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# Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 87

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

HALLOWEEN 2016

## BEWITCHING HOUR



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS



**G**houls and ghosts, skeletons and princesses, sharks, gnomes, pirates, heroes and more — that's what Halloween is for! Hundreds of children and their families got into the spirit of Halloween as they swarmed the merchants of Historic Old Town Florence Monday during the annual Trick or Treat in Old Town. Businesses handed out candies and treats for two hours. Elsewhere in town, churches and community groups held dances, parties, "trunk-or-treats" and even the Scare-CROW Haunted Maze. For more photos, see page 11A.



## Chief Tipler retires after 35 years



COURTESY PHOTO

Operations Chief Marvin Tipler

**S**iuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Operations Chief Marvin Tipler gets to hang up his helmet this week after 35 years with the Florence-area fire department. He officially retired Aug. 1, but contracted to remain until

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

a replacement operations chief was hired. Jim Dickerson, of Netarts, Ore., joins the fire station this week, and Tipler's last day is Friday. Tipler, 53, announced his retirement to the Siuslaw Valley Board of Directors during the July 20 meeting.

At that time, he said, "My goal is to make the transition as smooth as possible and do whatever the district needs to be successful in the future."

"Congratulations on your retirement. I think you'll enjoy it," said Board President John Scott.

Board member Lori Gates said, "Good for you." Tipler said, "I'm going to volunteer throughout the community. I've got plenty of home improvement projects, plenty of hobbies and plenty of friends who need help."

Siuslaw Valley is holding an open house reception for Tipler this Friday, Nov. 4, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the main fire station, 2625 Highway 101, in the upstairs meeting room. Refreshments and light snacks will be served.

See **OPERATIONS 9A**

## Experts say sea squirt unique, harmless

**A**fter spying an unusual sea creature on the sand of Heceta Beach, a resident of Florence submitted a photo of a sea squirt.

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

According to the Director of the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Craig Young, the animal is called Pyrosoma, or sea squirt, and it is a harmless visitor to our beaches.

The name has nothing to do with the animal's diminutive size but refers instead to its method of propulsion.

"They swim while they feed by drawing water thru siphons on the outside of their tunic tube then expelling it to the inside. This allows the whole colony to move by jet propulsion," Young said.

He speculates that the reason some of these unusual animals may be washing up on shore is our recent stormy weather coupled with high wave activity.

"The animals' little spikes are not sharp and you can pick up the animal and handle it

See **SEA SQUIRTS 9A**

## Quince Street land up for bid More than 14 acres offered in sealed-bid auction

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Two lots along Quince Street in Florence, amounting to more than 14 acres, will be sold through a sealed bid auction ending Nov. 15.

One site, totaling 13.39 acres, fronts Quince Street and has 6.33 acres of useable land zoned for multiple-family, lodging, assisted living and additional commercial uses.

According to Principal Broker John Rosenthal, the minimum asking price has been reduced from \$1,400,000 to \$720,000.

City Manager Erin Reynolds said the property owner, Aspen Flo, LLC, no longer wants the property in their investment portfolio.

The other property is 37,470



COURTESY PHOTO

This site map shows two parcels (No. 120 and No. 122) located along Quince Street being auctioned off in a sealed-bid auction between now and Nov. 15.

square feet on the corner of Quince Street and Highway 126.

A third one-acre parcel adjacent to the north end of the Florence Events Center (FEC) was purchased by the city for \$180,000 prior to the auction date. The city plans to turn it into additional FEC parking.

Reynolds said, "The city has had a great partnership with the Aspen group. This has been a pretty stagnant commercial market for many years and the city is excited about the prospects and the ongoing business relationship we have had with the Aspen group."

According to Reynolds, the last significant new commercial development in Florence was the Fred Meyer store that opened in 2000.

See **AUCTION 9A**

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