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# Siuslaw News

127TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 22

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FLORENCE, OREGON

## Port struggles to define 'commercial' vessel

*Port manager, several commissioners at loggerheads over authority issues*

During the March 15 Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners meeting, several heated exchanges erupted between Port Manager Steven Leskin and Port commissioners Mike Buckwald and Terry Duman.

The tension in the meeting began shortly after Board President Ron Caputo gaveled the meeting open. Three moorage tenants voiced concerns and complaints about treatment over moorage fees, document discrepancies and payments.

One of the three, Len Christensen, asked why he had been denied a commercial rate for his 38-foot yacht, moored in the marina.

According to Christensen, he has his \$50 tuna license, proper insurance and has acquired approximately \$700 in what he described as "commercial fishing gear."

Christensen said, "My intent is not to get special treatment, but to go out and commercial fish, like anybody else, if I see fit, weather permitting, when the tuna are running."

Initially, Christensen requested the commercial rate to operate a security business from his boat. After that was denied, he reapplied for the commercial rate as a commercial tuna boat.

The annual commercial rate for a 38-foot vessel is \$997. The annual recreational rate is \$1,680.

According to Leskin, four of the 11 vessels currently receiving the commercial moorage rate have not left the dock in the past year.

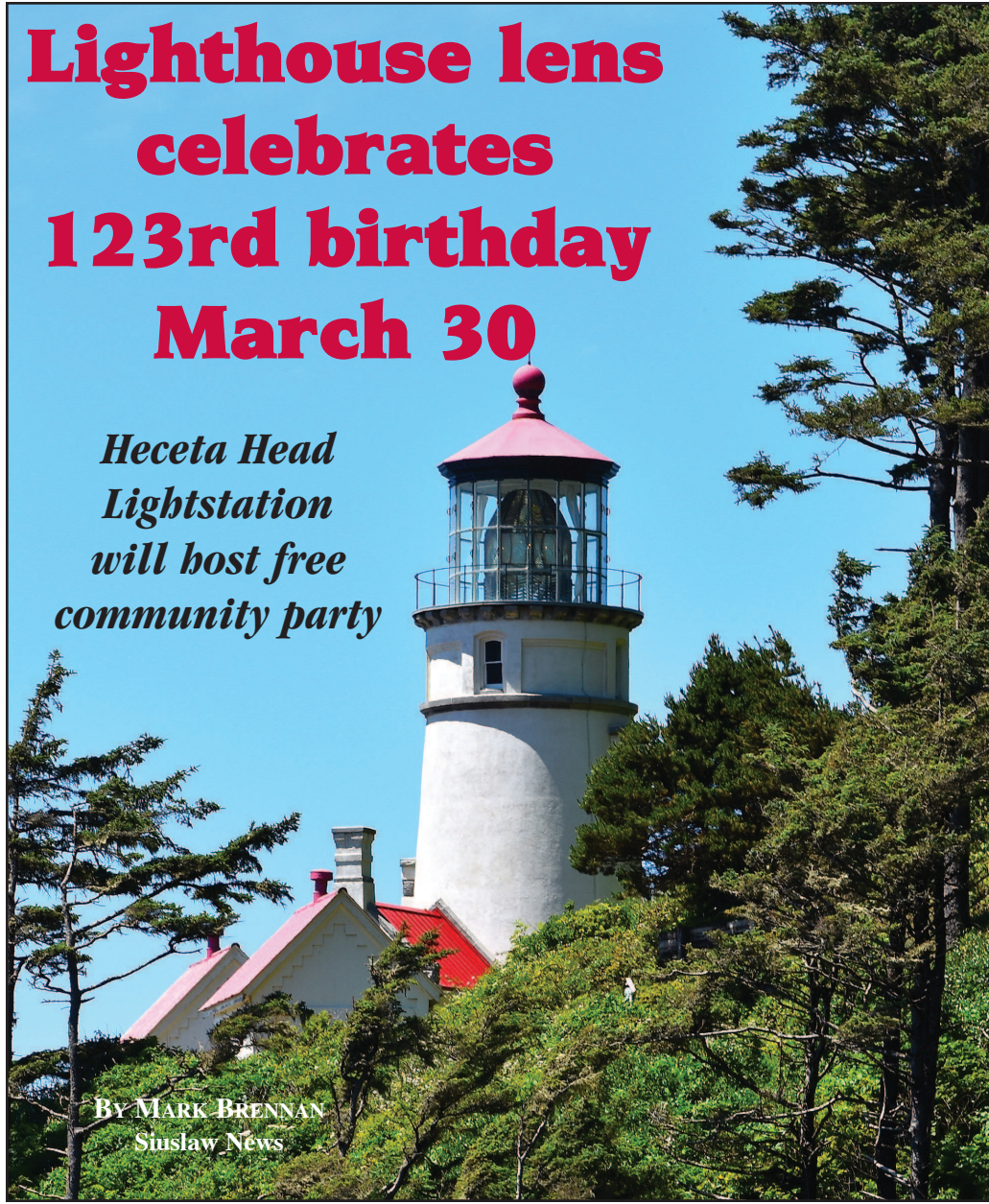
The port has been wrestling with how to determine if a vessel should be given the 40 percent commercial discount.

Leskin offered a list of six criteria that a vessel must meet in order to be considered a commercial vessel, including the U.S. Coast Guard definition of a commercial vessel:

See **MOORAGE 9A**

## Lighthouse lens celebrates 123rd birthday March 30

*Heceta Head Lightstation will host free community party*



BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Heceta Head Lightstation will celebrate the 123rd anniversary since the arrival of the lighthouse's custom Fresnel lens.

