

COAST RADIO Present
FLORENCE GREEN FAIR 2017
Saturday May 6
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Explore the exciting possibilities of green grown on the Oregon coast

Featuring:
A FOOD WATER STORY
Special Screening at 1 a.m.
JUST EAT IT!
ENTER TO WIN \$1000
Three Rivers Casino Resort's Cash Cube

Admission is \$1 OR FREE with canned donation to Mayhem Food Share or by bringing in your plastic/plastic pots to be recycled

Give & Take
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FLORENCE GREEN FAIR

— INSIDE



A DAY AT THE PARK

SPORTS — B

COAST CENTRAL

A&E — INSIDE

COAST CENTRAL
May 2017
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Abstract Artist Mike Strickland closes show's season

127TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 35

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

SENIOR SERVICES

Memory Loss Respite Center forced to cut services



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Pat Duncan, Nancy Hanson and Carol Krasel are three of the six remaining volunteers at the Memory Loss Respite Center located at the Florence Senior Center.

Volunteer, financial shortages endanger 'respite' for local caregivers

Florence Senior Center, 1570 Kingwood St., is important to the community on a number of levels. Perhaps most importantly it provides a meeting place for seniors to gather and socialize. Additionally, the professional kitchen at the center prepares and serves meals in the dining room on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and assists the Meals-on-Wheels program with the preparation and packaging of hundreds of meals a week for Florence seniors.

The center also offers seniors physical activities, games and exercise classes. Overshadowed by these higher profile services is the Memory Loss Respite Center. The respite center's mission is multi-faceted, according to volunteer Pat Duncan.

See **RESPITE 10A**

Nurses hold informational picket



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

More than 100 registered nurses and community members participated in an informational picket Monday, May 1, in support of the nurses at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center in Florence. Nurses have been working with PeaceHealth's corporate managers since November 2016 to try to reach a contract agreement that increases wages and improves nurse recruitment and retention. The 75 nurses at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center are represented by the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). According to ONA Communications Manager Kevin Mealy, the nurses voted in favor of the informational picket after unsuccessful contract mediation sessions with PeaceHealth's corporate administrators in April. Key issues still being negotiated include ending staff call requirements, correcting below-market wages, improving patient and staff safety and increasing health care provider recruitment and retention. While some progress has been made, ONA members feel they have a long way to go. Nurses and PeaceHealth's corporate managers have one additional mediation date scheduled for May 8.



Central Lincoln completes \$6 million upgrade project

Project more than 20 years in the making concludes with new, upgraded substations

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

After four years and a \$6 million investment, Central Lincoln PUD (CLPUD) completed its Florence-area Electric System Upgrade project to upgrade electric utilities in the Florence area. From adding a whole new substation in the Pacific View Business Park and replacing utility poles up Highway 101, Central Lincoln more than meets the area's projected growth rates for the next 20 years.

According to Chris Chandler, CLPUD public affairs manager, a remodel of the Heceta Beach Substation was the final component of the project.

"This is the last piece," Chandler said April 19 while giving a tour to the CLPUD Board of Directors, City of Florence officials and area partners. "Everything else is done. Today is like we're done, and we move on to what's next in the hopper. This was a big project that clearly needed to happen."

The project involved constructing the Kingwood Substation from



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Central Lincoln PUD completes its upgrade of the Heceta Beach Substation April 19 with a tour for the CLPUD Board of Directors, City of Florence officials and area partners.

scratch, beginning in April 2015.

The entire upgrade was funded through savings and reserve funds set aside in the '90s for this project after a CLPUD engineer looked at trends, and forecasted the need for another substation to serve the Florence area.

Kingwood), and we took advantage of that and picked out a new substation facility. We put in a bunch of pipe at the time in hopes that we would some day build there. Then we got to the point where we had to build.

"Now we have a lot more capacity and a lot more reliability in the whole city."

Most of the transformers in CLPUD's 700 square miles of service area are 20 MVA (Mega Volt Amps), though some are as low as 5MVA.

The new Kingwood Substation is 25 MVA.

"It's the largest transformer in the entire district and it's here in Florence," Chandler said. "I call it 'Transformer-Zilla.'"

Now, CLPUD has created a closed transmission line loop system between the Kingwood Substation, the Florence Substation, located near Three Rivers Casino and Resort, and Heceta Beach Substation, located on Highway 101 north of Florence.

See **UPGRADE 7A**

B&G Club earns high marks

Programs offer academic support, opportunity to earn

Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County has recently received some good news related to the clubs' after school learning programs according to Tracy Aaron, Teen Center Director.

"We recently received a report from the middle school about students that made the honor roll and those that had a 4.0 GPA. I did the math last night and our average daily attendance at the Teen Center is 30 kids per day," Aaron said. "Of the 30 that come here daily, 21 of them made the honor roll and eight of them had a 4.0 GPA."

Boys and Girls Club currently has a number of initiatives designed to assist young people on their path to adulthood.

Two of those programs, Smart Girls and Passport to Manhood, are weekly discussion groups that allow young people to explore their ideas on a particular subject and share those with other group members.

The feedback the youth receive helps them to chart their own course through the choppy waters of adolescence.

See **CLUB 10A**

INSIDE	Classifieds B6	Records A2
	Community A3	Scoreboard B2
	Library Tidings A5	Sports B
	Opinion A4	Weather Data A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY 71 52
THURSDAY 65 50
FRIDAY 54 45
SATURDAY 55 45

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