



Community Voices

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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Preparations for solar eclipse underway

First responders share tips, information for Aug. 21

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

On Monday, July 6, representatives from Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Western Lane Ambulance District, Florence Police Department and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce met briefly to discuss preparations for the highly anticipated August 21 solar eclipse.

The eclipse will be visible on the Oregon coast between Lincoln City and Waldport, beginning just after 9 a.m. It will reach totality between 10:15 and 10:25 a.m..

First responders and public service organizations are gearing up for an influx of up to one million visitors to the Oregon coast to view the eclipse. This meeting was the most recent in the extensive preparations that have been undertaken in preparation for the visitors.

In anticipation of the unusually large crowds that may visit the area to watch the eclipse, Florence Police Department Commander John Pitcher shared some possible areas of concern with those in attendance.

“Lane County Emergency Manager Linda Cook has sent out some tips that I think will be helpful as we prepare for the eclipse. Probably most important, even if you are not in the path of totality, be careful of your fuel levels,” Pitcher said. “Especially for first responders, we need to make sure all vehicles are filled up before the event, as there may be fuel shortages due to the large numbers of visitors to the area.”

Pitcher also pointed out some areas of concern regarding communication during the event.

“Our cell towers may have some problems with all the calls being made and the social media posting of pictures and selfies during the eclipse. Also, we should prepare for the possibility of gridlock or speeds of several miles per hour on Highway 101,” Pitcher said.

See **ECLIPSE 7A**

INAUGURAL JAM BRINGS WORLD-CLASS TALENT



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN WENZEL

Bandleader and clarinetist Ken Peplowski and jazz vocalist Clairdee bring their talent to the first-ever Siuslaw Jam, held at Florence Events Center last weekend.

Joshua Greene’s effort attracts attentive crowds for ‘Siuslaw Jam’

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The first Siuslaw Jam was held on July 7 and 8 at the Florence Events Center to rave reviews from audience members and performers.

The audience responded to the professionalism and the technical virtuosity of the musicians. The musicians responded to the natural beauty of Florence, the appreciation of knowledgeable audience members and the chance to help create a lasting musical leg-

cy for the area.

Florence City Councilor and The Archives owner Joshua Greene was the driving force behind the inaugural Siuslaw Jam.

“The whole weekend was wonderful. The people who attended were thrilled with the performances and the personalities of the musicians,” Greene said. “And the musicians were thrilled with the response from the crowd and how attentive and involved they were with the performances.”

The seed for what was to

become the Siuslaw Jam was planted after Greene attended the Siletz Bay Music Festival in Lincoln City a few years ago.

The world-class musicians that were presented at the Siletz Festival and the support the event received from the community inspired Greene. He approached the festival’s board and Musical Director Yaacov Bergman with the possibility of reimagining the event for the Florence community.

See **JAM 7A**



Florence moves ahead with agreements for ReVision Florence

Florence, FURA authorize city manager to sign intergovernmental agreements with Oregon Department of Transportation

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council voted Monday to allow City Manager Erin Reynolds to sign agreements with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) for the ReVision Florence project. The signature heralds the official beginning of two new intergovernmental agreements (IGAs)

and the next step for the city’s repave-ment project of Highways 101 and 126.

During the council meeting on July 10, Florence Project Manager Megan Messmer said, “As we proceed with ReVision Florence and move into that more finalized design phase, as well as some of the on-the-ground work for that project, it requires some official agreements with ODOT.”

Until now, the plan has operated

under memorandums of understand- ing.

According to Messmer, one impor- tant aspect of the now-signed IGAs is defining whom the agreements are with.

She said that both the City of Florence and FURA are going to be part of the contracts.

“We worked really hard to get that as a three-party agreement,” Messmer said. “They were adamant that it

would just be the city and ODOT, but today, just in time, they let us know that they could add Urban Renewal.”

Reynolds said, “That was a very momentous negotiation of our contract with ODOT. Representatives now understand (the concept of) an urban renewal agency better than they did before.”

City councilors voted to approve two IGAs to define the working relationships moving forward, as well as

the roles, money requirements and rights of way services for ODOT, the city and FURA.

Under the agreements, ODOT will review designs, manage construction, oversee federal funding and allow access to the rights of way.

FURA, which is responsible for both the design and the funding, will fund the design and review process,

See **REVISION 7A**

COOL PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

SPECIAL FEATURE:

This summer we are highlighting unique spots that make the central Oregon coast one of the coolest places to live and play. New locations will be featured each month.

Sweet Creek Falls

Sweet Creek Road, Mapleton, Ore. | 541-563-8400

AT A GLANCE:

Mapleton, just 15 miles inland from Florence, sports the Sweet Creek Falls Trail Complex, a waterfall wonder in Lane County.

The trail begins off Sweet Creek Road. Hikers will experience 11 waterfalls in the forested area around Sweet Creek, from the Homestead Trailhead, Sweet Creek Falls Trail,



“Sweet Creek Falls in Autumn” by David Putzier

Wagon Road Trail and Beaver Creek Trailhead. Hikes vary from .4 miles to just over 1 mile. There

are several parking lots, as well as a restroom at Homestead Trailhead.

Sweet Creek Trail #1319 is family friendly at 2.2 miles. Take the kids and leashed dogs on an exploration of dirt trails, wooden walkways and slippery surfaces near the creek.

This look into nature provides a breath of fresh air and a shady summer trek for these July days.

DEADLINE AUGUST 1st

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2018 Edition

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	Library Tidings A5	Community Voices B

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

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