

Chief Turner addresses public safety

Presentations to council, area groups focus on preparedness

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence Police Chief Tom Turner has been delivering a message on public safety around town at various meetings and organizations. Last month he spoke before the Florence City Council on preparing for active shooter and other emergency situations.

Turner's June 20 presentation to the council came on the heels of the June 12 mass shooting at an Orlando, Fla., nightclub.

"I want to assure you that the law enforcement in our area, especially Florence Police Department, is making every effort to be prepared for any kind of emergency that might arise," Turner said. "Thankfully, percentages and past information shows that it's more likely going to be a natural disaster issue, as opposed to a mass casualty event."

He added that "it's hard to have a crystal ball to predict that" and that local law enforcement is looking at national and international events and trends.

"We want to be prepared as can be," he said.

Florence Police Department — with one corrections officer and 15 officers, including Turner — works closely with Lane County Sheriff's Office, with one local county deputy; Oregon State Police, with five local state troopers; and the four officers of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and

Siuslaw Indians Police Department for training, cross-agency drills, collaboration and other resources.

"One of the things I've been so pleased with in Florence is the ability of the community to work together with the police department, its resources and the different collaborative partners across our area in western Lane County," Turner said. "That's the type of thing that keeps us together and allows us to respond when and if something happens."

He told the council that the Florence Police Department has been part of the safety planning for many of the areas big events. "It's routine for us to be involved in the planning of these events. That's exactly the way it should be to provide the best service we possibly can," Turner said.

If an emergency were to happen, he said, an active population could help lessen the danger.

"These situations can be mediated, even prevented, by citizens being aware and vigilant of their surroundings and being ready to report suspicious activity — and potentially even taking action," Turner said.

His report also informed the council of continued steps the Florence police have made to increase readiness, improve response times and interact with the public.

"We've done really well with our National Child Safety

Council fundraising. So far this year, we've raised \$2,648," Turner said. The program raised \$1,700 in 2015. "The community has been really supportive. We have a lot of fun stuff to hand out, which makes it even more fun to participate with our juveniles in town."

The materials provide a positive interactive tool for youth, senior citizens and the population at large to meet with officers and City of Florence personnel.

"I like living here in Florence, and I like not being part of the rest of the world in some respects, because some of the stuff I have to talk about is truly a downer," Turner said. "We're

trying to keep everybody informed and up to date and let people know that we're really taking account of all this. We can't think as a community that it won't happen here — if we're prepared for it, we can better respond to it. It's one of the things we strive to do."

At the most recent city council meeting on Monday, City Manager Erin Reynolds said, "I want to say a thank you to our Florence police and everyone that supports them, including Oregon State Police and Lane County. On behalf of the City of Florence and our citizens, thank you for protecting us and being the best public safety people they can be."

Build 'bottle divers' Friday

Youth activity part of port's WindFest

Come build "bottle divers" with Laura Smith at the Florence Master Recycler booth at WindFest, located at the east end of the Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk, from 2 to 4 p.m., on Friday, July 15.

"Ms. Smith" is a volunteer for the Siuslaw Elementary School science program.

Recycled water bottles will be provided to build the bottle divers. Kids will be able to take the bottle divers home. Parents can spend time at the booth to learn ways to recycle, reduce trash, save natural resources and preserve the environment.

The Master Recyclers will return Aug. 12 and 26.

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240 HOURS

Is your family prepared?

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

Get your emergency sanitation kit started with these essentials:

- Plastic bucket with tightly fitting lid
- Plastic bags and ties
- Disinfectant, soap Improvised toilet seat (5-gallon bucket or a coffee can)
- Paper cups and plates
- Plastic utensils
- Personal toiletries & hygienic needs
- Toilet paper
- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels

This message brought to you by the West Lane Emergency Operations Group. www.wleog.org



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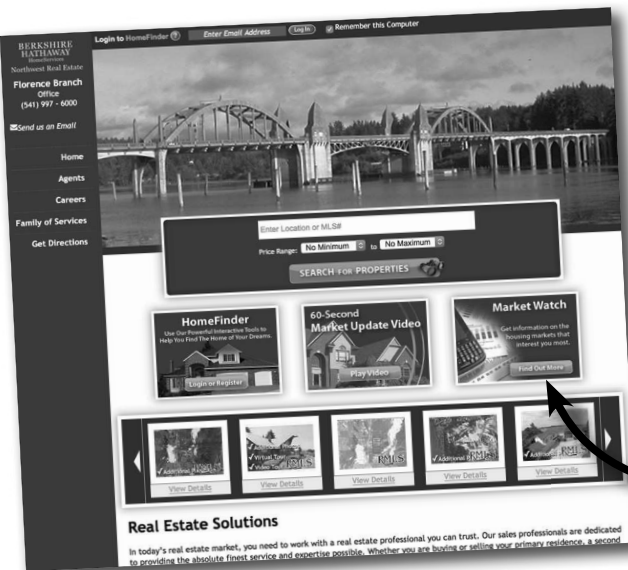


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NEW LISTING
Summerset Estates move in ready, RV parking, Large fenced backyard, large deck in back!
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1448 sq ft
\$237,000 BH7267 ML#16021700



NEW LISTING
Country setting, city close. Recently updated roof & septic. Level spacious lawn area buffered by trees for privacy
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 1460 sq ft
\$159,900 BH7287 ML#16565881



PRICE REDUCED
Recreational lakefront on Collard Lake. .47 acre, Old Growth trees, seasonal creek, warm Southern exposure, canoe, kayak, paddleboat, swim, fish & picnic!
\$59,000 BH7098 ML#15124919



NEW LISTING
Stellar family home in gated community
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1677 sq ft
\$299,000 BH7260 ML#16599424



NEW LISTING
Woahink lakefront contemporary home. 89.54' of frontage w/dock, boathouse & lift. All new hardiplank siding, new granite counters
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2283 sq ft
\$599,900 BH7274 ML#16579718



NEW LISTING
On Collard Lake with dock
2 Bdrm + den, 2 1/2 Ba 2006 sq ft
\$439,000 BH7289 ML#16630373



NEW LISTING
In town corner location. 2 curb cuts, fenced front & back plus alley. Single garage extra deep, RV/boat Ramada, hardwood floors, sun porch
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 792 sq ft
\$154,900 BH7282 ML#16079776



NEW LISTING
Siuslaw River, bridge & Old Town views, surrounded by park land, very private, septic approval, well in, minutes to town
1 acre
\$179,000 BH7288 ML#16510237



NEW LISTING
Calling all RV'rs! 2 1/2 acres, RV Ramada w/full hookups, Additional RV parking acre. 30 x 40 shop plus 2004 very nice double wide
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1404 sq ft
\$270,000 BH7294 ML#16097304