



VIKS LOSE TO LIONS

SPORTS — B



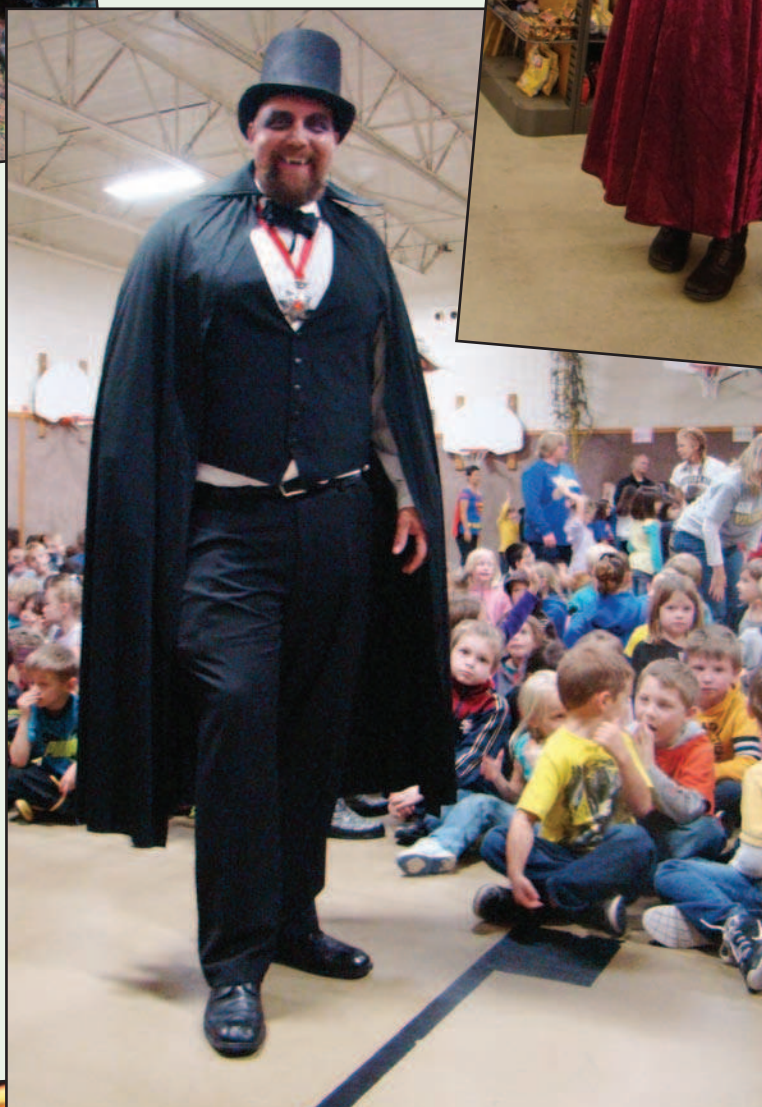
Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Ghouls, goblins and terrifying decorations bring Florence into the holiday spirit



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS AND CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence has been buzzing this past week with things that go bump in the night, as the town began to celebrate Halloween early. Clockwise from top left: Scary decorations line a house's driveway north of town off Highway 101; a dragon sits atop Premier Landscaping; employees at St. Vinnie's get into the holiday spirit; Scare-CROW volunteers prepare to scare in the funhouse; Siuslaw Elementary School Vice-Principal Andy Marohl dresses as a vampire; Driftwood Shores' Surfside Restaurant displays one of the pumpkins created for the resort's annual Employee Pumpkin Carving Contest; and visitors wait to enter the Scare-CROW haunted maze featuring youth actors as monsters.

SOS burns mortgage

Nonprofit heads into its busiest season debt free, but still in need of help



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Outreach Services burns its mortgage after becoming debt free.

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Fortunately for Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS), Lane County lifted its burn ban in time for the nonprofit organization to hold a "Burn the Mortgage" party last Wednesday.

SOS Executive Director David Wiegand oversaw the Oct. 28 gala event, complete with apple cider "bubbly."

"When we started doing the planning for our annual Soiree fundraiser last spring, we wanted to have a theme," Wiegand explained. "The theme for this year was to 'burn the mortgage.' It really helps the fundraising when you have a specific goal."

The third annual SOS Soiree was held Oct. 4 at Homegrown Public House and attracted more than 60 participants.

"We were very fortunate in that we had some very generous donations come in," Wiegand said. "We were able to raise a total of \$26,353. Our mortgage balance was approximately \$23,400."

"We were able to go into Oregon Pacific Bank and pay it off."

The original mortgage was dated March 14, 1994, and was for \$153,000. Shawn Murray, SOS board president at that time, signed it.

"We are very happy to pay it off," Wiegand said. "We are now debt free. For any nonprofit organization, it is always a very desirable goal to be debt free. Inevitably there are going to be lean times. The inevitable rain will fall."

SOS is a Florence-based nonprofit organization that helps individuals and families with domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy services, housing, utility and other assistance programs, prescription drug assistance, shower and laundry vouchers, emergency shelter transportation vouchers and special veteran voucher programs.

According to Wiegand, in the past 12 months SOS has given assistance to 2,103 unduplicated recipients. Of this number, more than 500 were self-reported as homeless.

SOS purchased and distributed 108 sleeping bags, 93 tents and 20 tarps during this time.

"These were just the ones we purchased," Wiegand said. "Many more were donated and distributed."

SELLER'S MARKET REPORTED IN FLORENCE

Appraiser notes area's highest volume of home sales since before 2005

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The Florence-area housing market is seeing an increase in sales, according

to a report by state-certified residential appraiser Tawfik Ahdab.

Ahdab's report on the third quarter of the 2015 market was discussed at

last week's Florence City Council meeting.

"This last quarter that wrapped up was the highest sales volume of residential home sales for the Florence area since pre-2005," said Florence Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell.

The report gave quarter-

ly market data on single-family residential sales, such as volume of houses available, days houses are for sale and average and median bought price.

It also included the number of pending sales that did not close.

"It's possible that

closed sales in 2015 could reach a level not seen since 11 or 12 years ago. The market expansion is therefore accelerating," Ahdab said.

Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds said, "We just wanted to highlight

See MARKET 7A

See SOS 7A

INSIDE Classifieds B9 Religion A5
Coastal Events A10 SideShow B8
Courts A2 Sports B
Opinion A4 Word on the Street A7

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
61 59

SUNDAY
58 49

MONDAY
57 47

TUESDAY
56 46

SIUSLAW NEWS
125TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 87
COPYRIGHT 2015

