



Join best-selling Oregon Author **JANE KIRKPATRICK** for this special event.

Jane will discuss her life as a writer and her work, including the beloved *Where Lilacs Still Bloom*.

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door

Jane Kirkpatrick
at the Florence Events Center
Friday, September 25 at 7 p.m.

www.FlorenceFestivalofBooks.org

Book Festival

SPECIAL PUBLICATION INSIDE



Vikings score win

SPORTS — B

Siuslaw News

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FLORENCE, OREGON

“Our city can grow, and can grow economically. We’re just getting started.” —JOE HENRY, FLORENCE MAYOR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE RISE

City begins work to attract developers to Florence area

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence Mayor Joe Henry is excited for the city’s prospects in the coming years.

In an interview at Florence City Hall on Sept. 14, Henry and City Manager Erin Reynolds spoke about current trends in economic development and what they mean for Florence.

“When I was elected, there were two or three main things that I wanted to see happen in the city,” Henry said. “One of which was street maintenance, and our parks, but just as important was economic

development.”

He and the other four members of the city council have worked with city staff to create an atmosphere for change — for the better.

“People say that economic development should be the mayor and city council’s No. 1 priority. It is,” Reynolds emphasized. “Everything we do touches on economic development. We’re taking an even more intentional focus on it.”

“We’ve kind of been in hibernation for a number of years and not really been looking forward to growth,” Henry said.

Since January, the city council has worked toward many of their goals. They created the Economic Development Committee to focus attention on projects, funding and a direction for the city.

The seven members of the committee bring their various back-

grounds in real-estate, mayorship, manufacturing and managing, directing and creating businesses to bring a high level of energy to their projects.

Henry also praised the hiring of Reynolds as city manager.

“Erin is very in tune with what the council wants. She is aggressive, even more than I am, about economic development,” he said.

See **CITY 9A**

Police sponsor prescription take-back

Drop off expired medicine Saturday at Bi-Mart

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The Siuslaw Valley may not have a permanent prescription drop-off center anymore, but the Florence Police Department (FPD) is working with other officials to bring National Prescription Drug Take-Back to the area on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Bi-Mart, 4310 Highway 101.

FPD Chief Tom Turner said the Florence event is being put on by the Lane County Sheriff’s Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the FPD.

“We’re going to have a table out in the parking lot at Bi-Mart where people can drop off prescriptions,” Turner said.

This is the DEA’s 10th National Prescription Drug Take-Back event since 2010.

According to the DEA, sites will be set up throughout communities nationwide so local residents can return their unwanted, unneeded or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back helps people remove medicines, which are “highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse,” the DEA said.

This is a reminder that flushing medicines down the toilet or throwing them away untreated pose potential safety and health hazards.

“Prescription drug abuse is a huge problem and this is a great opportunity for folks around the country to help reduce the threat,” said Chuck Rosenberg, DEA acting administrator. “Please clean out your medicine cabinet and make your home safe from drug theft and abuse.”

He added that prescription drug abuse in the United States is at an alarming rate, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs — and that those who abuse prescription drugs obtain them from family, friends and medicine cabinets.

In the previous nine Take-Back events from 2010 to 2014 nationwide, 4,823,251 pounds of prescription drugs were collected.

To find additional Take-Back sites, go online to www.dea.gov.

THE ART OF FLORENCE

Artist Kat Cunningham’s tiled column pays tribute to area’s diversity

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) unveiled the first of what the group hopes to be many public art pieces on Friday, Sept. 19. The piece sits on a landscaped section of Port of Siuslaw property at the corner of Bay and Nopal streets in Old Town.

See **ART 9A**



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Kat Cunningham, above, stands beside her completed three-sided, hand-painted tile column, which was unveiled Friday, Sept. 18, as the first piece of public art sponsored by Florence Regional Arts Alliance. The piece sits on the corner of Bay and Nopal streets in Old Town, near the Port of Siuslaw boardwalk.

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