 pounds of food

donated to Florence Food Share, the pounding food drive project, created by Cindy Wobbe in 2001, ends. Wobbe and her husband, Gene, matched every pound of food that was donated to Food Share during the food drive, typically held in November before Thanksgiving.

Weather disrupts highway traffic

Traffic is once again being allowed through the section of Highway 101 just north of Sea Lion Caves at milepost 177 after the road was closed Dec. 20 due to water erosion dropping a section of the north-bound lane by more than a foot. The weekend's heavy rains combined with high tides also caused the Siuslaw River to exceed flood stage and overflow its banks around Mapleton and along Highway 126 at Cushman. ODOT closed that highway for several

hours on Dec. 21.

Overflow of drugs, needles forces closure of disposal program

On Dec. 10, the City of Florence and the Florence Police Department terminates a more than five-year-old pro-

gram to help residents dispose of unused and expired medications at the Justice Center due to abuse from participants. New stricter state regulations and added disposal burdens placed on the police department also played a role in the program's closure. ❖

See Jim for your Auto Sales Needs!

JOHNSTON
MOTOR COMPANY

2150 Hwy. 101 • Florence
(541) 997-3475 • 1-800-348-3475

Ford Mercury

the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, saving, dining and doings around town.

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

GIZMO SAYS: COME SEE OUR BARK..... NO BITE!!!

BARK SALES
Beauty Bark (dyed red or black)
Fine or Medium Fir
Nuggets • Bark Rock • Hemlock

ROCK PRODUCTS
Red Cinder
Black, Blue and Gray Rock
Landscape Rock of any size (1ft. - 5 ft.)
Round Rock, all sizes
Cobble
Quarry Rock (1/2 inch - 6 inch)
Concrete Mix

GARDEN COMPOST
Top Soil
Mint Compost
(Other materials by order)

GOT SAND? Yes, We Do!

We gladly sell to the Public Delivery or Pick-Up By the bucket or by the truck load!

Come by and browse our full service landscape products. You want it? We can get it!

DEQ: 37943 CCB: 192681

LEISURE EXCAVATING INC. "When Quality Counts"
541-997-6300
4525 Hwy 101 • Florence

Advantex Treatment Systems
Driveways and all phases of Excavation

ACR AUTOMOTIVE
acrauto.com
• Repairing all makes and models
• Serving Florence for 34 years
1736 West 15th Street • Florence
541-997-6700
joel@acrauto.com

18 Month, Unlimited Mileage Warranty

GIZMO SAYS: COME SEE OUR BARK..... NO BITE!!!

BARK SALES
Beauty Bark (dyed red or black)
Fine or Medium Fir
Nuggets • Bark Rock • Hemlock

LEISURE EXCAVATING INC. 4525 Hwy. 101
Florence
DEQ#37943 • CCB#192681
541-997-6300

THE OLD SCHOOL FURNITURE STORE
NEW FURNITURE AT OLD SCHOOL PRICES

Ashley Furniture
Quality, Style, Selection
#1 Brand of home furniture in the USA
Come choose your Sofa • Recliner • Loveseat Sectional
Special order the fabric you select from our many swatches.

Monday - Saturday 10-5 • HWY 101 & 6th Street
997-9424 FREE IN TOWN DELIVERY

CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK