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VIKINGS BACK AT NO. 1

SPORTS — B



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Walking the walk

Sunday's Domestic Violence Awareness March draws attention to pervasive issue

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The community is invited to take a walk on Bay Street Sunday during the annual March Against Domestic Violence.

Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) plans the annual event in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"The main reason we march is that people don't like to discuss domestic violence. It makes it more difficult to address," said David Wiegman, SOS executive director.

According to Wiegman, one in four women will experience domestic violence in their lives, and one in 10 men.

"On one day — Sept. 14 — we had nine victims of domestic violence come into SOS. We normally get three to four a week, and about 170 a year normally. This was shocking," Wiegman said.

SOS provides services such as housing and utility assistance, laundry and shower vouchers and emergency shelters for people in the Florence, Mapleton, Reedsport and Yachats areas, essentially serving much of western Lane County.

"If you want to solve a problem, you have to define it. We're making people aware of this issue and removing the stigma," Wiegman said.

One way people are calling attention to domestic violence is by writing letters to the editor and speaking in public settings.

Mayor Joe Henry read a proclamation naming October "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" during the Sept. 19 Florence City Council meeting.

"It's just wonderful that our Mayor, Florence's first citizen, acknowledges the existence of domestic violence in this city. It makes it more comfortable for people to talk about it," Wiegman said.

He said the reason many people don't come forward and report domestic violence is the "old-fashioned notion" that what belongs in the home stays in the home.

"We've got to get rid of the notion that this is OK. That old school thinking is out of date, obsolete and dangerous," Wiegman said.

Seeing people, including city officials, emergency operations groups and every day citizens, gather to march can give strength and courage to victims.

"People come forward to get help as a result of this march. We're marching to draw attention and showing that we can advocate for you," Wiegman said.

Hearing personal stories of survival and overcoming abuse help other people report issues for themselves and their neighbors.

The important thing he wants victims of domestic violence to know is that they are not alone, and they can get help.

"You think that you are alone in your situation, that no one can help you. That's not the case at all," Wiegman said.

See **MARCH 9A**

A bushel and a peck

Twin Lakes Store seeks produce as fundraiser for annual Holiday Giving Tree

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Twin Lakes Store owner Vicki Ambrosio is raising money to sponsor the store's fourth annual Giving Tree to provide Christmas presents to teenagers.

"This is for teenagers in our area, from Heceta Beach to the Lane County line. This is an age group that gets neglected at Christmas time," Ambrosio said.

The three-month campaign starts in October, when the store collects fruit and vegetables from local gardeners to sell. All of the proceeds go to supporting the Giving Tree program.

"I do the fundraising from now until Christmas," Ambrosio said. "The first thing I do is the fundraiser with the produce."

Ambrosio said she is looking for more people to donate fruit and vegetables from their gardens.

"This year, I'm getting a lot of apples. I haven't seen a lot of greens yet," she said.

Apples and Asian pears are cur-



Twin Lakes Store owner Vicki Ambrosio shows off apples and Asian pears available for purchase to support the store's fourth annual Giving Tree program for teens living north of Florence.

rently available for purchase at the store.

Area residents also donate hand-made items to be sold to help the program.

"In the past, people have made jewelry and hats or scarves," Ambrosio said. "We even raffled off a University of Oregon quilt some-

one made."

The tree goes up right after Thanksgiving and paper ornaments with each teen's wish list are hung as decorations.

"I don't put the name on the tree," Ambrosio said. "The stars on the tree have numbers, instead of names, to protect the anonymity of

the teens. I keep the names and when we package up all the presents their name goes on, so when they get their presents, their name is on it."

Ambrosio said the stars also have the teen's age and what items they would like to receive, as well as their clothing sizes. Each youth lists their wants and needs as well as educational supply needs.

"I ask the kids to get their application and wish lists in before Thanksgiving," Ambrosio said.

In past years, the Giving Tree has had between 25 and 29 stars.