One of Florence's most famous destination locations is inviting the community to a birthday party — and the guest of honor is 123 years old.

On Thursday, March 30, Heceta Head Lightstation is celebrating the most important component of the Heceta Head Lighthouse — its lens — which arrived in March 1893.

It was an arrival that changed the course of history for Florence and the state of Oregon.

The Lighthouse Birthday Party, which will take place between 4 and 7 p.m., is the brainchild of Misty Anderson, manager and event coordinator for the Heceta Head Lightstation Bed and Breakfast.

The party is intended as a celebration, an opportunity to learn some local history and to get a start on the spring season.

Anderson is hoping to share the history and beauty of the lighthouse while celebrating its present.

"I found out that the light was originally lit and everything started here on March 30," Anderson said. "And the lighthouse is this amazing beacon. It draws hundreds of thousands of visitors to our area every year, so I decided we should have a birthday party celebrating its arrival."

The Fresnel lens that focuses and emanates the light that ships and tourists see from miles away, is still in operation, attracting visitors and warning sailors for more than a century.

While the party is "focused" around the lens, Anderson hopes the party will also be a networking opportunity for local businesses and residents.

"We have some great local partners involved with the party. Travel Lane County

See **LENS 9A**

## LCC Health Clinic reports data breach

Lane Community College is notifying patients of its health clinic in Eugene by letter to inform them of a breach of the clinic's electronic medical records, the steps that are being taken to secure information and what patients can do.

"We take all aspects of health care seriously at the clinic," said Brian Kelly, vice president of college services, "including the privacy of our records. We are focused on helping patients who have concerns, and what we can do to better protect our systems in the future."

During routine computer maintenance on Feb. 3, a virus was discovered on a single clinic computer. The virus could have relayed patient information including name, date of birth, address, phone number, social security number, diagnosis and other identifying information to a third party between March 2016 and Feb. 3, 2017.

This computer was not connected to any other computer in the clinic and there is no evidence that any patient information was transmitted.

Lane said it is taking all possible steps to ensure that patient information is secure.

On the day the virus was discovered, all other computers in the clinic were scanned immediately and found to be virus free. In addition, the infected computer was taken out of service until the virus could be removed. The college has undertaken a thorough review of electronic security throughout the clinic paying particular attention to vulnerability to computer viruses.

Electronic security has been upgraded to better protect patient information moving forward.

Patients are advised to report the breach to their credit bureaus, banks and credit card companies, including the identifying information that might have been disclosed.

Patients can request a free credit report from any of the three major credit reporting companies at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

Patients should also place a fraud alert at one of the following three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax: 1-800-525-6285, [equifax.com](http://equifax.com)
- Experian: 1-888-397-3742, [experian.com](http://experian.com)
- Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

Patients who notice any suspicious or unusual activity in their accounts may want to contact local authorities and file a police report.

## Florence offers free self-serve sandbags

With rain predicted to continue for four out of the next five days, and local rainfall already at record highs, standing water and runoff accumulation has closed streets and area roads, as well as created flooding in neighborhoods.

To help alleviate some of that flooding, a self-serve sandbag station has been set up by Florence Public Works for residents wishing to block potential flooding around homes and access ways. The sandbag site is located at the north end of the Florence Public Works building, 989 Spruce St., off of Highway 126.

Public Works is currently utilizing a large six-inch pump to drain water in various trouble spots, including 18th Street where a seasonal wetland has become a small lake due to saturation by record rainfall since October.

The city also has two other, smaller pumps and is looking into renting additional pumps until area flooding subsides.

The self-serve sandbag station includes a brown metal locker that contains empty bags that residents can fill. The city advises to bring shovels and to remember that filled sandbags can weigh as much as 40 pounds.

For more information or to report flooding, call Florence Public Works at 541-997-4106.

## Governor's forum covers gamut of issues

*Gov. Kate Brown responds to community's concerns during economic development visit*



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown answers questions from area residents during a public forum held Tuesday at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue. Approximately 200 people attended the town hall meeting.

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown visited Florence Tuesday to discuss local economic development initiatives and partnerships. The latter half of her visit included a one-hour public forum, where area residents talked about anything but economic development.

Brown said, "We are envisioning these town hall forums as listening sessions. I'd like to think of them as bringing the state capital to you. We want to hear from you on concerns and issues you have. We'll take your concerns back to the cabinet and see what we can do to tackle them."

Two hundred people from Florence, Dunes City, Mapleton and the surrounding areas attended the event, and



R & R King Logging's Jennifer Waggoner, center with microphone, asks about the corporate tax level and other issues relevant to the logging industry in Oregon.

even though only a handful got the chance to ask questions, the rest of the audience showed their agreement or disapproval with chants, applause and other reactions.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry and the governor's policy advisor on jobs and economy, Jason Lewis-Berry, joined Brown at the front of the meeting room at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue.

Jackie Mikalonis, the governor's regional solutions coordinator for the South Valley Region, moderated the forum.

During the meeting, people raised concerns and asked questions about mental health care, housing, higher education, veteran services, the state's budget, school funding, corporate concerns, the

See **FORUM 9A**

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

**TODAY**  
50 37

**SUNDAY**  
57 41

**MONDAY**  
59 47

**TUESDAY**  
55 46

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