

VIKS WRESTLE FOR TITLES

SPORTS — B



'Artistic Visions' winners named

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Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Crash snaps pole, causes power outage

Pet store damaged in Saturday night accident on Highway 101

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

A car accident Saturday evening at 1541 Highway 101 left residents and businesses without power for most of the night.

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue crews were some of the first responders on the scene after a Ford Expedition crashed into a power pole at 5:20 p.m. "It was an explosive hit,"

said Fire Marshal Sean Barrett.

According to Barrett's report, the driver was an adult male who allegedly fell asleep while driving, crossed lanes of traffic and crashed into the pole.

By the time the fire department arrived, the man and two young passengers were out of the vehicle and standing across the street.

Western Lane Ambulance District took the man, infant

and toddler to PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center to treat their injuries. All three were treated and released that day.

The vehicle broke the pole in two places. The pole snapped off near the ground, and part of the broken section smashed through the wall at Mary Ann's Natural Pet.

"There was a lot of tension in the wires overhead," Barrett said.

No lines were on the ground or touching the vehicle.

Firefighters remained on scene to direct traffic until Central Lincoln PUD arrived to shut down power to the lines.

"We do not go near power lines in these situations," Barrett said. "All power lines are live until the PUD tells us otherwise."

See **CRASH 11A**



COURTESY OF CONNIE SPINNER

Mary Ann's Natural Pet at 1541 Highway 101 suffered damage Saturday when a car crashed into a power pole, which then struck the building. Central Lincoln had to cut power to install a new pole. Power was restored early Sunday.

WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Putting music on the map



COURTESY OF KATHLEEN WENZEL



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Co-headliner Jonathan Edwards performs Saturday night; (top) several musicians gather for a late-night "music jam"; (below) and hundreds of visitors stop by the Artisan Fair.

Festival brings new faces and old favorites to Florence

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The Winter Music Festival began its first year under a new name this past weekend, bringing fresh headliners and groups, as well as favorites from previous years, to the Florence Events Center's stage.



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw High School graduate Billy Jones opened the festival Saturday with Mike Davis, of Florence.

"It was a happy turn," said festival coordinator Rachel Pearson. "They had a really nice stage act, and a lot of people came just to

hear Billy." According to Pearson, Cabin Fever Northwest and True North were audience favorites.

"Every one of the groups was fun in their own way," she said.

One performer — singer and banjo player Danny Barnes — surprised Pearson with his style, humor and guest musician.

"I was blown away by Danny Barnes. He was playing the night before with Jacob Navarro, so he had him join him on stage. They were just electric," she said.

Festival headliners Jonathan Edwards and the Shook Twins performed before a full house Saturday night.

See **FESTIVAL 10A**

Senator takes the court for Town Hall

Sen. Ron Wyden answers questions from students, community members

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, recently took the court at Siuslaw High School in one of his yearly Town Halls in rural Oregon. He discussed such hot topics as the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, recreational marijuana, graduation rates and health care with high school students and community members.

In his years as senator, Wyden has conducted more than 755 town halls. He has made an effort to visit rural areas and small towns.

Wyden began the Jan. 8 Town Hall by thanking prominent community members from Florence, Dunes City, the Port of Siuslaw, local police agencies and school districts. He also presented flags that flew over the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to members of the Oregon Coast Military Museum and Disabled American Veterans Florence Chapter No. 23.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry moderated the question and answer session, with Wyden's staff bringing microphones to those with questions.

"They're doing a bang-up job in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge," Wyden started by saying. "The Harney County sheriff has just handled a really difficult situation with an enormous amount of tact. Obviously, we're hoping for a peaceful resolution and to cool down those temperatures."

Wyden said he understood the struggle of rural populations in Oregon, and how they often feel overlooked or mistreated by the government.

See **WYDEN 11A**



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (left) listens to a question about Siuslaw National Forest at his Jan. 8 Town Hall at Siuslaw High School.

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