

# Candidates begin filing for special districts election

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

People wishing to join county boards can now begin filing for candidacy. The deadline to be on the May special districts ballot is March 19. A handful of candidates have already filed for positions.

The Lane Community College Board has four open positions, Mapleton School Board has three openings and the Siuslaw School Board has five.

The Mapleton Fire Department Board has three seats available.

Current Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) Board Member Steve Olienyk is up for re-election.

The SVFR Board also has two other openings.

Swishome-Deadwood Rural Fire Protection District has three openings.

Of the local water districts, Heceta and Mapleton both have three open positions.

Siuslaw Library District has

one open seat.

The Port of Siuslaw has two open positions, as does Western Lane Ambulance District.

For more information on filing a candidacy and to find forms, go to the Lane County Elections website, [www.lanecounty.org](http://www.lanecounty.org), or call the Lane County clerk at 541-682-4234.

The last day for voters to register and still be able to vote in the May 19 Special Election is April 28.

# Monday storm downs trees, disrupts school activities

Strong winds cancel events, but no major damage reported

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

The windstorm on Feb. 9, with gusts exceeding 60 miles an hour in some places, knocked down trees and brought two inches of rain to the Florence area.

According to Public Works Director Mike Miller, though, "It was a fairly routine event."

The storm peaked mid-morning, causing the most damage in Florence between 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Siuslaw School District announced that they canceled all evening activities due to hazardous weather conditions. There also were no activity bus runs nor athletic practices after school.

"My crews started the day at 7 a.m., so they were already here and ready to roll," said Miller. "For us within the public right-of-way, there wasn't much damage other than cleanup. We had some signs down on Highway 101, but ODOT covers that."

While trees came down throughout the area, the only damage to a public facility occurred at Singing Pines dog park, where falling trees landed on a fence.

"It was pretty minor damage that will only require us to go

stretch the fence back into place," he said.

At a location near 37th Street, trees fell across power lines. The Public Works crews had to come off the area until the lines were de-energized.

Although some homes lost power, none of the public facilities suffered more than flickering lights.

Miller said, "Nothing triggered the need for emergency generators."

Central Lincoln People's Utility District (CLPUD) representative Chris Chandler said, "To prepare for storms, we build our infrastructure to withstand winds more than 100 miles per hour. We can't build, however, to prevent trees from falling."

"Trees knocked down two transmission poles, which is a huge repair and very difficult. Some of our customers out

Canary Road were without power for one-and-a-half days."

She added, "We have full-time crews that are ready in case of storms."

CLPUD also has two tree crews who work year-round to clear rights of way.

This storm was not as big as recent windstorms in December, with gusts over 70 miles per hour, or in January 2012.

"That was a major storm event with a lot of property damage," Miller said.

Winter storms come through the coast about once a month.

"If we've got work already planned, it takes time away from our schedule to manage the storm event," he said. "But the thing to take away is that we do watch the weather. We're prepared for bigger storms."

# OPB features Becker artwork

Florence Regional Art Alliance (FRAA) is presenting an exhibit by artist Paula Becker at Oregon Pacific Bank through the month of February.

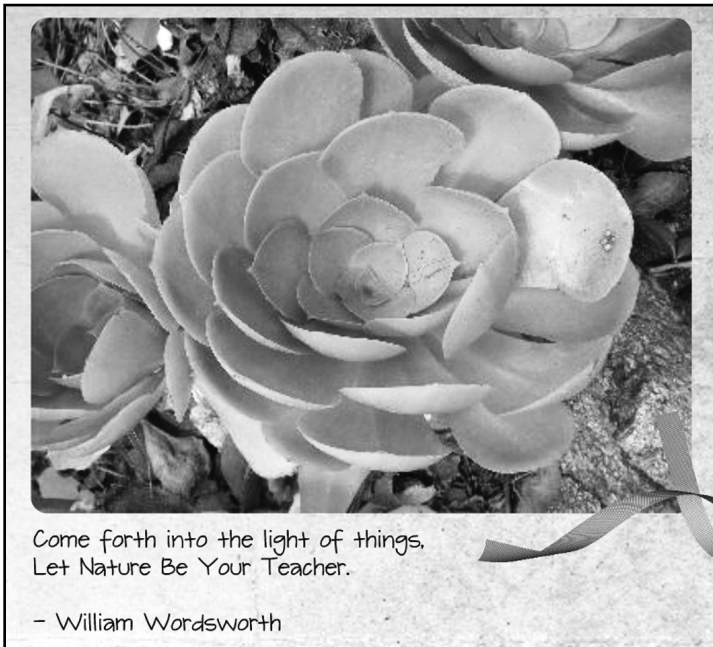
Paula Becker is a professional writer and budding photographer who has made her home in Florence since 2008.

In her previous life as a corporate marketing executive and consultant, Becker said she craved the opportunity to spend more time in nature and less on city streets.

While she is just beginning to build a portfolio of Oregon images, most of her work centers around photography trips and seminars she has taken in Italy, France and Holland.

Becker said she believes that all of nature is meant to inspire. She wants to use her photographic images to encourage and uplift, motivating viewers to live in possibility.

"I believe that if a picture is worth 1,000 words, then pic-



Come forth into the light of things.  
Let Nature Be Your Teacher.

- William Wordsworth

COURTESY PHOTO

**This and other work by FRAA artist Paula Becker is on display at Oregon Pacific Bank through February.**

tures and words together can be priceless," she says.

