

# VIKINGS HOST STATE PLAY-IN

SPORTS — B



# Home & Garden Show gears up

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# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



By MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

*(Editor's note: This is Part II of a three-part series on Oregon's Death With Dignity Act that began in our Feb. 15 issue. As part of Siuslaw News' examination of the act, Derek Humphry, author of New York Times Bestseller "Final Exit," spoke with reporter Mark Brennan about the problems that remain to be addressed in the ODDA some 20 years after its enactment by the Oregon Legislature.)*

## SPECIAL SERIES (PART II)

### Pioneer of ODDA thinks update is needed

*Review of Death with Dignity Act highlights problems for Oregon residents*

The Oregon Death with Dignity Act (ODDA) took effect in 1998. One of the act's main proponents and a principal author of the legislation was Derek Humphry, who first became involved with the issues surrounding suicide when his wife, Jean, was diagnosed with cancer.

She ultimately took her own life. That was when Humphry started working towards a change in the laws that govern an act that was once narrowly defined as "suicide."

Though born in England in 1930, Humphry has lived in Oregon since 1986 and his influence on death with dignity has been felt world-wide — primarily through his continuing

efforts to change the way American culture looks at death.

Humphry has spent the last 40 years making the case for an individual's right to what now is called "self determination." This term refers to his belief that all people have the inherent right to determine the time and method of their death.

Humphry's participation in the crafting and selection of the language used in the ODDA was central to coalescing the support needed to put the act before voters.

His public support of the act was critical to its passage.

Humphry's well-known and groundbreaking

book "Final Exit" makes the moral argument for self determination and provides the intellectual and emotional rationale for the act of "rational suicide."

"Final Exit" continues to top international sales charts 26 years after its release.

According to Humphry, he never anticipated the long-lasting effect his work would have.

"I never expected it to have this kind of impact. I think that 'Final Exit' helped to remove the taboo surrounding self deliverance and it allowed families and friends to quietly and thoughtfully discuss the issue," he said.

See **ODDA 7A**

## Heceta Water crews fix main line breaks

*Two breaks in February result in brown water, boil orders for some residents*

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Heceta Water People's Utility District (HWPUD) reports the second water main line break in the Heceta Beach area in February. The first came on Feb. 6, and Monday had a second.

According to HWPUD Office Manager Vickie Kennedy, the two events were unrelated.

The first break occurred near Second Avenue, affecting the Idlewood area, Heceta South area and east to Heceta Self Storage on Highway 101.

HWPUD crews had the main repaired in under four hours.

On President's Day, there was a small leak in the main near Third Avenue. The line was repaired within two and a half hours.

"The rain doesn't bother our crews. They get the job done and do amazing," Kennedy said.

According to a HWPUD press release, operators switching main lines to isolate the break area caused brown water to run from faucets and toilets.

"You should be able to run your water a little bit to clear it up," the release said.

See **WATER 7A**

## Port handles 'Tenacious' sailboat situation

*Port commissioners, manager disagree on delinquent moorage fee resolution*

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners held a special meeting Monday, Feb. 20, to determine whether to move forward with the scheduled Feb. 24 foreclosure sale of the sailing vessel Tenacious, owned by Gordon Owen.

Owen has moored the 40-foot sailboat at the Port of Siuslaw since 2011.

The port offers moorage customers several lease option for long-term tenants, including annual, semi-annual and monthly. All contracts must be paid in advance. Daily and transient rates are also available.

In addition to requiring timely payments, port moorage contracts state that vessels must be seaworthy and have liability insurance.

According to Owen, his boat engine is not working and the sails are not functional. He has not provided the port with proof of insurance.

Since 2011, Owen had been on an annual moorage contract with semi-annual payments of \$840. Owen renewed a one-year lease with the port on Oct. 1.

Port Manager Steven Leskin said Owen has been habitually late in making payments.

The port placed him on a month-to-month contract in April because of late payments.

Port staff met with Owen on July 8.

Leskin said that during that meeting Owen was told the moorage he paid to the port on April 11 covered his moorage through July 4 and that he would owe monthly moorage fees of \$261 each month until the end of his contract Sept. 30.

After the meeting, Leskin emailed commissioners stating, "Tenacious: I expect some of you will receive a call from Gordon Owen. Mr. Owen is a current moorage tenant. He rents a slip on a six-month basis. He is consis-



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

*Gordon Owen's 40-foot sailboat Tenacious will go to bid in a foreclosure sale Friday.*

tently late with his payment. As a result, we have removed the six-month discount rate and are billing him at the monthly rate. He does not think this is fair and wants to continue paying the six-month moorage rate."

"The Tenacious is virtually a derelict vessel. It is easily in worse shape than any other boat in the marina.

"Owen has failed to prove seaworthiness or evidence of insurance when requested. At some point, he will be required to provide these as a condition of

moorage here. I expect we will be losing his business by the end of the year."

On Oct. 1, when the previous annual contract expired and Owen made no attempt to renegotiate a new contract, the Tenacious was placed on a daily transient rate of \$17.

On Nov. 8, the port's attorney sent a certified return receipt letter informing Owen of lien proceedings and of the port's intention to foreclose.

The port placed an ad on Craigslist Jan. 18 and submitted a

final bill to Owen, giving him one last chance to bring the moorage account current.

As of Feb. 21, moorage, late fees, attorney fees and a \$300 impound fee total \$3,897.

Owen did address the port during the Jan. 18 board meeting and insisted that he had a receipt showing his moorage was paid up through Sept. 30, 2016. The receipt was the one given in error and corrected by letter the next day.

See **TENACIOUS 7A**

## Emergency Cold Weather Shelter to open this week

Florence's Emergency Cold Weather Shelter will be open Wednesday, Feb. 22, and Thursday, Feb. 23, at New Life Lutheran Church, 2100 Spruce St., behind Grocery Outlet. Registration starts at 5 p.m. and shuttles will run between 4:45 and 6 p.m. "We will continue to watch the weather forecast for Friday night and beyond and will open if the temperatures remain around 32 degrees," organizers said. For more information or ways to help, call Greg Wood at 541-991-8208. In addition, musician Jennifer Weier will be holding a benefit concert for the shelter on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101.

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