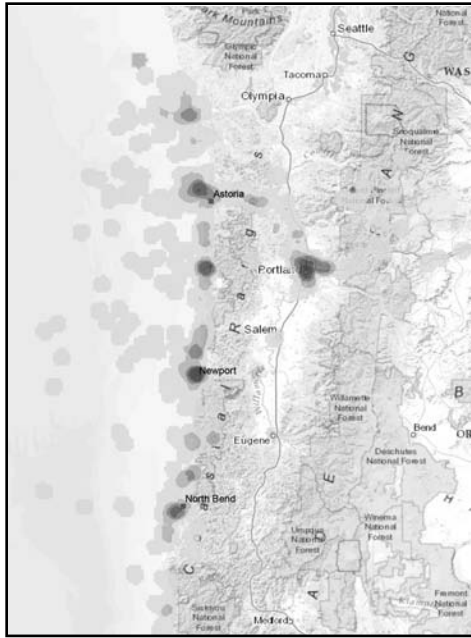


Surfriders release U.S. Coast Guard incident map

NEWPORT — The decision to move the U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter operations from Newport to North Bend has drawn much concern and opposition from the commercial and recreational fishing community, but non-boater recreational users such as unknowing surfers, swimmers and beachgoers likely have more to lose in this murky decision that has ignited statewide opposition.



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The U.S. Coast Guard has tracked incident frequency and location with Incident Heat Maps like this one.

To help represent that recreational and broader community concern, Surfrider Foundation's Newport Chapter has released a set of story maps based on U.S. Coast Guard incident response data to better visualize and demonstrate statistical grounds for maintaining the helicopter operations in Newport.

Surfers and recreational users have good reason for concern over the closure. Just two weeks after the decision was released to the public to move the helicopter operations, five individuals were plucked off the rocks at Fogarty Creek, just north of Newport. The heroic rescue could have very well ended in fatalities had the helicopter taken an hour to reach the scene from North Bend (as it was, they were on the scene within 10 minutes of the call).

"Sadly, this happens all too often and seems to be on the

rise with tourists and visitors less familiar with our local conditions", said local surfer Vince Pappalardo.

Newport is a hub for tourism and ocean activity, holding some of the most-visited recreational beaches and coastal state parks in the state of Oregon.

Again, this past weekend two surfers were rescued by the Newport helicopter near Yaquina Head, once again underscoring these recreational concerns.

The story map, with its

multiple thematic maps, was planned, designed and executed to provide high-level visibility of the amount of incidents that occur within the current operational area of the Newport based helicopter.

Geographic visualization, along with the analysis of a massive 2007-2013 dataset that was provided by the U.S.C.G. under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, is provided with the maps to give statistical evidence that

the U.S.C.G. can't afford to not keep the helicopter in Newport.

"Beyond funding, the initial rationale we received from the U.S.C.G. for moving the helicopter operations came in the form of national trends and statistics that just didn't effectively represent our local ocean conditions and coastal users," said Charlie Plybon, Oregon Policy Manager for Surfrider Foundation.

"We needed an analysis of U.S.C.G. search and rescue operations for Oregon, not national trends and statistics

that lead to poor and uninformed ground-level decisions," said Plybon.

Surfrider Foundation volunteer Curran McBride heard the need for that local analysis. Two weeks following the FOIA request for the data, Curran got to work developing the maps which provide yearly thematic representation of the amount of incidents that the USCG responded to for the three air stations in Oregon: Astoria, Newport and North Bend.

McBride then analyzed the data associated with those incidents for each year to give the user a deeper understanding of the nature of the responses, such as statistics on lives saved or people in the water.

"By capitalizing on the intelligence behind the incident report data and creating a story map from it, I was given the opportunity, as a member of the general public, to tell the story of why it is imperative to keep the Newport air station open forever," said McBride. "Mapping the past and embedding the historical statistics within has created a powerful tool that I hope will help change the USCG policies the next time they consider closing an air station down."

The maps can be found on Surfrider's campaign webpage at www.savethehelo.org.

Patterson honored with gifts, award



PHOTO BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Mayor Joe Henry presents City Manager Pro-Tem Larry Patterson with several gifts from Florence City Hall staff on Feb. 17. Patterson leaves his position as interim city manager when Erin Reynolds, current finance director, becomes city manager on March 1. Patterson also was recognized for his work at Lane Council of Governments' member appreciation dinner on Feb. 6. He received the Outstanding Public Career award for his work in city administration in Florence and Creswell.

Beatles tribute show brings back 'yesterday' on Friday

"Yesterday — A Tribute to the Beatles" will take the big stage on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m., at the Florence Events Center.

