

Produce from 1A

“Our prices are way under what the other stores are,” Lee said. “Since I grow it, I can sell it a lot cheaper. We even have things that grocery stores don’t carry because of the shelf life, like lemon cucumbers. They are a big seller, but they only have about a one-day shelf life.”

Lee grows dozens of fresh vegetable varieties on his farm and fruit, including apples, cherries, plums, peaches and pears, from his orchards.

He gets an early start on the Oregon growing season by utilizing two greenhouses that cover approximately 5,000 square feet. This allows him to offer vine ripe tomatoes early in the season.

“I sell a lot of Heirloom tomatoes,” Lee said, “which people just love. I have three kinds of Heirlooms. They are wonderful.”

Another big seller for Lee is fresh basil. A container sells for \$2.50.

On his trip to Florence yesterday, Lee brought between

60 to 70 boxes of tomatoes.

On an average day, Lee and his helpers pack up and haul between 4,000 and 6,000 pounds of produce to the coast for the day in his 20-foot produce trailer, plus 800 pounds of melons in the back of his pickup truck.

Lee normally starts his day at 4 a.m. in order to have the truck and trailer loaded in time to drive to Florence and open at 9 a.m. in the Mini Pet Mart parking lot along Highway 101. He and his crew sell produce until they pack up at 3 p.m. to head back to Winston.

“I normally knock it off around the middle of October when the heavy rains start destroying my tomatoes. I quit then,” he said.

“I’m thinking this will be my last season,” he confided. “But I have a gentleman who said he’d like to buy my place and do the same thing I’m doing. He’s a lot younger than me.”

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.

Fire from 1A

Often, the siding on buildings like this one will contain aluminum.

Barrett said, “It will get hot enough to melt, and puddle aluminum on the ground.”

The location has since been cordoned off and is not accessible to the public.

On Thursday morning, Barrett could only confirm one person died in the fire.

“We haven’t been able to confirm the number yet because of the damage. We’re waiting on the detectives. We will do a complete search to make sure that is correct,” he said.

By Friday, Barrett could confirm the one death.

He worked with a representative from the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Lane County Sheriff arson detective once the sun came up

at the scene. From there, Barrett and the arson detective took over the investigation.

“As far as the investigation goes, we are in waiting mode until the autopsy is complete,” Barrett said.

The body was discovered in the back end of the building in the master bedroom. That is where Barrett said the fire started as well.

“At this time, we do not have an exact cause that we can prove,” Barrett said. “We have some theories and the autopsy will determine which one is most likely. Unfortunately, we won’t be able to positively prove exactly what happened.”

“Right now it is considered unintentional, but that is still undetermined.”

Follow Chantelle on Twitter @SNews_Chantelle. Email her at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com.

Police from 1A

FPD discovered a red St. Louis Cardinals baseball cap near the body. Detectives believe the cap was purchased at a local donation or thrift store recently.

According to the medical examiner, the man is missing all four wisdom teeth and has two distinctive tattoos — one on the left forearm and one large tattoo on the upper back between the shoulder blades.

As previously released, this death appears to be the result of a suicide but the circumstances are still under investigation.

Missing person records from Lane, Lincoln and Coos County have been reviewed and at this point there are no known matches.

“We’ve gotten some calls,” Pitcher said, “but so far none of our leads have gone anywhere.”

Anyone with any information regarding this case is asked to contact FPD Detective Brandon Ott at 541-997-3515 or email him at brandon.ott@ci.florence.or.us.

Follow Chantelle on Twitter @SNews_Chantelle. Email her at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com.

IN BRIEF

SSWCD meeting canceled for Monday

Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District has canceled its regular meeting for Monday, Sept 7, due to the Labor Day Holiday.

LCC campus closed for Labor Day

Lane Community College summer Friday closures ended Aug. 28 and the college now is back to regular hours Mondays through Fridays.

The next holiday closure is Monday, Sept. 7, for the Labor Day holiday.

Us TOO meeting Tuesday

The next meeting of the Us Too Florence Prostate Cancer Support Group will be Sept. 8, at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw from 5 to 7 p.m.

Come celebrate National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

With the presence of uro-

gist Dr. Bryan Mehlhaff, plus prostate cancer survivors and their spouses and loved ones, the Us TOO Florence meeting is an excellent source of prostate cancer information.

Bring questions and get answers, or just come to listen and learn.

Call Bob Horney at 541-999-4239 for more information.

Learn about bridge protection Sept. 9

The Oregon Department of Transportation is protecting, restoring and improving the safety of the historic Siuslaw River Bridge on Highway 101 in Florence.

The community is invited to an open house Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101.

At the meeting, ODOT will explain September’s major construction on the bridge and answer questions from the community.

School from 1A

AVID is a nationwide program designed to help students transition to college or post-high school careers. A grant from Nike allowed Mapleton to implement the program for grades one through 12.

Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O’Mara said, “I am very excited about our new staff this year. All districts have some amount of turnover each year and Mapleton is no exception. We feel lucky to have three outstanding new staff members to add to our already amazing staff.”

The district will be hosting its annual open house barbecue Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

“If you’d like to meet all of our staff, and check out the Mapleton School District, I invite families and community members to our open house

barbecue. We are meeting in the high school gymnasium for staff introductions,” O’Mara said.

Lane County Sheriff’s Deputy Aaron Hoberg will give a short presentation on Mapleton School District’s participation in Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate (ALICE) training that took place last spring. He will also discuss what parents can expect from the new Active Shooter Drills the district will be having this year with students.

After the presentation, parents are encouraged to visit their student’s classroom and meet their teachers.

The barbecue, including free hot dogs, chips and water, begins at 6:30 p.m. in front of Mapleton Middle School.

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.

Toastmasters to host speech contest

Florence Toastmasters will host a club speech contest. The public is invited free of charge to enjoy the impromptu contests on Wednesday, Sept. 9,

from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., upstairs at the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue main station, 2625 Highway 101.

Contact Irma Geller at 541-999-0912 for more information.

Willamette Valley Arms Collectors Association
2015 FALL SWAPAROO GUN SHOW
 Saturday, September 12th • 9am to 5pm
 Sunday, September 13th • 9am to 3pm
 AT THE LANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS (in the Auditorium)
 FREE Parking • Eugene, Oregon
 Admission: \$6.00 • Kids under 12 Free (with adult)
 Active Military FREE with I.D.
 \$1 off coupons available at local area Gun Shops and all regional BI-MART STORES
 FOR MORE INFO, CALL JOHN AT (541) 689-9829

New move-in special \$550 off for 6 Months

- ♦ **Sept 22 10am**—Geneva Woods Pharmacy will be here to discuss how they can save you money on your medications. They will also be discussing how their program can package your medications to minimize health risks and simplify taking your medications.
- ♦ **Sept 24 10-Noon**—Classic Car Show

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WORD ON THE STREET

Are people taking the Presidential Race seriously?

“It saddens me that it’s become a joke kind of race. But I do think it has.”
—BETH BOLLES, 62 FLORENCE

“The current political race does seem like a circus, but only because of Donald Trump.”
—RUTH LARSON, 32 VENETA

“A lot of it is like a circus right now, but people will start taking it seriously when it matters. It’s still very early and people know as things get closer and the real candidates are announced, it’s time to take things more seriously.”
—LARRY ENGLUND, 84 FLORENCE

“Reality television for presidency is not what we need. You cannot take over a country just because you’re wealthy. With the ignorance that we have in today’s society, what can we do? Sit back and watch.”
—MARIO DE STEFANO, 48 EUGENE

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