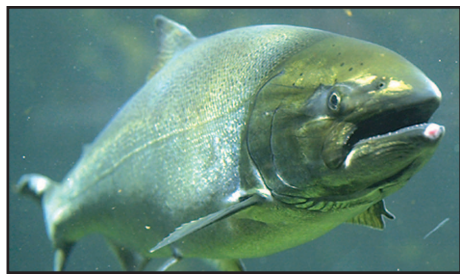


REDUCED SALMON RETURNS

SPORTS — B



Phonebook features oil painting

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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

OSHA issues citation for violations at treatment plant



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

City of Florence Water Treatment Plant on Rhododendron Drive

State agency requires Florence make physical improvements, procedure changes

The City of Florence's Water Treatment Center recently drew the attention of the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHA), which is tasked with ensuring worker safety. It conducts periodic inspections to monitor compliance.

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

In March, OSHA identified several violations at the Florence Wastewater

Treatment Plant, 794 Rhododendron Drive. It issued a citation to the city on May 15, assessing a total financial penalty of \$7,860.

The seven-page "Citation and Notification of Penalty" lists seven separate items that were in violation of state standards.

OSHA characterized these as being "serious" in nature.

Oregon OSHA Public Information Officer Aaron Corvin said, "A serious violation involves a meaningful risk to a worker of serious injury or illness, or death. We classified the violations as serious. If we didn't believe the violations were serious, then we wouldn't have classified them as such."

The citation lists the most immediate potential for danger as inadequate or missing railings and walkways meant to protect employees while working in the facility.

Another area of concern was the adherence to proper safety protocols that should be observed by workers engaged in the

See **OSHA 7A**



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

With recreational crabbing open along the entire Oregon coast, docks at the Port of Siuslaw are seeing increased activity among crabbers. These colorful crab pots are near ICM Restaurant on Bay Street. All people 12 years old and older who wish to crab must have a valid Oregon Shellfish License, available for \$9 a year through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

FLORENCE TO YACHATS BUS ROUTE DELAYED

Project could begin at end of August — survey seeks additional public input

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Those waiting at Florence's 21st Street bus stop for a trip up to Yachats and all points north will have to wait a little bit longer.

Originally unveiled by Lane Transit District in April, the Florence to Yachats bus route was supposed to begin running July 1, but contract and planning delays have pushed the start date to the end of August, and possibly into September, organizers say.

The new line will fill the last gap of public transportation along the Oregon coast.

According to City of Florence Associate Planner Glen Southerland, the driving reason for the delay is the bidding process

from transportation providers.

"We had a lot of interest from organizations that wanted to provide the service, which is not a bad problem to have," he said.

Four providers are currently in the protracted bid process.

However, the delay does give more time for the route to be planned.

Lane Transit District, based in Eugene, published a survey in May requesting public input on the route, but only 100 people responded to it.

"We're trying to get more concrete data on what people will be riding the bus for, where they'd like to board the bus and where they want it to stop along the way," Southerland said.

The 8-question survey asks what riders would use the bus for; where

they would board the bus — Yachats, Florence or other; what times of day riders would use the service; which days the service would be used; and what stops riders would like to see, such as Cape Perpetua, Sea Lion Caves and the Hobbit Trail.

The deadline to respond to the survey is near. Once the bidding process is completed, the survey answers will be culled and the route will be planned.

The survey can be found at LTD.org/Connector.

As for where the Florence bus stop will be located, Southerland believes it will most likely be on 21st Street and Highway 101, near the Grocery Outlet parking lot.

City planners hope this will make the spot a transportation

hub in Florence.

"That will have a better connection to the Rhody Express," Southerland said. "We're also working to get the Eugene connection and the Coos Bay connection in that place as well."

The Eugene/Coos Bay route, operated by Pacific Crest Bus Lines, currently stops in front of Florence City Hall several times a day.

In Yachats, Southerland said they are planning to put the stop at Third Street and Highway 101, near the Yachats Visitor's Center.

The fare for the Florence/Yachats bus line is still being worked out, but organizers think it will be below \$10.

There are no public meetings planned regarding the route at this time.

Filling a need: Providing lunches to Upriver children

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Kym Prater, Windy Brown and Karen Harden want to save Mapleton. It's a tall order, something that needs to be done piece by piece, and sometimes meal by meal, with individuals taking up vital causes in the community.

Their cause is called Sack Lunches for Mapleton, and it's a reflection of Mapleton as a whole; full of heart, with a lot of sweat equity and a financial burden.

Started by Prater with help from Harden, Sack Lunches for Mapleton is dedicated to giving children meals in the Upriver communities.

It is funded through Mapleton Food Share.

As of right now, the group serves 50 lunches a day, three times a week at noon.

Each youth gets a "sack lunch" — sandwiches, granola, cheese and crackers, etc.

Toward the end of the school year, Prater realized that with Mapleton's poverty levels, children would go hungry without the school lunch programs.

She spoke with Harden, and, by June, they were handing out lunches.

Money is tight, however. Right now, the Mapleton Food

Share is footing the main bill. Some private donations have come in, including an online GoFundMe, but it

said. "We're already started and the kids need it."

While they're doing everything they can to raise money and awareness, the group is also partnering with other organizations.

At least, they're trying.

The Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County in Florence decided to sponsor a hot meal twice a day, lunch and dinner, at the Teen Center.

The hope was to bring a bus full of children down from the Upriver communities to the meals. The problem? No kids showed up for the shuttle.

"I live in a rural area. If you're out of food and you're a little child, where are you going to get food?"

— **KYM PRATER, COORDINATOR**

SACK LUNCHES FOR MAPLETON PROGRAM

has only raised \$335 out of a \$5,000 goal.

For organizers, the need outweighs the money.

"We spent a lot of money already, and it's hitting us hard, but we're not going to stop because of that," Harden

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

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MONDAY
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TUESDAY
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