Performing all eras of Beatles music in their original key, wearing drainpipe trousers and playing authentic instruments, Yesterday — The Beatles Tribute has performed on five continents.

Beginning with the British Invasions in 1964, the mop-tops from Liverpool began the

first wave of Beatlemania. The Beatles forever changed the face of pop music with such songs as "Hard Day's Night," "Help," "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," and "Revolution."

The Yesterday tribute band recreates note for note the music of the Fab Four.

Based in Las Vegas, Yesterday has performed its long running show in Atlantic

City at the Tropicana Casino Resort for three years, at the Horizon Casino Hotel in Lake Tahoe for eight months, five months in the Tiffany Theater at the Tropicana in Las Vegas, countless Beatles tribute shows in New York, and hundreds of venues across the U.S.

Yesterday — A Tribute to the Beatles is being presented by KCST and KCFM and the Florence Events Center,

with sponsorship from the ACR Automotive, Best for Hearing, Korando Dental Group, County Transfer and Recycling, The Beachcomber Pub, and Old Town Inn and River House Inn. Tickets are on sale from the Florence Events Center box office at 541-997-1994 or online at www.eventcenter.org.

Ticket prices are \$24 for adults and \$19 for students ages 18 and under.

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Lindsey A. Franz, DVM

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February is Veterinary Dental Health Month. To improve the dental health of your pets, Oceanside Veterinary Hospital will give a 10% discount on all dental services and products January 19-February 28. Discounts for dental cleanings will apply during this period, and slots are limited, so call for your appointment today!



Dr. John Bachmann
and his certified Veterinary
Technician Elizabeth

541-997-9300

1739 West 22nd Street, Florence

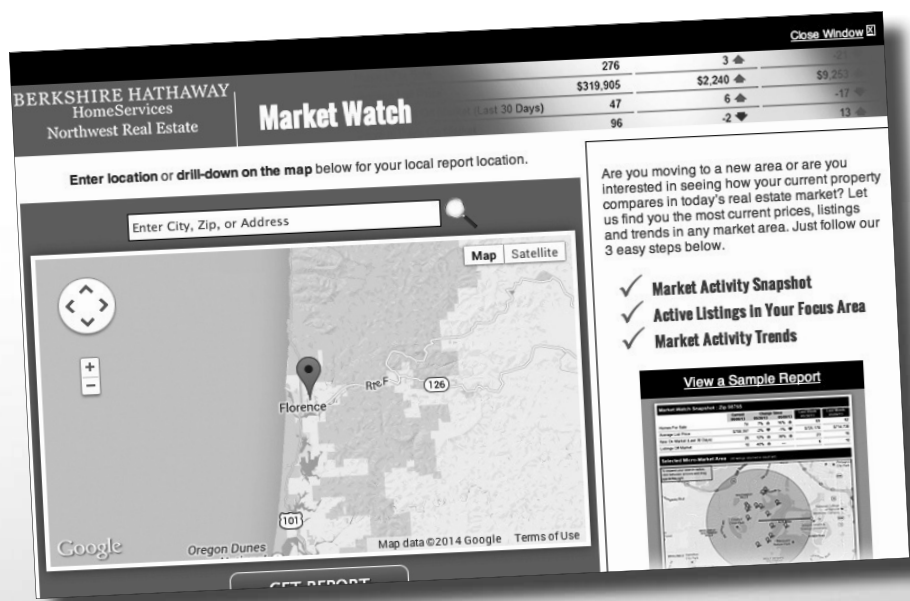


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7 Bdrm, 4 1/2 Ba 4418 sq ft
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South Lakes Location! Wonderful home, bonus room down + full bath, garage & shop/garage all on .72 acre corner lot.
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PRICE REDUCTION
Country Setting 1.21 acres, well cared for home, beautiful grounds, plus garage/shop, RV parking room.
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1500 ft
\$239,999 BH6805 ML#14018869



FEATURED LISTING
Fawn Ridge Lot w/sewer!
\$44,500 BH6476 ML#13340014



FEATURED LISTING
Something Old, Something New! Built in 1904, well cared for & updated like new. Paved RV parking on large corner lot.
3 Bdrm, 3 Ba 1886 sq ft
\$329,000 BH6882 ML#14032069



NEW LISTING
Super Good Cents, one owner, in-town home w/great curb appeal & RV parking.
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Ba 2576 sq ft
\$319,000 BH6916 ML#15432200



FEATURED LISTING
New home-Fawn Ridge!
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2170 sq ft
\$337,000 BH6843 ML#14489237



FEATURED LISTING
South Shore gated subdivision, 1 acre corner lot, cleared & ready to build. Septic approved, lake water available
\$119,000 BH6892 ML#14666443



FEATURED LISTING
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\$60,000 BH6269 ML#12210160