

## Candidacy deadline nears for Special Election

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

The Lane County May 19 Special Election is two months away, but candidates who wish to be considered for positions must file before the 5 p.m. deadline on March 19.

There is a noon filing deadline for explanatory statements, candidate statements and measure arguments. The last day for voters to register and be eligible to vote is April 28.

Candidates have filed for various open positions in the Mapleton and Florence areas.

As of Tuesday, John Simington Jr., Carl West and Michelle Holman have applied for three open director positions in Mapleton School District.

Three candidates have applied for three director positions at Mapleton Fire Department: Carol J. Baxter, Guy Hansen and Ann M. Miller.

Larry P. Baxter and Frank A. Wilson are the candidates who have applied for two out of three open positions in Mapleton Water District.

Siuslaw Public Library District has three open director positions with terms to be

determined. So far, Susy Lacer, Patricia Riley and Jane E. Yecny have applied.

Western Lane Ambulance District has two four-year director openings. Karl Enlund, Brian Jagoe, Cindy A. Russell and Richard E. Childs are candidates.

Siuslaw School District has five open director positions, and two people have applied, Tamera A. Butler and Suzanne Mann-Heintz.

Port of Siuslaw has one applicant, Nancy Rickard, for two commissioner openings.

Heceta Water District has three open commissioner positions. Debby Todd and Chuck Gesik are the applicants so far.

Long-time Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) board member Steve Olienyk is running unopposed for his director position. One position at SVFR has two candidates — Tony Phillips and incumbent Rob Ward — and Ave Bernard, John A. Carnahan and incumbent Cindy Spinner are candidates for the third position.

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.

## Port lobbies Congress for more funding

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Port of Siuslaw relies on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to keep the Siuslaw River navigable. The Corps is responsible for dredging the river channel to remove accumulated sand and silt and the maintenance and repair of the two jetties that jut out from the mouth of the river.

Congress allocates the funds necessary to pay for these services and competition for those funds are fierce. The Port of Siuslaw is just one of more than 360 commercial ports in the U.S. vying for those funds.

Each year, the Pacific Northwest Waterways

Association (PNWA) hosts its annual mission to Washington, D.C., to set up meetings between Senate and house members, governmental agencies, like the Corps of Engineers, and port representatives.

This year, 72 PNWA members, representing 41 different entities, met in the District of Columbia March 1 through 5 to make their case for funding.

"When we meet with them to tell them what our needs are this year it is meaningful," Port of Siuslaw Manager Bob Forsythe said, "because those 72 people represent a lot more people. They pay attention."

Forsythe acknowledged that it is expensive for the port to be a

part of the delegation, but it pays dividends.

"Every year I have gone to the PNWA meeting in the District, we seem to come away with \$100,000 more in funding for the following year," he said. "These funds pay for the dredging that is necessary to keep the channel of the Siuslaw River open for commercial and pleasure boats."

The elephant in the room is the degraded condition of the jetties, both at the mouth of the Siuslaw River and other port entries up and down the West Coast. Jetty funding has lagged behind maintenance and repair needs for decades.

"One of the recurring conver-

sations I have with U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio and others is about our jetties," Forsythe said. "Almost every port that has jetties is doing the same thing. The Corps is right there behind us, saying help us, help us. Dredging is always an issue, but that goes hand in hand with the jetties. The worse the jetties are, the more dredging has to be done."

According to Forsythe, the two jetties at the entrance to the Siuslaw River have lost a total of 473 feet in length, due to erosion and storm activity.

The estimated cost of repairs, including repositioning the angle of the jetties, is \$120 million.



PHOTO BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum in Old Town Florence sports a new roof in addition to being mortgage-free, thanks to funds received from the estate of Jean Chapman. Museum board members plan for future upgrades, including an elevator, but will need additional funds.

### Museum from 1A

"We were doing pretty good on that until the last couple of years," Phelps said. "The recession or something slowed

the giving way down."

Even though the museum is debt free, future expansion projects far exceed the balance of the funds remaining from the bequeathal.

Plans include expansion of

the museum's library area to create an artifact intake and storage area, a work area and added display area.

"As we gather more funds we will probably extend the covered porch area," Phelps

said. "Four more display rooms are planned, in addition to an elevator to make the second floor accessible to everyone. This is where we need to direct these legacy funds."

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### Show from 1A

"We base the success of the show on comments about the quality and variety of vendors we receive from those attending and vendor feedback and sales. By all accounts, it was a great show for many of the vendors and a tremendous show according to some. ... Show reviews from those who attended were extremely positive," said Thompson.



More than 2,000 people attended this year's show.

The Florence Home and Garden Show will return in 2016 with its milestone 20th annual event.

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The City of Florence is requesting proposals for catering services for the Florence Events Center (FEC). The FEC intends to establish multiple contracts to a pool of qualified contractors providing Catering Services. The closing date for proposals is **March 19, 2015 at 4:00 PM.**

Interested parties can view and download a Request for Proposal (RFP) application by visiting [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org) or by contacting the Florence Events Center at 541-997-1994. Proposals will be accepted at the FEC located at 715 Quince Street, Florence Oregon, 97439.



541.997.1994 | 888.968.4086

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### Bank from 1A

Employees volunteer their services, including thousands of hours of company-paid time.

Portland Business Journal recognized Siuslaw Bank as one of the top philanthropic companies in the state. Also, the bank received the Community Caring Award from the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce in 2009.

Dee Osborne, vice president and manager for the Mapleton and Florence branches, said, "I think Banner Bank is going to be great for the community. It's all the same staff that you love in both Mapleton and Florence."

Some staff members have been part of the bank for more than 20 years.

Banner Bank can be accessed online at [BannerBank.com](http://BannerBank.com).

In Mapleton, it can be reached at 541-268-4462 and at 10756 Highway 126.

In Florence, call 541-997-3486 or go to 777 Highway 101.

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