# Rotary seeks President's Scholarship applicants

There's a tradition that goes around the Florence Rotary Club this time of year known as "coin jars."

Rotarians are notorious for coming up with creative ways to raise money, and this one is no exception. Each member receives a personal coin jar a couple of months before the annual Rotary Auction and is encouraged to fill it up with spare change. Filling the jar with paper money or a check is also acceptable.

In addition, the club is divided in half, with older members competing against newer members to see who can raise the most money.

Money raised by the coin jar campaign goes for a special scholarship designated by the club president. The president decides the criteria for the award, and the amount given depends on the total raised.

The 2014 President's Scholarships of \$2,500 went to a Siuslaw High School senior

who demonstrated leadership specifically in athletics.

John Dodson received that award and is currently attending Treasure Valley College in Ontario, Ore., where he plays on the baseball team.

According to 2015 Rotary president Sadie Ward, this year's scholarship will be awarded to the Siuslaw High School senior who has demonstrated leadership in their school and community with an emphasis in business, as well as demonstration of financial need.

Applications are due March 3, and will be awarded at the award ceremony in late May.

The amount will be determined based on actual coins returned and any additional funds from the auction the committee and foundation may recommend.

Scholarship applications are available at the high school and through the Aspire program.

# Vets from 1A

Its officers provide advocacy for veterans for veteran-related issues, dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs and providing local resources.

Stitt praised Shannon Johnson, a service officer.

"With all the respect in the world, ... Shannon is probably the best service officer we ever had down here," he said.

About the MVC, Stitt said, "They're nice people out there. I really appreciate it. We just mainly want the exposure for our veterans."

The MVC will be at the Disabled American Veterans parking lot at 1715 21st St.

For more information about Mobile Veteran Centers, call Carl Robertson, a Vet Center counselor, at 503-753-0223.

For more information about the DAV, call the Florence office at 541-998-1562 or go to [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org).



FLORENCE REGIONAL ARTS ALLIANCE

# 2015 February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 • 2-5pm Oil painting w/Michael Wood	5 • 10am-noon Beginning Knitting	6	7 • 9am-12pm Oil painting w/John Leasure
8	9	10 • 2-3pm Demo: Zentangle	11 • 2-5pm Oil painting w/Michael Wood	12 • 1-3pm Introduction to Zentangle Version 2	13 • 4-6pm Speakeasy: Poetry as a Soul Food A Comm. Feast	14 • 9am-12pm Oil painting w/John Leasure • 3-5 2nd Sat. Gallery Tour
15	16	17 • 2-4pm Bead Weaving Bracelet	18 • 2-5pm Oil painting w/Michael Wood	19	20	21 • 9am-12pm Oil painting w/John Leasure
22	23	24	25 • 2-5pm Oil painting w/Michael Wood	26 • 1-3pm The Shady side of Zentangle	27 • 4-6pm Speakeasy: Inspiration What Inspires You	28 • 9am-12pm Oil painting w/John Leasure • 2-pm Demo: Watercolor vs. Acrylic

For details, check our website at [www.fraaoregon.org](http://www.fraaoregon.org)

**FRAA ART CENTER**  
Munsel Lake Plaza  
(just north of Fred Meyer)

Hours Open: Tues-Friday - Noon to 4:00 p.m.  
Phone: 541-999-0859

# FREE EVENTS THIS MONTH:

Feb. 27, Friday 4-6 p.m.  
- SPEAKEASY:  
Enjoy a glass of wine and lite snack and lively discussion on "Inspiration- What is it and where do you get it?"

Feb. 28th, Saturday, 2-3 p.m.- Acrylics versus Watercolor. Instructor: Silvia Trujillo using a still life subject to demonstrate painting in both media.

# COMING IN MARCH:

New Art Center Exhibit for members: Still Life and Portraits. Bring in your artwork on Monday, March 2nd, 10:00 a.m.

Featured Artist for March - James Selby

# WORD ON THE STREET

Do you believe in love at first sight?



"Probably not. I think we both feel you really have to get to know a person."

—BOB KUSH, 71  
—MARY KUSH, 70  
JACKSONVILLE, ORE.



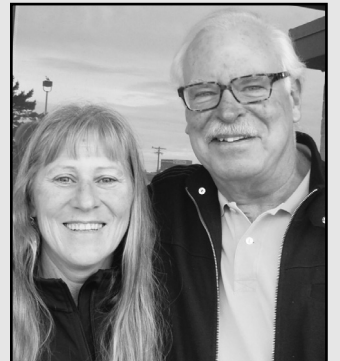
"Yes, I do, because I've been there. I've been there many times. It doesn't mean it's a sustaining love. That's the only problem. Alfie, here, falls in love at first sight with everyone he meets."

—MIKE WOOD, 70  
FLORENCE



"I do! The first time I saw my husband was four years ago, while we were working together at Big Lots. I knew when I saw him that I was going to spend the rest of my life with him."

—COREY MIDDLETON, 25  
FLORENCE



"Yes I do. You are looking right at her!"

—HOWIE CUSACK, 65  
—DESIREE MEULLER, 59  
FLORENCE

HAVE A QUESTION WE SHOULD ASK? TELL US!  
EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM



Come on in and try the new tastes of Pizza hut.

Open: Sunday thru Thursday, 11am - 10pm  
Friday and Saturday, 11am - 12pm

1940 Hwy. 101 • Florence • 541-997-7770

