

STRIKE  
ZONE

SPORTS — B



Hauling water  
to Collard Lake

INSIDE — A3



# Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## FRIGID TEMPS SPARK OPENING OF COLD WEATHER SHELTER

**By JACK DAVIS**  
Siuslaw News

The temperature dipped to 32 degrees last Saturday, triggering the opening of the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter, located in the Masonic Lodge at 89510 Highway 101 south of town.

“We had 10 guests who were local folks needing food, a warm bed and safety,” said Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter committee secretary Judy Preisler.

The shelter has been operational at the Masonic Lodge since November 2014. It opens when the wind chill is below freezing temperatures.

Signboards were set up Jan. 2 at designated van pickup locations at Fred Meyer, Siuslaw Public Library, Safeway, the Old Town Marina and the parking lot south of the Siuslaw River Bridge.

In addition to offering protection on frigid nights, the shelter serves a hot dinner and breakfast the follow-

ing morning to guests. The shelter also provides dog-kenneling facilities.

According to Preisler, there were three women among the 10 guests, and one dog.

“Our talented food committee whipped up a hot and nourishing meal, including a homemade chocolate cake. One member of that crew

told me that she thought the night went superbly well,” Preisler said.

Preisler was also encouraged to find that the shelter was fully staffed.

“Despite the fact that it was a holiday weekend, we had a full crew of welcoming volunteers,” she said.

For more information, call Bob DuBose at 541-590-3371.

### LEGISLATION

## New year brings new laws

*2016 legislation includes changes to voter registration, port telecommunications and birth control*

**By CHANTELLE MEYER**  
Siuslaw News

As 2016 kicks off, a series of new laws go into effect in Oregon. Sen. Arnie Roblan and the Oregon House Majority compiled a list of some of the new rules and laws that went into effect Jan. 1.

“I look forward to returning to the Capitol to continue working for Oregonians living in District 5,” Roblan said.

He will be in Salem from Tuesday, Jan. 12, to Friday, Jan. 15, for Organizational Legislative Days. The 2016 Regular Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly will convene on Monday, Feb. 1.

Roblan said he hopes to “continue fighting for constituents in Senate District 5 and advance our local business priorities.”

Following are some of the state’s new laws:

House Bill (HB) 2177 is Oregon’s new universal voter registration law, Oregon Motor Voter. According to Roblan, Oregon is the first state in the nation to implement automatic voter registration.

“This pioneering new program builds on Oregon’s leadership in expanding access to voting,” he said.

Automatic voter registration is available if you are eligible to register to vote and you apply for your original, renewal or replacement license, permit or ID card at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Oregon Motor Voter will then send information for voters to register with a political party, remain unaffiliated or even decline to register to vote.

“While other state legislatures are working to limit voter participation, Oregon is moving in the opposite direction by removing unnecessary, outdated barriers to voting,” Roblan said.

“This program will modernize voter registration in Oregon and provide a secure, simple and convenient way for more Oregonians to become registered voters.”

HB 2879 and 3343 both work to expand access to birth control. HB 2879 allows pharmacists to prescribe birth control, which will reduce the need for women to visit a doctor for their contraceptive prescriptions. HB 3343 requires insurers to cover a full year of birth control, reducing gaps in coverage and access.

HB 3104 allows rural ports, like the Port of Siuslaw, to establish telecommunications capabilities. It expands the statutory authority of

## SKY’S THE LIMIT



Rotary members take part in a flight aboard the “Rotary International” during a skit Tuesday announcing the March 12 Rotary Auction theme, “The Sky’s the Limit.”

CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

### Rotary Club of Florence announces 55th annual auction theme

**By CHANTELLE MEYER**  
Siuslaw News

March 12, will have a unique theme: “The Sky’s the Limit.”

The club revealed this year’s theme during an airline skit showcasing tourists and flight attendants boarding an airplane for exotic locations.

“Welcome aboard the Rotary International,” the captain said.

Table sponsors at the 55th annual Rotary Auction will be able to select a country, city or continent to feature at their tables.

More than 250 people attend the auction each year. Last year’s auction raised \$101,000 for community events and scholarships for area youth.

Since the beginning of the auction, the club has raised more than \$1 million for scholarships.

## Ringling in the New Year

### Florence’s Salvation Army drive nets \$15K

**STAFF REPORT**

It appears that the community in Florence — all volunteers — have raised approximately \$15,000 in the Christmas Kettle Campaign.

“Congratulations donors and supporters. Together, we raised 2.5 times the national average donated to The Salvation Army,” said Bill Olson, director of planned giving for The Salvation Army — Cascade Division.

The City of Florence’s population is about 8,500, according to 2014 statistics. The 97439 zipcode has a population of nearly 15,000.

“If every zip code area did the same thing as 97439 in their Red Kettle



COURTESY PHOTO

**Red Kettle volunteer Paul Rumca (pictured above with 12-year-old “elf” Zoya Dietz) raised more than \$4,000 at the Fred Meyer location by donating time every day from Thanksgiving to Christmas for the campaign.**

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See **CAMPAIGN** 7A