

7th Annual Wellness Fair Work/Life Balance

Door prizes, kid games, and more!

October 27th from 11AM to 3PM at Three Rivers Casino Resort in Florence!

SAILOR SENIORS PREP FOR FINAL HOME GAME

SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

STORM WATCH

Teapot without a tempest

'Storm' not as severe as NOAA predictions

Florence dodged the first major storm of the fall season last week. The predicted heavy rains did show up, but without the predicted 60 to 80 miles per hour wind gusts that could have been disastrous.

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

According to city of Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller, one tree blew down blocking one lane of Rhododendron Drive early Monday morning, but city crews had it removed before it caused any trouble.

No power outages were reported in Florence, though Central Lincoln PUD reported one outage in Mapleton on Thursday.

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Fire Chief Jim Langborg reported no weather related incidents through Sunday.

"It was quiet and that's what we were hoping for," Langborg said.

Many residents used the storm warning to winterize their yards and decks.

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency sent out an apology for the storm predictions that did not materialize.

Great Pumpkin Giveaway set for Thursday

Since the very first KCST Great Pumpkin giveaway 27 years ago, the annual event has been a birthday party with a different sort of twist. Instead of bringing a birthday gift, people attending get something to take home: a pumpkin.

That was true in 1989 when KCST Radio General Manager Jon Thompson decided to give away hundreds of pumpkins to celebrate KCST's first anniversary on the air.

It will hold true again this Thursday, Oct. 20, when Thompson, Coast Radio and Florence True Value team up for the ninth time.

"Over the years, we've done different things at the Great Pumpkin," said Thompson, "but one thing has remained the same — and that's the pumpkins themselves."

The large orange gourds have been handed out to kids under 18 years old each year.

Since 2008, another common thread has been the participation of the Lemhouse family, owners of Florence True Value, the Saw Shop and Old School Furniture. They will host the event once again in the side parking lot of Old School Furniture and the Saw Shop. They provide the space and the pumpkins, as well as games and activities for the kids.

Coast Radio puts together a live broadcast and coordinates the free hot dogs, from Keri's Dunes Café and Florence Dairy Queen, and A&W Root Beer, from A&W in Florence, as well as treat bags filled with candy for the kids.

KCST News Director Bob Sneddon says, "Not only do we have the crew from True Value, but we get a huge turnout from the Florence-Siuslaw Lions Club to cook and serve, along with Siuslaw Valley Firefighters to hand out the pumpkins."

This year an estimated 2 tons of pumpkins will go to kids, while they last. The party is scheduled, rain or shine, from 3 to 5 p.m. with the pumpkin giveaway begins at 4 p.m. sharp and continues while supplies last.

City sends in Coast Guard City USA application



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Mayor Joe Henry submits the City of Florence's application to become a "Coast Guard City USA" to Station Siuslaw River's commanding officer Chief Boatswain Mate Tim Tregoning as U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist Deborah Heldt Cordone looks on during the Oct. 17 city council meeting.

Council also approves property annexation, hears reports

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

After three months of preparation, the City of Florence officially handed over its Coast Guard City USA application to Chief Boatswain Mate Tim Tregoning, officer in charge of U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River, and Coast Guard Auxiliarist Deborah Heldt Cordone during the Oct. 17 council meeting.

"This is a designation only given to a few cities in the United States. There are only two others in Oregon, one in Astoria and one in Newport," Florence Mayor Joe Henry said.

According to Henry, the city received 35 letters of support from organizations and individuals, including U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio and state, county and local officials.

"This designation recognizes the community support for the U.S. Coast Guard unit here on the Siuslaw River," Henry said.

The U.S. Coast Guard will now consider the application for acceptance.

City Planning Director Wendy

Farley-Campbell said, "The application will go up the chain of command from Senior Chief Tregoning to Admiral Zukunft, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, and then to Congress. The application needs approval all the way up, including Congressional approval, to become a Coast Guard City."

The application was presented in both digital format and hard copy. It included an introductory letter, a short history of the Coast Guard in Florence, background on the City of Florence, an extensive list of community action and outreach supporting the Coast Guard, an illustrative photo montage of events and supporting letters written by government officials, community members and organizations.

"I am confident we will be seriously considered for the designation," Farley-Campbell said.

"There are many letters of support, including from three U.S. Congressmen from the State of

Oregon. At the very least, we can become a Coast Guard Community, but our highest hope is to become a Coast Guard City, which has more stringent criteria."

In other business, council members approved the annexation of several parcels of property located along Highway 126 at the request of property owner Donald Saxon.

Henry said, "We are talking about that building that has been on stilts for the past 10 years. This is an example of what we have been working really hard on for the last several years."

Saxon said, "The attitude in the city has changed for the better. If this had been four or five years ago nothing would happen around this town. I appreciate that everyone has a better attitude. The (city) staff and you folks have made it easy for me."

The annexation will bring the property onto the city's tax rolls while allowing city services

See CITY 7A

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION SPEAKS TO FRIENDS

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Representatives of Court Appointed Special Advocates of Eugene, (CASA), spoke at this month's Florence Friendship Club Oct. 13 about the need in the Florence community for its services.

Director of Development and Communications for Lane County Katie Gatlin and Volunteer Coordinator Robben Lyons spoke to the club at Driftwood Shores and explained CASA's mission, training and support system.

Emphasizing the growing need for volunteers, Gatlin said CASA provides supplemental support to young people that are in difficult domestic situations.

Gatlin said, "There are over 1,000 youngsters in foster care in Lane County and many of them benefit greatly from CASA."

Gatlin went on to explain that CASA members make a huge difference in children's quality of life.

There are currently 12 children in the Florence area with CASA and 45 youths waiting for assistance.

Gatlin emphasized that CASA volunteers often provide the most consistent adult influence in the children's lives.

In addition to directly advocating for children, CASA also saves the public significant amounts of money.

"Last year, over 400 youngsters worked with CASA in Lane County, saving the county approximately \$17,000 in additional legal fees and court costs," Gatlin said.

Training is extensive, generally taking about six months. Volunteers can attend workshops and classes in Eugene or online.

The volunteers are then sworn in by a judge authorizing them to advocate in court for an abused or neglected child.

Lyons also pointed out the many benefits to children that CASA provides, including being the eyes and ears for the court while making informed recommendations to the court.

CASA representatives also help to assure that children receive all services necessary to survive.

Lyons and Gatlin presented at Monday night's Florence City Council meeting.

To become a volunteer or to donate, contact CASA at 541-868-3087.



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

An eye to the future

Community retrospective looks back at important activism in the Siuslaw region

The Gallery Above Silver Lining Boutique on Highway 101 opened a retrospective of 25 years of social activism in Florence on Saturday.

The event highlighted, on a number of large panels with all types of information displayed, the different issues and controversies that have been part of the ongoing discussions in the community over the last quarter century.

Gallery owner Kimberly Fleenor said the gallery has a history of being a place to share and explore ideas.

"The Silver Lining Boutique has always been a safe haven for thoughts. I believe in inclusion, not exclusion," she said.

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Each of the panels is focused on a particular topic. Panels

feature graphics and images addressing environmental degradation, indigenous peoples and women's issues, health care, corporate expansion, anti-war efforts and local zoning priorities.

The organizers of the month-long event hope that this presentation will not only reinforce the strong sense of purpose in the area, but also show the importance of citizen participation in Florence.

Stu Henderson, one of the exhibit's organizers, said, "The show is one way that the people who were

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