

**FIT FOR FUN**

SPORTS — B



*Happy Thanksgiving*

SPECIAL SECTION — C



# Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

**FOOD SHARE POUNDING**

## RECORD-BREAKING GIVING



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

**Community rallies to provide more than \$10,000 and nearly 9,000 pounds of food for Florence nonprofit**

The 15th annual Pounding for Florence Food Share beat last year's record to raise 8,989 pounds of food in just four hours.

Hosted by Florence First Citizen Cindy Wobbe and sponsored by an anonymous donor, the event provided holiday staples and day-to-day food for Florence Food Share, which feeds the hungry in the area.

"This was a marvelous record," Wobbe said. "It was really gratifying to see the community come out to support such a wonderful organization."

The anonymous donor will match the pounds raised with \$8,989.

Other monetary donations included a pledge by Dana and Debbie Rodet, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and multiple community members.

"It is such a humbling thing to watch people give," Wobbe said.

As a child, Wobbe's parents encouraged her to support her neighbors.

"I'm especially touched to see young parents bringing in their children to shop for



BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

donations, teaching them from the start how important it is to share with others in need. ... These are life lessons that will take root and grow," she said.

Wobbe is already looking forward to next year's event.

"I'm excited to carry the momentum into the next year and continue our tradition of feeding the hungry in our community," she said.

For more ways to donate to Florence Food Share, go to [florencefoodshare.org](http://florencefoodshare.org) or call 541-997-9110.

Above, community members wait in line Saturday to donate food to the annual Pounding. At left, Annette Foglio, Cindy Wobbe, Gary Foglio and Gene Wobbe take a moment to celebrate the record-breaking turnout. Below, Grocery Outlet owner Woody Woodbury holds up 15 dozen eggs donated by the Little Brown Hen Cafe.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Dunes City loses money on triathlon

**Weak sponsorship numbers cost the city more than \$2,000**

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

DUNES CITY — Interim Dunes City Administrator Jamie Mills recently shared the final 2015 Oregon Dunes Triathlon/Duathlon statement of account with the city council at its Nov. 12 meeting; the bottom line was bright red.

Despite more than 250 paid registered participants, the city went into the hole by \$2,065.

According to Mills, the contract with event organizer Best of the West LLC requires all registration fees and half of all sponsorship fees to be paid to Best of the West. Dunes City receives the other half of the sponsorship fees.

Total sponsorship fees for the 2015 event were \$1,300. Dunes City received \$650 plus an \$85 reimbursement from the event organizer.

Dunes City's total expenses for the event were \$2,800.

The city signed a five-year agreement with Best of the West. After the fifth year, Dunes City will be completely responsible for organizing the event and will receive all proceeds generated.

"I think it is really disappointing that we only got \$1,300 in sponsorships last year," said Mayor Rebecca Ruede.

"Maybe we need to have a discussion on how we are going to get sponsorships? We worked hard last year at getting people to do this and we didn't come up with that much. I don't know if it was the economy or what it was.

"This is our fourth year coming up. We need to call them (Best of the West) up and figure it out," she added.

Councilor Duke Wells said, "I think businesses like Three Rivers Casino Resort could be a corporate sponsor. They like to deal with winners. I think you need to have a proven track record to have that. I think we are getting into that area. Maybe next year will be better."

Mills requested guidance from the council regarding the contract with Best of the West.

See **TRIATHLON 7A**

## New childcare facility opens its doors

**Early Learning Florence (ELF) provides care for children ages 3 to 6**

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Florence's newest childcare facility — Early Learning Florence (ELF) — opened last week at 2775 Highway 101, Suite C.

ELF president Rob Spooner said he does not consider ELF to be a preschool facility.

"We have found that people have preconceived ideas when you say preschool," Spooner said. "We don't buy into all of those, so we prefer to say just childcare."

According to Spooner, the more than 1,100-square-foot facility next to Verizon is licensed to accommodate 27 children, ages 3 to 6.

Current ELF staff includes Deborah Edwards Rose, director, and her daughter Amy Galvin Mendez, instructor. Both are certified childcare instructors with more than 43 years combined of childcare experience.

The two worked at Sonshine Kids Preschool and Child Care until it closed its childcare

facility earlier this year.

"I have been involved in childcare in Florence for the last seven or eight years," Spooner said. "I was president of Kiwanis when a meeting was called to talk about the crying need for childcare in Florence."

See **CHILDCARE 7A**



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Rob Spooner stands outside the Early Learning Florence childcare facility at 2775 Highway 101, Suite C.

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