



Thanksgiving Greetings

SPECIAL FEATURE — C



# Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 93

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Food Share volunteers prepare supplies for 100 to 200 boxes of complete Thanksgiving dinners for area families.

## Talking turkey

Florence Food Share hands out nearly 200 community-sponsored Thanksgiving meals

Nearly 100 individuals were in line outside Florence Food Share early Tuesday morning, in chilly weather, in the hopes of receiving one of a limited number of boxes containing a complete turkey dinner for Thanksgiving.

Food Share Executive Director Norma Barton said the clients her organization serves often face challenges during the holiday season.

"We serve an average of 1800 individuals a month, and we are distributing these turkey boxes so they don't have to choose between paying an electric bill and eating," she said.

Barton also wanted to emphasize that this effort is made possible entirely by individuals who took it upon themselves to make a positive difference for someone else this Thanksgiving. Most importantly, she wanted to thank the community for making the distribution possible.

"We, Food Share, are not giving the turkey boxes away. The community purchased turkey box vouchers at Safeway, so it is the community members that are giving these boxes of food to their neighbors, and that is just fantastic," Barton said.

She also pointed out that Food Share is primarily staffed by volunteers and during the holidays their staffing needs increase.

"We always need volunteers," she said. "We need regular volunteers, evening and weekend volunteers, people to help stock the shelves, greet clients and walk with them through the shelves and to work in the garden and the warehouse."

Food Share hopes to distribute close to 200 Thanksgiving boxes this year and, judging by the line outside Food Share on Tuesday, they will have no problem meeting that goal.

For more information, to donate or to volunteer, call 541-997-9110.



## Peace Harbor clinic offers free HIV testing

HIV Alliance and PeaceHealth join to check Florence-area HIV outbreak

In response to a recent significant increase in HIV positive test results in Florence, the HIV Alliance and PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center have initiated free HIV and hepatitis C testing at the walk in clinic at 310 Ninth St., every Friday from noon to 6 p.m.

"We are ramping up our prevention services in the region and encouraging people to get

tested. Everyone in Florence should know their status and with our rapid tests we can have your result ready in just 20 minutes," said HIV Alliance Executive Director, Renee Yandel.

In addition to testing, counseling and referral services are also being offered.

Florence has seen an alarming increase in the numbers of HIV positive test results over the last two years.

According to the HIV Alliance in the last few months, Florence has seen 6 new HIV infections, a 300 percent increase from 2015, and 600 percent from 2014.

See TESTING 7A

## Shop for gifts 'around town' this Saturday

Chamber, area businesses join national movement to #shopsmall this holiday

First there was Black Friday, a huge shopping day the day after Thanksgiving, then there was Cyber Monday, when online retailers offer specials on electronics and online purchases, and now there is Small Business Saturday, coming this weekend to Florence area businesses.

By CHANTELE MEYER Siuslaw News

Although initially started by American Express, businesses supporting Small Business Saturday do not have to accept the credit card service to use "Small Business Saturday," #shoplocal or #shopsmall — searchable tags for online and social media postings — to support their business this weekend.

"Every business in our town is a small business," said Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bettina Hannigan. "Bi-Mart and Fred Meyer are small businesses in our community. They're big to us, but they're still local. Their dollars stay here."

Many businesses and restaurants in Old Town, Florence Antiques District and up the Highway 101 corridor have official Small Business Saturday banners, posters and other merchandise on display.

"Everywhere I go, I see signs in the doors. It's all over the Internet and Facebook, and we've promoted it from here at the chamber," Hannigan said. "We're trying to push that, especially with holiday shopping, people should not just be in Old Town, but be around town."

Local small business owner Jo Beaudreau, from BeauArts Fine Art Materials, is also working to support Florence's businesses.

"Give a boost to your local economy and help out your friends, family and neighbors that have small businesses," she said.

Beaudreau advised checking local stores for sought-after items, and shopping for homemade crafts, handmade items and custom art.

"Last year I got everything from a local or small business as gifts for the holidays," she said. "It wasn't hard and it was fun to do."

See BUSINESS 7A

## Verizon to build new cell tower

Lane County approves 140-foot tower north of town

In October, Verizon Wireless received approval from Lane County to build a 140-foot tall telecommunications tower near Spindrift Way, two miles north of Florence.

By JACK DAVIS Siuslaw News

According to the approval notification, dated Oct. 14, the anticipated benefits from the proposed tower are improved 911 emergency calls, support for emergency services, a backup system to land-line telephone service in the event of power outage and improved mobile service coverage.

Rebecca Fain owns the site, located between Mercer and Sutton lakes.

A building permit, including a site plan, must still be submitted to the county for approval.

According to the approval document, the tower will be designed to accommodate at least three transmission users.

In addition, the tower is required to be painted a non-reflective color to match the surrounding sky

See TOWER 7A

INSIDE Classifieds B10 Scoreboard B3 Library Tidings A5 Sports B Opinion A4 Thanksgiving Greetings C Police A2 Weather Data A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER Full Forecast, A3

TODAY 51 47

THURSDAY 52 47

FRIDAY 50 46

SATURDAY 51 47

SIUSLAW NEWS 3 SECTIONS | 28 PAGES COPYRIGHT 2016

Barcode and ISSN 08826702345