

# VIKINGS FALL TO FALCONS

SPORTS — B



# Hot rods rev up for car show

SPECIAL SECTION — C



# Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 72

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FLORENCE, OREGON

## PURRFECT PAIRING

Local theater, humane society partner for upcoming play, 'Sylvia'



The production team of Class Act Theatre learns the proper way to interact with dogs during a recent visit to the Oregon Coast Humane Society.

Back row: OCHS Director Tanya Garrett, CAT producer Paula Burnette, CAT owner Rosemary Lauria and animal care technicians Susan Lynch and Kip Foster. Seated: Actress Polly Fleming, Stewart the dog and CAT owner David Lauria.

Inset, Burnette bonds with a kitten at the Florence shelter.



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

By Chantelle Meyer  
Siuslaw News

Class Act Theatre (CAT) wants to help more Florence-area pets get adopted into loving homes. That's why it is working with Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) to feature ways people can volunteer, foster and adopt cats and dogs — all through CAT's upcoming production of "Sylvia."

"If you've ever had a dog in your life, 'Sylvia' is going to resonate with you," according to the playwright. A.R. Gurney wrote "Sylvia" about a man who adopts a dog he finds in the park, his wife, their marriage and the ways a street-smart dog turns their lives around. "I was in love with the script by page three," said Rosemary Lauria, who owns CAT with her husband David. David Lauria plays Greg, who becomes

smitten with poodle-labrador mix Sylvia, played by Polly Fleming. "Most of the play is from a dog's point of view. It's not the way we overlay our mores and taboos," he said. "Don't listen to everything Sylvia says. She's a little disgruntled," said CAT producer Paula Burnette, who plays Greg's wife, Kate. Alexander Grady and Rosemary also star in the play.

See CAT 9A

## Mapleton schools find lead in water

District shuts off 10 of its drinking water and food-prep sources

By Jack Davis  
Siuslaw News

MAPLETON — Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O'Mara announced Friday that 10 of the district's 35 food prep sinks and drinking fountains exceeded the minimum acceptable lead levels of 20 parts per billion (ppb) established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The district used a drinking water laboratory accredited by the Oregon Health Authority to analyze the water samples. Samples from all 35 locations were taken Aug. 19 and delivered to the lab on Aug. 23. The district received the test results on Aug. 29.

Elevated levels were discovered in the district's elementary and high school buildings. The affected sources have been shut off to prevent exposure.

Testing was done in response to EPA and state of Oregon recommendations.

"I was pleased that we were able to address all of the issues quickly to ensure that when students and staff return to school they have safe drinking water," O'Mara said. "The health and safety of our students and staff is our No. 1 priority."

See SCHOOLS 9A

## City Council works to improve fiber access

Franchise agreement with CoastCom renewed

By Chantelle Meyer  
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council voted to extend a telecommunications franchise agreement with CoastCom for one year after a lengthy discussion during the Aug. 15 council meeting.

Through the process, the council voted in favor of economic development and future improved access to fiber and telecommunications in Florence.

City Project Manager Megan Messmer said, "Currently the city has an agreement with CoastCom to provide telecommunications, Internet and fiber services through town and to institutions in town."

The agreement has been in effect since 2008 with little to no changes.

According to the staff report, telecommunications means the transmission of data. This includes fiber, a technology that converts electrical signals carrying data to light and sends the light through transparent glass fibers.

See COUNCIL 9A

## 'Caroline's Cart' now available at Fred Meyer

Shopping cart assists special needs children and adults in Florence

By Jack Davis  
Siuslaw News

Caroline's Cart, designed for older special needs children and adults, is now available at Fred Meyer in Florence. The store has been offering the cart for several months.

Fred Meyer Store Manager Tim Cornish said, "We have a customer that moved here from The Dalles and has a special needs child that is too old

for the regular carts. She said the Fred Meyer there had one and she asked if we could order one for our store. I had never heard about it, but it sounded like a great idea. We contacted our corporate office and got it approved."

According to Cornish, about six or seven families currently use the cart on a weekly basis.

"It has been a godsend for those parents. It allows them to have a much easier



COURTESY PHOTO

shopping experience," he said.

The cart is specially designed so that a child too

large to fit into the more conventional shopping cart's child seat can comfortably sit in Caroline's

Caroline's Cart inventor Drew Ann Long demonstrates how the specially designed shopping cart works for children or adults with disabilities.

Cart and be safely wheeled around while shopping.

Drew Ann and David Long, parents of special needs daughter Caroline, designed and patented the cart that is manufactured by Technibilt in Newton, N.C.

Lynn Warshawsky, grandparent of a special needs

See CART 9A