

NEW
COACH

SPORTS — B



COAST
CENTRAL

A&E — INSIDE



Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

County parks plan changes course

County admin proposes task force, paid position to evaluate update

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Lane County Parks Master Plan Update will undergo yet another draft, according to county Administrator Steve Mokrohisky, who proposed a new way of evaluating the success of the plan. Although parks staff and consultants have prepared a 298-page draft, Mokrohisky said it is time for the “big picture process.” He presented an idea for a “blue-ribbon task force” for long-range parks planning to the Lane County Board of Commissioners in November. “We’re making a reinvigorated effort to update the plan,” Mokrohisky said. “We’ve had five public meetings to discuss the draft and have received a significant number of feedback.” Part of the problem with the current draft is that it has taken so long to accomplish. It has been around for 35 years and should be updated every five years, with a complete new plan after 20 years.

See **PARKS 8A**

Animal shelter welcomes new manager

FAHS promotes animal care tech Tanya Garrett

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence Area Humane Society (FAHS) announced Tuesday that Tanya Garrett has been appointed as its new shelter manager. Garrett joined FAHS four years ago as an animal care technician and surgery assistant. “She has truly been an asset to us in her role,” FAHS board secretary Sammi Lewis said. “Along with her great love of helping animals, Tanya brings a wealth of experience to her new role as manager.” “It’s been awesome,” Garrett said of her first hours on the job. “We have a great crew and we’re going to keep working for the community.” Some of Garrett’s additional duties include networking with other rescue agencies and no-kill shelters to place animals and ensuring that resident animals are healthy. She will likely continue some of her former duties as well. “I’m most looking forward to networking and providing a service to the community,” Garrett said. “My fondest wish is to have more of a community presence.”

See **SHELTER 8A**

IT’S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



Holiday spirit fills Old Town for annual tree-lighting ceremony

Hundreds of revelers filled Old Town Saturday for the annual Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting. This year, the tree stands proudly in the Siuslaw Interpretive Center on Bay Street, so it can be seen from the Siuslaw River Bridge. Carolers and the Flo-Tones led Christmas songs while Santa Claus listened to children’s wish lists in Gazebo Park.

PHOTO BY KEN MCDOUGAL

Port looks to acquire second boat launch site

51-acre parcel could relieve Old Town parking congestion during fishing season

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Port of Siuslaw commissioners approved an earnest money offer on a 51-acre parcel owned by Don Wilbur LTD at a special meeting Nov. 25.

Harrison Dock Builders formerly leased the property located south-east of the North Fork Bridge, east of Florence. Commissioners were interested in the property because, according to board president Ron Caputo, it fit

well within the port’s objectives in its strategic business plan. Commissioner Nancy Rickard said, “It is a place to add another (boat) ramp because we are so crowded here,” referring to the congestion surrounding the Harbor

Street boat ramp during the summer and fall salmon fishing season. In addition, the parcel has a large section of bay clam beds that are currently off limits to the public.

See **PORT 8A**

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
56 54

THURSDAY
56 48

FRIDAY
54 50

SATURDAY
56 50