

# SAILORS NAB WIN

SPORTS — B



# Senior Center opens to all

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# Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Season of RAIN starts in the new year

January and February meetings kick off next round of entrepreneur support

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

As the winter brings more rain-fall to the coast, the City of Florence continues to work with Regional Accelerator and

Innovation Network (RAIN) on economic development opportunities in the area.

RAIN will host three events locally to provide support for entrepreneurs and innovators launching new ideas and startup

companies in Florence.

City Manager Erin Reynolds invited the community to get involved with RAIN at the Jan. 11 Florence City Council meeting.

"I wanted to give an update on the economic development

front," Reynolds said. "RAIN's motto is always, 'What's next?' What's next is three more meet-ups with an entrepreneur who is a local guy."

See RAIN 7A

## Archie Knowles overhaul breaks ground Tuesday

Work begins on campground near Mapleton in preparation for Memorial Day opening

MAPLETON — Lane County, the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Parks are hosting a groundbreaking on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 11 a.m. to mark the beginning of work that will allow Lane County to reopen and operate the Archie Knowles Campground and Day Use Area.

Grant funding from both the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Siuslaw National Forest totaling \$143,814 will allow Lane County to rehabilitate, reopen and manage the 4.5-acre site.

Reopening the campground has been a priority of area residents since the U.S. Forest Service closed the camp in 2010.

"Thanks to Lane County's leadership and investment, the public will be able to once again enjoy Archie Knowles Campground," said District Ranger Michele Jones of the Central Coast Ranger District.

The groundbreaking will be held at Archie Knowles Campground, located 18 miles east of Florence along Highway 126, and is open to the public.

Parking is limited; guests are asked to park at Camp Lane (15761 Highway 126) and shuttle service will be provided to and from the event.

The groundbreaking will feature brief remarks from Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich and representatives of Siuslaw National Forest, the Siuslaw Watershed Council, Save Archie and the Mapleton School District.

Work at Archie Knowles will begin immediately following the groundbreaking so that the campground is available to campers beginning Memorial Day, May 30.

The work includes updating the water, waste and electrical systems as well as the restroom.

The project will also pave all campsite spurs and create a campsite compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Archie Knowles Campground was named for a former forest service ranger who was the child of early area settlers Albert and Lillian Knowles.

Lane County currently manages 2,200 acres of parkland, comprised of 70 parks. There are four other camping facilities provided by Lane County Parks.

Each year, Lane County Parks accepts more than 10,500 reservations for its facilities and more than 1 million annual visitors.

## FOLLOW THE TRAIL

The Trail Band opens annual Winter Music Festival, which continues this weekend, with special Kids Concert



The Trail Band (above) and members of the Indian Education program (at right) perform Thursday at the Florence Events Center for hundreds of local school children.



COURTESY PHOTOS

For a split second, some of the teachers from Siuslaw Elementary School may have had a flashback while watching The Trail Band on Thursday, as the eight-piece band filled the Florence Events Center with sound.

Marv and Rindy Ross founded The Trail Band in 1992, but started their careers as successful performers in the band Quarterflash in the 1980s. The Rosses toured as Quarterflash with Elton John, Linda Ronstadt and The Beach Boys before finding their new shining light — telling Oregon's story through music to students.

By JENNIFER CONNOR  
Special to Siuslaw News

See FESTIVAL 7A

## COAST GUARD AUXILIARY HOSTS DIVISION CONFERENCE

Annual 'Change of Watch' installs new officers at leadership gathering in Florence

By DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE  
Special to Siuslaw News

Last Saturday, Jan. 9, the local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52 hosted the annual "Change of Watch" conference for the entire division, which encompasses most of the Oregon coast and southern Willamette Valley.

The leadership gathering was to formally install newly elected officers, along with recognizing accomplishments and service of outgoing and continuing members. Auxiliary officers, Auxiliary command and active-duty

Coast Guard command in full uniform regalia, along with community members, converged at the Best Western in Florence to attend the time-honored ceremony.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary, which is a volunteer organization, offers public education about boating safety and conducts boat safety checks. They work side-by-side with active-duty Coast Guard and even assist with boating emergencies and station monitoring, among other duties.

During the ceremony, Flotilla and National Staff

Officer Norm Hoffman of Eugene was promoted to commander of the local Flotilla. He also was master of ceremonies.

Flotilla Staff Officer Bradley Hooper of Florence was sworn in as vice commander. Hooper also led the Color Guard for the occasion. Auxiliarist Dale Yellin of Grants Pass was sworn in as commander of Division 5 for 2016, relieving Division Commander Dennis Wood.

Auxiliarists from Florence, Depoe Bay, North Bend, Yaquina Bay, Brookings,

See AUXILIARY 7A



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE

From left: 2015 District Commander Dennis Wood and newly elected 2016 District Commander Dale Yellin and Flotilla 52 Commander Norm Hoffman