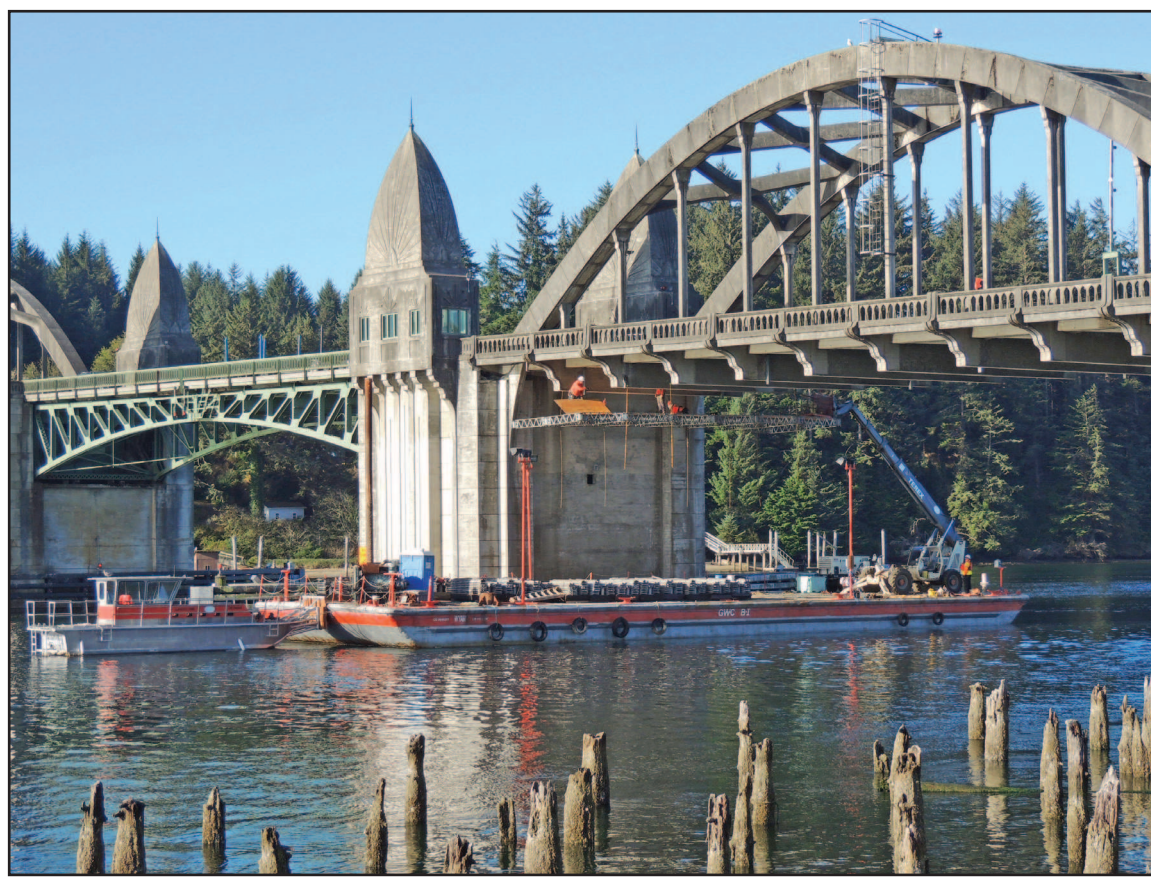
"Sometime people just buy one item on the list and sometimes they will fill the kids wish list. The community has been very generous," she said.

All the presents need to be dropped off at the store in time to be distributed during the Christmas party held the week before Christmas at

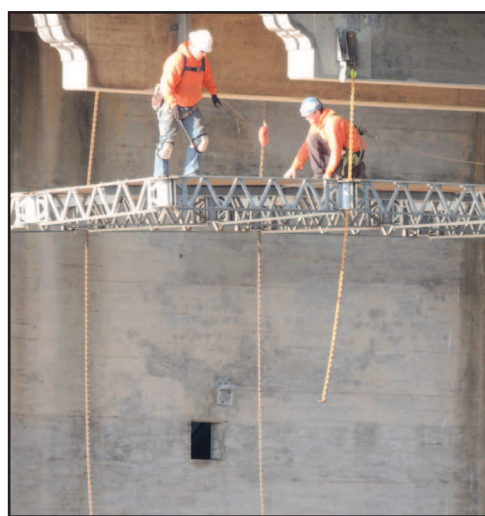
Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Clear Lake Station No. 8.

Twin Lakes Store, at 88940 Highway 101 North, is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call the store at 541-997-3021.

BRIDGE WORK MOVES ACROSS THE WATER



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and contractor Hamilton Construction continue to work on the Cathodic Protection Project on the Siuslaw River Bridge. Construction has extended into the first segment over the water with the use of a barge and crane. Construction involves seismic improvements, repairs and reinforcement of the bridge's concrete and the replacement of the bridge railing. ODOT plans to complete the project in early 2019.

Port reviews rate increase, dredge work

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

During the Sept. 21 meeting, Port of Siuslaw commissioners received reports on revenue increases, real estate updates and dredge funding streamlining.

Port Administrative Assistant Dina McClure said the August campground occupancy rate was 88 percent for 2016, compared to 91 percent for 2015, and moorage occupancy was 68 percent, down from 71 percent last year.

"Those numbers are down a little bit, but we have seen an increase in hiker/biker occupancy," she said.

According to McClure, even though the percentages were down slightly, revenues were still higher than last August for both the campground and the marina. This is because of a rate increase September 2015.

McClure also told the board that the port now has two funds, a capital maintenance fund, which currently has three projects budgeted, and the general fund, which has all the operational income and expenses.

Port Manager Steven Leskin told commissioners that Eugene commercial realtor John Brown was now representing the port's 40-acre Pacific View property and that the property had 31 views on the broker's proprietary websites.

"The origins of those views are from all over the state and quite a few from France. Right now we are the only property on the (Oregon) coast of this size," Leskin said.

See **PORT 9A**