

# CHAMPS IN THE MAKING

SPORTS — B



# New preschool play structure

INSIDE — A3



# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Drowning, fires reported over holiday weekend

*Multiple incidents keep local response agencies busy in Florence area*

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Emergency personnel responded to several incidents in the area — including a drowning in Mapleton, illness on the dunes and several brushfires — over the weekend as the sunshine and Independence Day holiday brought many people outdoors.

Western Lane Ambulance District, Mapleton Fire District, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Oregon State Police responded Sunday to the report of a missing swimmer in the Siuslaw River in Mapleton around 3:24 p.m.

Matt House, paramedic and supervisor with Western Lane Ambulance, said a 23-year-old male, from the Eugene area, was swimming with friends when he got separated from them and disappeared from sight.

House said the agencies expended “all their efforts” but could not get to the swimmer in time. As of Tuesday afternoon, no further details were available.

See **FOURTH 7A**

## Chamber shifts focus to better market Florence

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce is taking steps this year to move the economy of Florence and the surrounding areas forward.

At a recent Florence City Council meeting, members of the chamber board and staff presented the annual marketing report.

“This past year we’ve seen a few changes. We’ve hired a new executive director as well as a new events coordinator, a very daunting task,” Chamber Board President Jenna Bartlett said. “We’re very excited for the team we’ve assembled.”

See **CHAMBER 7A**

## FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND 2016



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS, NED HICKSON AND CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



# FREE AS A BIRD

*Florence celebrates Independence Day with fireworks, Wings and Wheels, eating contests and more*

**A** special visit from a World War II P51 Mustang Warbird, which flew into Florence Municipal Airport Friday, started a weekend of celebration and merriment for the Fourth of July. On Saturday, the airport hosted the annual Wings and Wheels Fly-In and Car Show and Oregon Coast Military Museum celebrated its first anniversary. Monday's activities included Yachats' La De Da Parade and Florence's pie- and watermelon-eating contests in Old Town and a fireworks show on the Siuslaw River. More photos are on page 7A.



## COOL PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

### SPECIAL FEATURE:

This summer we are highlighting unique spots that make the central Oregon coast one of the coolest places to live and play. New locations will be featured each month.

## South Jetty Area

South Jetty Road, Florence | 541-750-7000

AT A GLANCE: Crabbing, clamming, surfing, paddle boarding, fishing, wind surfing, beach walks, bird watching and dune buggy adventures are all waiting for you down Sand Dunes Road, just south of the Siuslaw River Bridge.

Turn west off Highway 101 onto South Jetty Road, which turns into Sand Dunes Road, and enter the most fun-packed stretch of the entire Oregon coast. You will need a license to crab, clam or fish, but everything else is free for the taking, with the purchase of a \$5 day pass.

The best spot for crabbing is off the public crabbing dock near the end of the road.



SIUSLAW NEWS PHOTO

**Class Act Theatre**  
509 Kingwood Street

www.catproductions.org 541-997-4815

**GRAND OPENING**

Saturday, July 9th

2:00pm Ribbon Cutting & Tour

7:00pm **FREE** Variety Show

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Full Forecast, A3

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