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Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 20

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Reaching higher ground

Florence participates in Tsunami Walk Out Drill Friday at City Hall

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

For those who travel the area's streets, new blue lines painted on Rhododendron Drive, Quince Street and Heceta Beach Road now mark high ground at the end of tsunami zones.

To celebrate Florence's participation in the Blue Line Project, the city will participate in the 2016 Tsunami Walk Out Drill on Friday, March 11, at 10:30 a.m., beginning at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101. City staff will lead community members and visiting partners on a drill to get to safe ground.

"We will be doing a highlight of the Blue Line Project, and celebrating it with a walkout evacuation to get to high ground. It will be a practice of what it would be like should tsunami sirens sound and you need to get to high ground," said City Manager Erin Reynolds at the Florence City Council meeting on March 7.

The community is invited to attend. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is presenting similar drills at Reedsport, Coos Bay and Gold Beach.

"The neat thing is they have chosen to be come to Florence to make the opening remarks," Reynolds said.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry will open the event and introduce Congressman Peter DeFazio, OEM Director Andrew Phelps and OEM Geologic Hazards Coordinator Althea Rizzo, along with other city, county and state officials who will also be in attendance.

See DRILL 8A

Neighborhood watch forms in Old Town

Community members 'observe and report'

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

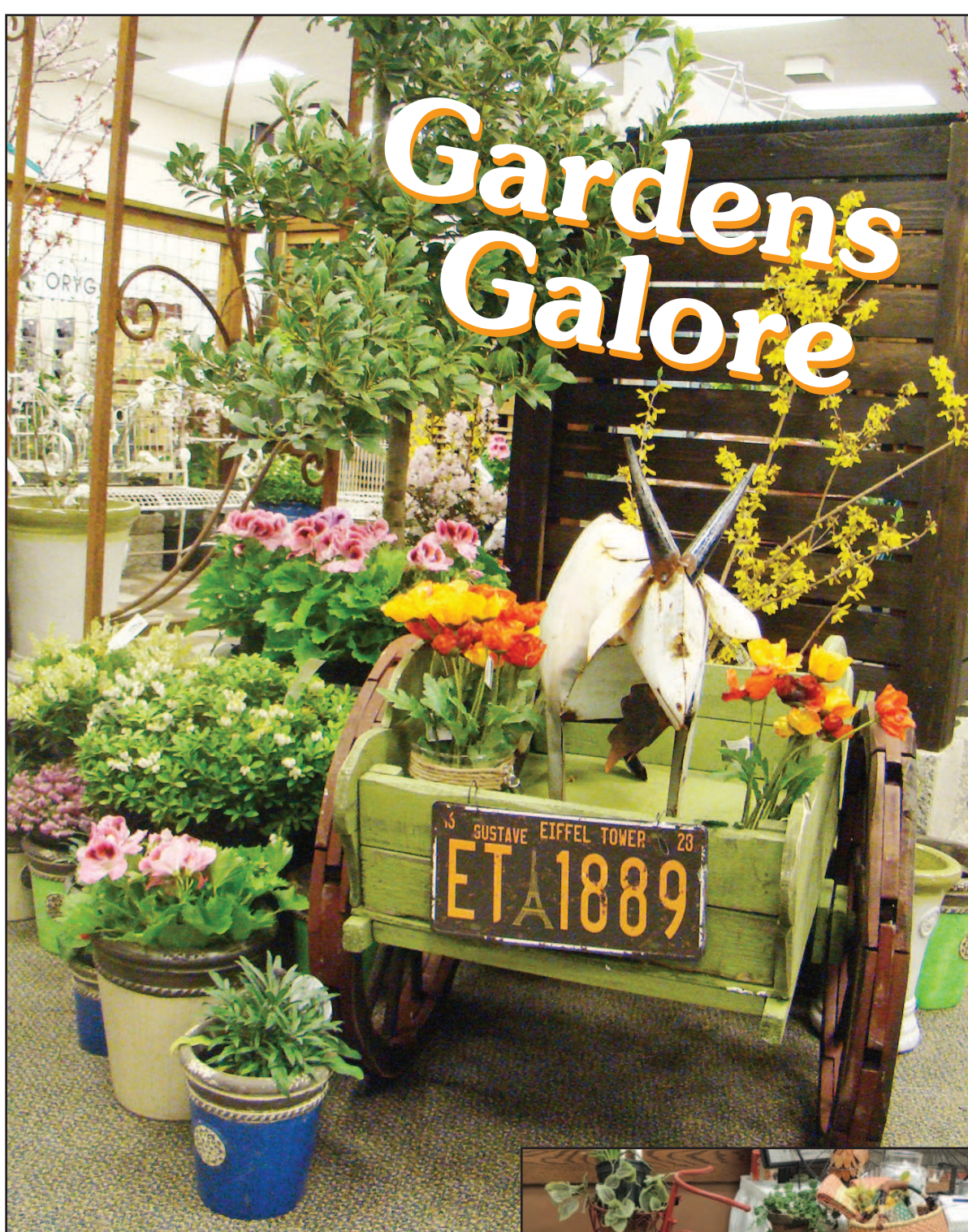
Residents in Old Town Florence have come together to begin Old Town East Neighborhood Watch after a series of crimes over the last months caused alarm. They presented safety ideas to the Florence City Council Monday and plan to continue to meet.

