



## VIKING TEAMS FALL

SPORTS — C

## Chef spices up the kitchen

COAST LIFE — B



# Siuslaw News

127TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 11

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Landslide topples trailer on Highway 126



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

(Left) Siuslaw Valley firefighters escort Allison Barkemeyer to safety after she and her granddaughter had been trapped in their RV by a major landslide Sunday morning. (Right) Firefighter Megan Strongegger carries Barkemeyer's infant granddaughter away from the landslide.

### A woman and infant are now safe after rescue and aid from Siuslaw Valley Fire, Western Lane Ambulance, Red Cross

The nearly five inches of rain the Florence area received Saturday and Sunday were likely a major contributor to a hillside collapse at the Siuslaw Marina and River RV Park on Highway 126, authorities say.

Western Lane Ambulance District and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) responded to a 911 call at approximately 10:15 a.m. on Sunday. The first responders rescued two individuals, Allison Barkemeyer and her infant granddaughter, Arylyn, who had been trapped in their RV by a major landslide.

Upon arrival, responders were con-

fronted with a partially overturned trailer. The trailer had slid off of its cement pad due to a significant impact from a landslide that began on a steep hill above the park.

SVFR Fire Marshal Sean Barrett said, "Calls like this really test our abilities. We classify them as high hazard and low frequency. They don't happen very often but they are very hazardous — not only to the victim but to the first responders."

Trees, dirt and debris from the hillside had cas-



Allison Barkemeyer's RV teeters dangerously from the impact with Sunday's landslide. Trees and debris knocked the trailer from its cement pad and blocked the exits for the two occupants.

cadged down a steep slope and slammed into the affected RV, trapping the occupants and nearly flipping the trailer over.

Kathy Elfers lives next door to the Barkemeyers and she heard and felt the slide.

"I was just sitting there with my dog and I heard this loud crash. I looked out my window and saw this large tree sticking out in the road. So I looked closer and saw my neighbors' RV was on its side and I realized we had a landslide," she said.

The nearby trailer was covered in trees and brush. Elfers knew her neighbors were in the trailer, so she didn't hesitate.

"I called 911 before I even went to see if my neighbors were OK, because I wanted to get the medics and everybody else out here as soon as possible. Thankfully, everyone is OK," she said.

Barkemeyer did not have any type of warning before the mud slid into her RV.

"I didn't hear anything. I felt something hit the trailer and I thought it was a car or something that came off the road up there," she said. "Then we started sliding a bit and then we turned

See SLIDE 7A

## CITY CODE

### FLORENCE CLARIFIES POSITION ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

#### Florence police will not enforce federal immigration laws

City of Florence issued a statement Feb. 3 in response to President Donald Trump's Executive Order 13768, signed Jan. 25, expanding the authority of state and local police to include enforcing federal immigration law.

Executive Order 13768, Section 8 states, "It is the policy of the executive branch to empower state and local law enforcement agencies across the country to perform the functions of an immigration officer in the interior of the United States to the maximum extent permitted by law."

This statement directly conflicts with language in the Oregon Revised Statutes, (ORS) and the Florence City Charter.

According to the city's statement, in light of recent national events, Florence Police Department has received inquiries regarding immigration enforcement at the local level.

Florence Public Information Officer Megan Messmer said, "We feel it is important for our community to understand how we interact with the public on this topic."

The city's press release stated, "The Florence Police Department does not enforce federal immigration laws and we will continue to follow state laws regarding immigration."

"ORS 181A.820 states that 'No law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision (city or county) of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the pur-

pose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws.'"

According to Florence Mayor Joe Henry, a recent legal analysis of ORS 181A.820 by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association supported that position.

"That statute has been in place since 1987," Henry said, "and unless the Oregon legislature changes it, that law will continue to prohibit Oregon police officers from acting as immigration enforcement officers."

Local and state ordinances appear to trump the executive order and will create multiple levels of judiciary conflict.

See ENFORCEMENT 7A

## City council ties together 5 goals

### Florence's Work Plan gives direction for 'two-year horizon'

On Monday, Florence City Council approved its City Work Plan in a new form, reflecting the council's decision in January to move the city into a biennial budget cycle.

City Manager Erin Reynolds presented the 2017-18 City Work Plan in Resolution No. 2, Series 2017. "Starting with your first reign as Florence City Council two years ago in 2015, we incorporated a really robust work plan that coincided with your council goals," she said. "You have five City Goals that you refined last year and chose to keep for the coming year."

According to the council packet, the City Work Plan serves as the foundation for preparing the upcoming budget. It assists the city in showing validation for the work plan objectives and is intended to be a workable, changing document.

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

City staff put the Work Plan into a document to use as part of the city's ongoing communication tools. The full-color brochure shows each of the city council's five goals — City Service Delivery, Livability and Quality of Life, Economic Development, Communication and Trust, and Financial and Organizational Sustainability — and the 145 objectives that fall under them.

"You can see what each

**"We just want to acknowledge the shift in making things happen. It's a good thing and it's healthy."**

— COUNCILOR JOSHUA GREENE

meet community expectations for municipal services, provide a vision for civic improvements, maintain a quality environment and position Florence to have an economically viable and sustainable future."

The City Work Plan brochure also includes a hierarchy of municipal functions and work plan priorities.

Reynolds said, "This isn't complete. It is a living document and we did our best (to make additions) over the last week and a half now that we know we are working with a biennial budget. We build the budget off the work plan, including things that have the two-year horizon in there."

The first amendment will be to add "2017-18" to the document before final edits are available to the public. Future amendments will occur during future city council retreats and the regular city manager evaluations.

See WORK PLAN 7A

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