

# Siuslaw News

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WEDNESDAY

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\$ 1.00

## Woodbury to receive Distinguished Service Award

**Chamber of Commerce to host awards ceremony Jan. 21.**

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has selected Grocery Outlet owner Woody Woodbury to receive the Distinguished Service Award for 2014. The award will be presented on Wednesday, Jan. 21, during the Siuslaw Business

Awards at the Florence Events Center.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cal Applebee said, "We feel that Woody's leadership roles in chamber, community organizations and continued service to Florence citizens are the embodiment of the Distinguished Service Award. He is someone who selflessly acts each and every day, participating on committees, as a business owner of Grocery Outlet and as a caring individual, to help make Florence a great place to live,

raise a family and retire."

Every year Woodbury, through Grocery Outlet, contributes almost 20,000 pounds of food for Food Share. He has served on the Florence Food Share board of directors and has been a part of numerous fundraising and pantry-stocking endeavors, including the Read for the Need event and the annual food pouncing.

Woodbury has stocked the cupboards and pantry with food and supplies for the new Habitat for Humanity houses, helping new



Woody Woodbury

homeowners in their start on homeownership. Over the years, he has contributed to Florence Area Humane Society events and monthly fundraisers at his store.

Currently, Woodbury is serving a second three-year term as a citizen participant on the Florence Urban Renewal Agency.

This committee helps in planning projects for the Florence Urban Renewal District, recently the \$2.5 million water and

See **WOODBURY 6A**

## Mapleton pool may get new lease on life

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Members of the Siuslaw Regional Aquatic Center (SRAC) will propose that the Mapleton School District allow them to raise money to repair and reopen the pool located on school district property during tonight's Mapleton School Board meeting.

The SRAC board has already paid for initial engineering to determine what needs to be done to bring the pool up to current compliance standards.

The SRAC took over operations of the pool in 2006, when government funding to operate the pool was lost due to budget cuts. The Mapleton School Board agreed to lease the pool facilities to SRAC for \$1 per year in exchange for SRAC taking over the responsibility for maintenance and operation of the pool facility.

SRAC operated the pool facility until funds ran out in 2009.

Lauren Hesse, acting president of SRAC, said, "Within a month of closing the pool all the water had drained out, on its own. We realized there must be some repairs that were needed.

"We already knew that, by law, there needed to be an upgrading of the two drains in the bottom of the pool. In the process of the drain work, concerns arose over the pipes and vein-like cracks, which had previously been filled but the fillings didn't hold.

"This led to the question of whether there was a gap under the pool caused by the water seeping out through the cracks. No gaps were found. Nor was any pipe leakage discovered."

SRAC received an estimate of approximately \$100,000 to seal the pool and repair degraded surface edges of the pool.

"The next question was the pool equipment," according to Hesse. "Pumps, heaters and dehumidifiers needed upgrading, because only



PHOTO BY JODI O'MARA

**Above, the Mapleton pool facility sits empty, as the Mapleton School Board ponders options during tonight's school board meeting at the high school library at 6 p.m. Below, youngsters and seniors enjoy the popular activity center in recent years.**

temporary repairs had been done since they were installed in 1986."

The money to cover the cost of the engineering studies came from fundraising and grants. The Three Rivers Confederate Tribes gave SRAC a grant to cover most of the cost of the engineer's survey report. An SRAC board member also made a large donation.

According to the engineer's survey report, the total cost to bring the pool up to code, including sealing the cracks, was approximately \$600,000.

Mapleton School Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said the estimated

cost to run the pool was \$100,000 per year. This included the proposed pool director's salary of approximately \$40,000 per year. Potential revenues from lessons, memberships and facility rentals would offset a portion of the annual cost.

Hesse said, "There is a projected gap of \$30,000 to \$40,000 between revenue and expenses that SRAC would have to continue to meet through fundraising, big donors and partnerships with organizations such as PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center."

In addition, Hesse said many insurance companies have funds to

commit to wellness programs.

"I've called Pacific Source," Hesse said. "They said they would support wellness programs. They said they won't build a pool, but they would support an aqua therapy program. They can provide funds for that.

"The big hurdle is acquiring the \$600,000 to bring the pool and building up to current code standards."

The SRAC board plans to do some major fundraising and convince charitable foundations like the Ford Family Foundation, the Meyer Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation to provide matching fund grants.

O'Mara said the Mapleton School District supports the efforts of SRAC.

"That is one of the reasons for the meeting tonight," she said, "so that SRAC people can come and present to the school board the proposals that they would like to go forward with."

On Friday, Jan. 9, members of the community, SRAC board members and school board members compiled a list of potential uses for the pool facility. In addition to the pool they include a wellness center for visiting medical professionals; a resource/community center; space for rehab/physical therapy, including water therapy in the pool; a visitor's center; a large meeting space; an indoor play space for students during and after school; an indoor walking space; and a place for people to exercise, use weights, treadmills, etc.

"As a district we realize that we cannot have a pool by ourselves," O'Mara said.

"We can't fund it. It is fiscally irresponsible for us to even think that we could. Our economic base is lower than it has been in the past. While we do own the facilities and the property, we

See **POOL 6A**

## Tom Paxton headlines Winter Folk Festival

**13th annual music fest starts Saturday morning and runs through the weekend.**

Tom Paxton will headline the 2015 Winter Folk Festival on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Florence Events Center. There also will be eight other performers during the day on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18, in addition to the annual Artisan Craft Fair and amateur pie-baking contest and sale.

Paxton has become a voice of his generation, addressing issues of injustice and inhumanity, laying bare the absurdities of modern culture and celebrating the tenderest bonds of family, friends and community.

In describing Paxton's influence on his fellow musicians, Pete Seeger said, "Tom's songs have a way of sneaking up on you. You find yourself humming them, whistling them, and singing a verse to a friend. Like the songs of Woody Guthrie, they're becoming part of America."

Paxton has been an integral part of the song-writing and folk music community since the early 1960s Greenwich Village scene, and continues to be a primary influence on today's "New Folk" performers.

See **FESTIVAL 6A**

## U.S. Attorney may take over pipe bomb case

By THERESA BAER  
Siuslaw News

The Florence Police Department (FPD) has announced that the case concerning pipe bombs found in this area late last year may be turned over to federal authorities. The case is currently under investigation by the Portland Police Bureau and the FPD is cooperating in the effort.

In September 2014, a woman discovered a pipe bomb on 22nd Street near Highway 101, which she turned over to police.

Two months later, a pipe bomb exploded near the same area. No one was injured, and no damage was reported in either incident.

An FPD detective learned of other pipe bomb incidents that might have been

See **BOMB 6A**



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**INSIDE WEDNESDAY**

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**Your Weather**

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny	Some rain	Rain	Some rain
54 51	55 49	54 50	55 50



Sports — C

