

# ROLLING TO THE TOP

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# Talking turkeys

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# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

A man contemplates the Pacific Ocean at Heceta Beach near Driftwood Shores and the Siuslaw River North Jetty.

## Tomorrow's Cape Perpetua Land/Sea Symposium focuses on coastal connections

**O**n Nov. 17, the fourth annual Cape Perpetua Land/Sea Symposium will be held at the Yachats Commons in Yachats, a 20-minute drive from Florence. The event will be presented from 5 to 8:30 p.m. by the Oregon Surfrider Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service.

The symposium will feature guest speakers State Sen. Arnie Roblan and Rep. David Gomberg, Oregon State University Senior Research Fellow Francis Chan and presentations from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon State Police.

The purpose of the symposium, according to Surfriders Oregon Policy Coordinator Charlie Plybon, is to promote community awareness and involvement in the current

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

research and stewardship programs ongoing in the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve.

Plybon said, "The symposium is a great opportunity to network and speak with individuals and groups that are involved with the Cape Perpetua reserve and discuss how to build upon recent progress in safeguarding this vital resource."

Plybon also pointed out that the health of the ocean is directly tied to the land, which is the reason for the inclusion of "land" in the events title.

Plybon said, "The ocean and terrestrial land are connected and healthy oceans require healthy terrestrial habitats to support both terrestrial and ocean habitats."

That is also the reason that Haley Epperly, from ODFW will be discussing the importance of maintaining the health of the forests and parks that allow public access to the ocean.

Laura Anderson, owner of Local Oregon, one of the coast's premier seafood destinations, will give the symposium's keynote address. Anderson is also a member of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission and works with the Newport Pacific Heritage and Maritime Center.

There is no charge for admittance to the event and food and beverages will be provided.

For more information or to register, go to [www.eventbrite.com/e/cape-perpetua-land-sea-symposium-2016-tickets-28517128499?aff](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/cape-perpetua-land-sea-symposium-2016-tickets-28517128499?aff) or contact Charlie Plybon at 541-961-8143.

## ECONOMY

# City sees development growth

*Several land sales and construction projects are a sign of healthy development*

Recent new commercial construction and land sales in Florence indicate signs of a strengthening economy.

**BY JACK DAVIS**  
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence is finalizing plans and finances for the \$3.3 million Public Works facility construction project.

City Project Manager Megan Messmer said construction of the project will begin early January with a completion deadline for the new facility set for June 30, 2017.

The city will make a decision on which bid to accept for the 13,696 square-foot Public Works facility by Dec. 19.

Sealed bids were due yesterday on more than 14 acres of land across Quince Street from the Florence Events Center.

The largest Quince Street parcel, totaling 13.39 acres with 6.33 acres of useable land, had a minimum bid price of \$720,000. It is zoned for multiple-family, lodging, assisted living and additional commercial uses.

The two development sites were offered as part of the Realty Marketing/ Northwest Fall 2016 Auction that ended Nov. 15.

Options Counseling and Family Services has broken ground on phase 1 of a 2-phase 4,165 square-foot office building on Eighth Street, behind Siuslaw Public Library.

Options Counseling and Family Services is a nonprofit mental health and family services agency operating in eight Oregon cities, including Florence. The new construction will expand the organization's Florence outreach.

At least one more potential new business will be discussed during the Nov. 21 city council meeting.

For more information, go to the City of Florence's website at [ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us).

## Siuslaw Valley chooses new volunteer coordinator

Station 2 Chief Peter Warren selected to fill 4-year FEMA grant position

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

**S**iuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) Old Town Station 2 volunteer chief Peter Warren was selected over four other applicants to be SVFR's new Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator.

Warren, 58, an 11-year volunteer with SVFR, moved to Florence with his wife Elke 12 years ago after retiring from the U.S. Air Force.

Fire Chief Jim Langborg said, "We had an extensive selection process that involved an application review and five different assessment stations that covered everything from interviews to scenario based situations that would be faced in this job."

"We had five applicants compete for the position. They all did well, but Pete rose to the top," Langborg added.

The position was made possible through a four-year Staffing and Adequate Firefighting Response grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

According to Langborg, the FEMA grant totals more than \$650,000 over four years and will fund the new position and pay for equipment, recruitment and training for new volunteers for SVFR, Mapleton Rural Fire District (RFD) and Swisshome/Deadwood RFD.

"We really need help in the recruitment

aspect here," Warren said. "Recruitment and retention has dropped off significantly in some years. It is tougher now. Most families have two breadwinners now and there is not very much spare time. But it is a very important mission to have a department here."

He added, "By having enough volunteers, it will be beneficial for everybody."

Langborg said Warren has a list of goals to achieve for his first year, including recruiting 20 new volunteers; 12 for SVFR, four for Mapleton RFD and four for Swisshome/Deadwood RFD.

In addition to recruiting, Warren's first year goals include holding two joint recruit academies by Dec. 1, 2017 and certifying 15 volunteer firefighters trained at the Firefighter-1 certification level by Dec. 1, 2017.

Warren feels his military experience will help in his new job assignment.

"One of the positions I held in the Air Force had a direct relationship to recruiting

See **COORDINATOR 11A**

## 'Tis the season for giving

16th annual Food Share Pounding returns Nov. 19

The 16th annual Pounding for Florence Food Share, a holiday food drive, continues the Saturday before Thanksgiving thanks to host Cindy Wobbe and event sponsors KCST Coast Radio and Grocery Outlet. This year's event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 19 at Grocery Outlet, 2066 Highway 101.

Wobbe founded the event with Coast Radio's Jon Thompson in 2001 to match donations — pound for pound — for Florence Food Share. For every pound of food that the community raises, the anonymous donor will make an equal contribution in dollars.

People can donate any item, including fresh ingredients, frozen foods and supplies for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The staff at Grocery Outlet, led by owner Woody Woodbury, will label many of Florence Food Share's needed items.

To donate to the Pounding, go to Grocery Outlet on Saturday, Nov. 19, and make a donation of canned foods, frozen turkeys, holiday treats and other goods. People can even donate cash.

For a full list of ways to donate to Florence Food Share, visit [www.florencefoodshare.org](http://www.florencefoodshare.org).

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**THIS WEEK'S WEATHER**  
Full Forecast, A3

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