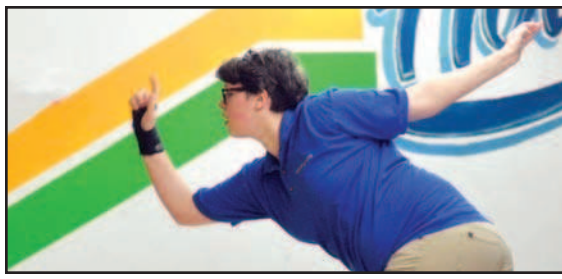


# BOWLING TOURNAMENT

SPORTS — B



# Santa visits military museum

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# Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

# PERFECT PORTER

First Dancing with Sea Lions commemorative sculpture arrives



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Community members and Florence Mayor Joe Henry (front, wearing a wetsuit) welcome "Porter" the sea lion sculpture to the Florence Events Center. Dancing with Sea Lions officially kicks off in January, but Porter will be on display in the lobby through December.

**F**lorence Events Center (FEC) received an unexpected present this year: the early arrival of "Porter,"

By CHANTELLE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

the first of 20 life-size sea lion sculptures that make up the Dancing with Sea Lions public art display.

"Porter just arrived," said FEC Marketing Director Jennifer Connor. "Just like expecting babies, you can't count on when they will come."

See SEA LION 9A

# Florence finalizes marijuana land use

Monday's three-hour hearing continues year-long legalization process

By CHANTELLE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

On Monday, the Florence City Council and Planning Commission assembled for a three-hour public hearing about land use amendments in the Florence City Code, especially those pertaining to the growing, processing, wholesaling, testing and sale of recreational marijuana.

More than 85 people attended the hearing at the Florence Events Center, and 14 testified during the public comments period. This was in addition to the more than 100 phone calls the nine written comments that city staff received prior to the hearing.

Mayor Joe Henry said the comments indicated the almost 50-50 for/against split that Florence-area voters felt toward legalizing marijuana in Oregon.

"Marijuana has been legalized at a personal level since July 1, so regardless of what's decided tonight, it will remain legal throughout the state of Oregon," said City Manager Erin Reynolds.

She added that Florence did legalize marijuana use by a small majority.

"When we're talking about these land use codes, it's only for those licenses for commercial use as issued by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission," Reynolds said. "Personal growth and use ... we're not regulating that. This is for the commercial aspect."

Ordinance No. 12, Series 2015 defined locations and zones that could support marijuana use.

Under the city code, residential districts can only grow marijuana plants and manufacture marijuana products in a "home occupation" format. This means in a non-dwelling separate building on a property with odor control, limits on artificial lighting and no employees. Greenhouses or high tunnels will not comply to the code.

Commercial districts, such as the Mainstreet, Commercial, North Commercial and Highway districts, allow the "home occupation," as stated above, and add varying levels of recreational sales, wholesales and testing facilities.

Most locations will not allow any outdoor growing of the plant.

"So that no one would know this would happen on your property," Reynolds said.

The code also defines buffers for both recreational sales and medical dispensaries. Schools retain the state-mandated 1,000-foot buffer, residential zones have a 175-foot buffer and daycares, the library and most parks now have a 200-foot buffer. Miller Park has a 400-foot buffer.

See CITY 9A



COURTESY PHOTO

# Travel Channel to explore 'mystery' of exploding whale in special program

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Florence's very own exploding whale will be featured on the Travel Channel's series "Mysteries at the Museum," Friday, Dec. 18, at 9 p.m.

For the uninitiated, on Nov. 9, 1970, a 45-foot, eight-ton sperm whale washed ashore one-half mile south of the South Jetty. It was dead and had been dead for some time. After two days ashore, it became quite odiferous.

An assistant highway engineer with Oregon State Highway Department announced that he would dispose of the whale carcass by demolition.

The rest is history. As a side note, to this

reporter's knowledge, no whale since has been disposed of in this manner.

The Travel Channel piece takes a look back at that explosive moment in Florence history and the sole remaining artifact, a fractured whale vertebra, on display at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum.

A production crew from New York and a sound crew from Portland spent Saturday, Jan. 31, recording at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum in Old Town.

"Mysteries at the Museum" is an hour-long series that has aired on the Travel Channel since 2010. It features segments about museum artifacts that have unusual or mysterious origins and the stories regarding them.

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