

WEIGHTROOM FACE-LIFT

SPORTS — B



MILITARY MUSEUM UNVEILS NEW DISPLAY

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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

ZOMBIE ATTACK

WILL WORK FOR BRAINS



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Something wicked this way comes down Bay Street as zombies “attack” Old Town on Thursday. After applying zombie makeup at Florence Playhouse, Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) students mobbed Music Director Jason Wood (at right) before visiting Old Town’s businesses and restaurants. CROW leaders and volunteers taught the students about stage makeup and backstage theater techniques, such as lighting, sound, props, costumes, marketing and sets, during the Technical Theater Summer Camp.

Plans for City Hall remodel underway

\$1.9M project to improve safety, accessibility

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

At the Florence City Council meeting on Aug. 1, Project Manager Megan Messmer updated the council on plans for a \$1.9 million remodel of City Hall. The project, still in early planning stages, is projected to be completed in fiscal year 2017-18.

Messmer said, “This is the process and plan for how we can update the current City Hall and remodel to accommodate our needs.”

According to the staff report, both the main floor of City Hall, at 7,812 square feet, and the basement, 1,588 square feet, will undergo a remodel. About 800 square feet will be added to the west side of the building to accommodate conference space and an updated City Council Chamber.

Messmer said the remodel and expansion will improve customer service, safety and security, accessibility, work flow, meeting spaces, records management, technology and building maintenance and efficiency.

The remodeled City Hall is projected to last 35 to 40 years and accommodate a doubled Florence-area population.

See **REMODEL 7A**

Police, citizens work to keep Miller Park safe

Social media helps city monitor reports of ‘suspicious activity’

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

A spate of social media posts from concerned residents on Facebook prompted Florence police to investigate calls about suspicious activity in Miller Park last Monday.

At the Florence City Council meeting on Aug. 1, City Manager Erin Reynolds said, “We noticed a post on Facebook that had some concerns about Miller Park. We shared them with the chief.”

The city designated Project Manager Megan Messmer as its social media coordinator to make posts, alert residents about activities and bring concerns from the online world to the city’s real-world departments.

Florence Police Chief Tom Turner said, “What I’ve noticed is that Facebook is almost as fast as dispatch.”

According to the posts, area residents were concerned by suspicious activity, such as juveniles smoking and illegal drug use or sales, in Miller Park.

See **SAFETY 7A**

PeaceHealth to discuss doctor shortage at forum

Community invited to attend Aug. 18 event

The City of Florence and PeaceHealth Medical Group are sponsoring a health care town hall forum Thursday, Aug. 18, to inform the community about the national provider shortages, the impact this is having on the greater Florence area and what PeaceHealth is doing to shore up these critical resources.

The public is invited to participate in this free event, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

During this forum, PeaceHealth leaders will address issues including:

- Nationwide health care provider shortages and the challenges of hiring for the Florence market;
- What action plans have been/will be implemented by PeaceHealth to recruit permanent and temporary providers; and

See **FORUM 7A**

School Board operates under new leadership

Siuslaw School Board elected Bill McDougale, the district’s newest board member, chairman for the 2016-17 school year, replacing Tammy Butler during the July 27 meeting.

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

McDougale, a retired educator with 35 years of experience in the Bakersfield, Calif., school district and 10 years on the Bakersfield school board, was selected to fill a vacant board position in August 2015.

“It was very unexpected,” McDougale said. “I appreciate the trust the fellow board members have in me.”

The board voted to retain Paul Burns as vice-chairman through June 2017. The July meeting also was the first for newly elected Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak.

See **SCHOOL 7A**

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