

**WINTER Music Festival**  
 Florence, Oregon  
 January 14 - 15, 2017  
 Sat, 10am-5pm -and- Sun, 10am-4pm  
 wintermusicfestival.org/541-997-1994/eventcenter.org

**Tonight**  
 Saturday, January 14th  
**Headliner**  
**Danny O'Keefe**  
 Tickets available online or at the door  
 www.wintermusicfestival.org



**LADY VIKS**  
**SCRATCH TIGERS**  
 SPORTS — B



**DR. KING**  
**RETROSPECTIVES**  
 OPINION — A4 & A5

# Siuslaw News

127TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 4

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Construction accident takes life of Florence man

*Asa Hammon dies in freak construction site mishap*

By JACK DAVIS  
 Siuslaw News

Asa Hammon, a Florence native and former Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) battalion chief, died Wednesday, Jan. 11, in a construction site accident at 43rd Street and Nandina Drive.



**Asa Hammon**

According to SVFR Fire Marshall Sean Barrett, the 52 year-old Hammon died when a hydraulic line to an excavator broke, causing the bucket of the excavator to careen and strike Hammon.

Barrett said, "They were putting in a dewatering well. The midsize excavator was not in operation at the time."

Emergency medical services personnel arrived and immediately began CPR. They transported Hammon to Peace Harbor Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

Hammon served as a volunteer for SVFR from 1981 until his retirement in 2010. At the time he retired he held the position of battalion chief.

See **HAMMON 7A**

## Weese to help make 'Vision' plan a Florence reality

*Siuslaw Vision Keepers hire Tim Weese as coordinator*

By CHANTELE MEYER  
 Siuslaw News

The Siuslaw Region Vision is entering a new phase in its 10-year plan: the hiring of Tim Weese as vision coordinator.

According to Vision Keeper co-chairs Susy Lacer and Jo Beaudreau, a grant from the Ford Family Foundation provided funding for the part-time position.

Lacer said, "We're calling Tim's position the vision coordinator — I see that as a huge part not only of his job, but of the vision as a whole. We're trying to coordinate all the great efforts that are happening throughout our region and support them to keep moving forward."

See **VISION 7A**



Monday, Jan. 16

*Eighty-eight years ago tomorrow, Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Ga., a middle child with an older sister and younger brother, and the son of a Baptist minister. King's father was a fearless protester of segregation whose example had a profound impact on his son. The result led to one of our nation's greatest orators and most influential figures in the Civil Rights and social justice movements. In 1963, King delivered his now famous "I Have a Dream" speech, galvanizing an audience of more than 250,000 people blanketing the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Though his assassination four years later on April 4, 1968, silenced his voice, his dream's message of acceptance and social unity continues to echo through the decades some 51 years later...*

**W**hen the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.

Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy.

Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment...

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and

discipline.

We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence.

We must understand that our freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of others.

We cannot walk alone.

I say to you today, my friends, that even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream.

It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is the faith that I go back to

the South with. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

If America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: *Free at last! Free at last!*

*Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.*

**MORE SPECIAL COVERAGE**  
 Pages A4 and A5



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

**Dunes City Council members are sworn in Thursday.**

## New Dune City Council members get to work

*Council members, marijuana tax and dog licenses top agenda*

By MARK BRENNAN  
 Siuslaw News

Dunes City held its first City Council meeting of the year on Thursday, Jan. 12, with a full agenda of items to consider. The first item taken up was the swearing-in of the council with

two new members taking the oath of office.

The council accepted the resignation of Ken Platt, due to family issues, entered into the record a letter from Mayor Rebecca Ruede and then swore in new councilors Robert Orr and Alan

Montgomery.

There were three other significant issues discussed and voted on by the new council.

The first was the approval of the installation of a radio system by the Florence Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) to facilitate communi-

cation by Dune City officials in the event of a natural disaster.

Bob Pine, Emergency Coordinator for ARES, made a presentation that outlined the group's plan to donate the equipment necessary to allow

See **COUNCIL 7A**

BLACK  
 YELLOW  
 MAGENTA  
 CYAN