Bill Meyer, chairman of the neighborhood watch steering committee, said the group formed after a crime in the area concerned residents.

Bridgeport Market, 75 Harbor St., hosted the meeting where the watch formed and will host its next meeting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15.

See WATCH 8A

FLORENCE HOME & GARDEN SHOW



Gardens Galore

JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

20th annual show a success

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Above-average attendance, coupled with a unique blend of vendors, made the 20th annual Florence Home and Garden Show last weekend a gala event.

"It was one of our best shows ever," said Home and Garden Show coordinator and founder Jon Thompson, owner of Coast Radio.

Interactive displays and a variety of vendors filled the Florence Events Center March 4-6 with products and services and greeted guests as they approached the building. Inside, Florence Garden Club, supporters of the Home and Garden Show since the beginning, welcomed all who entered.

"It was a really great turnout with positive feedback



CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

from guests and vendors. I always hear how friendly this show is. All those things pulled together to make it one extraordinary weekend," Thompson said.

The yearly event is presented by Coast Radio and the Siuslaw News and is sponsored by Three Rivers Casino Resort, Bi-Mart and Central Lincoln PUD.

View more photos on page B1.

DUNES CITY Triathlon running strong

Sponsorships exceed last year; volunteers still needed

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

The fourth annual Dunes City Triathlon and Duathlon, Saturday, May 7, at Honeyman State Park, continues to grow in participants and sponsorships.

Last year, more than 200 athletes participated in the Olympic-certified triathlon's sprint race and swim, bike and foot race. This year's event is expected to exceed last year's numbers.

Participants from as far as Virginia will compete this year.

"It's exciting to think that we could have the next U.S. Olympic medalist right here in our community," said Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede.

This year's sponsorship participants far exceed last year and should put the event in the black for the second time in four years.

"Our athletes do not travel alone," said acting city administrator Jamie Mills. "They come with an entourage of family and friends and usually stay for the whole weekend. The event has proven to be a windfall for businesses in both Florence and Dunes City, filling motels and campgrounds and packing local eateries."

Three Rivers Casino Resort has committed to being a \$4,000 presenting sponsor. PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center and the City of Florence are \$1,000 gold sponsors and Darlings RV Resort and Marina, Old Town Inn and Mo's Restaurant are \$500 silver sponsors. In addition, more than 13 \$100 community sponsors have signed up to support the event.

According to Mills, as of this week, community sponsors include Florence Yamaha, The Shippin' Shack, Old Cedar Tree Woodworking, Oregon Pacific Bank, Vend West, West Coast Media Group, Sandland Adventures, Sand Master Park, C & M Stables, Grocery Outlet, Coast Insurance and Dunes City resident and city councilor Sheldon Meyer.

"Sponsorships at all levels are still available," Mills said. "But time is running short for those at a higher level to get logos included



BLACK
YELLOW
MAGENTA
CYAN

Grzeskowiak signs superintendent contract School board set to ratify current middle school principal tonight

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Current Siuslaw Middle School Principal Andrew Grzeskowiak has signed a \$105,000 one-year contract with the Siuslaw School District to replace retiring superintendent Ethel Angal on July 1, 2016.

The Siuslaw School Board will ratify the contract at its regular meeting tonight, March 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Grzeskowiak, 46, has been in education for 22 years and has spent the last 20 years at Siuslaw School District.

He graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in general science with a

minor in zoology in 1993.

Grzeskowiak was hired in August 1996 to teach physical science, biology and field studies at Siuslaw High School. He taught multiple science classes, coached football and assisted with technology.

He also was the high school athletic director for five years.

While teaching, Grzeskowiak completed his Initial Administration License at the University of Oregon in 2002.



Andrew Grzeskowiak

He was selected to be assistant principal for the high school and middle school in 2011. The position became full-time at the high school in 2012.

In 2013, Grzeskowiak was appointed interim principal at the middle school. That post became official later that school year and he has been the principal at Siuslaw Middle School since.

During his time as administrator, he completed his Continuing Administrator License through Lewis & Clark College.