

Letters from 4A

ALL RESPONSIBILITY, NO AUTHORITY

Siuslaw News reporter Jared Anderson's story "Port of Siuslaw Fires Steven Leskin" (Aug. 9) encapsulated the daily logbook of Mr. Leskin's yearlong turn at the helm of the Port of Siuslaw.

Whomever is chosen by the Board of Commissioners, or publically elected — a legal option the voting public has not experienced — must accept this fact: The position of Port Manager has all the responsibility with none of the authority.

The title states that fact: Manager, not policy maker. In my opinion, Port of Bandon General Manager Gina Dearth's rebuttal (Aug. 12) read like a life ring tossed to a man overboard wearing a life vest. Dearth's tone and stance was "Us vs. Them," i.e., "Special District State Employee vs. We The People."

She states that for 29 years she has been with Port of Bandon and, no doubt, is entitled to a healthy retirement. Her tone may be acceptable in her Port fiefdom and County, but I feel it should be kept on her side of the county line.

The people of Lane County voted for the Port of Siuslaw commissioners and the commissioners listened to them — and acted in accordance.

—*Bianca DeMers*
Florence

FLORENCE IS ALWAYS READY TO HELP

The Friends of Florence Van Fans wants to thank the community for its contributions to the success of its annual Pie and Ice Cream Social held at the Florence Events Center.

Many of the Van Fans volunteers baked delicious pies and desserts and also contributed fantastic raffle prize items. We especially want to thank BJ's Ice Cream for donating the ice cream and Jeff Lovejoy for the wonderful music he provided for the three hours of the social.

We all enjoyed his keyboard and vocals.

This ice cream social is a labor of love by the members of the Van Fans and is one of the three fundraisers it has each year to raise money for the operation of the Friends of Florence bus, which transports cancer patients free of charge to and from the Willamette Valley Cancer Institute and Oregon Urology.

The community of Florence is always ready to step forward to help in any charitable activity. That is part of what makes Florence great!

—*Sharon Grove*
Events Coordinator
Friends of Florence Van Fans

APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS FOR NEW PATH

Three years ago, the "Citizens Committee to Save the Native Rhododendrons" was formed to fight for a more aesthetic way to construct a

walking path along Rhododendron Drive — a way that would enhance property values rather than tear them down; a way that would save hundreds of trees, native rhododendrons and precious animal habitat for this generation and generations to come.

Nearly 3,000 citizens of this community signed a petition to save beauty rather than destroy it.

Volunteers wrote letters, tied ribbons, went to every Florence City Council meeting for months, gave speeches, walked with protest signs, placed flyers in many local businesses, and walked door-to-door with petitions.

And the city listened. The result is the path that has been constructed today.

We appreciate its efforts and hard work in doing so, and would like to thank them as well as all of the volunteers who worked together to make this city improvement happen.

—*Vicki Martin*
Florence

NO MORE 'STANDARD RESPONSES' AT OCHS

We are writing in response to the article "Past and Present Board Members, Volunteers Clash Over Care" (Aug. 12) in the Siuslaw News.

The comments of current OCHS board member Ed Gervais are not new to any of us who have volunteered. This is the standard response virtually every time issues of neglect, abuse or mismanagement are brought forward

to the OCHS Board.

Many in our community have volunteered or been on the board and have voiced concerns about ongoing issues including questionable financial practices, lack of training for staff and volunteers, and abuse or neglect of the animals. These volunteers are people with expertise, education and real concern for the animals, and who were ready and willing to do whatever was necessary.

But efforts to improve conditions for the animals have been repeatedly rebuffed and animals continue to suffer.

There is little or no training (of staff or volunteers) and minimal resources made available to improve the quality of life for the animals, even though it appears there's plenty of money in the bank.

Shelter management and the current board are aware of these deficiencies, but are apparently incapable or unwilling to take action. Any time an issue is raised, the board — either individually or collectively — responds with "We're working on a plan," "You don't understand the full picture" or "There isn't enough money for that."

Meanwhile, it seems resources are squandered, problems are ignored or swept under the rug, and the animals continue to suffer.

According to many accepted definitions, animal cruelty is not only the intentional abuse of an animal; it is also the failure to take care of an animal. There are many instances of animals at OCHS that have not received proper care.

The donations of our generous com-

munity are funding this and people deserve to know how their contributions are being used — or misused.

—*Dolly Brock*
Donna Mlinek
Florence

NO RACISM, BIGOTRY, WHITE SUPREMACY

This is my history. When I was a little white girl living in the Jim Crow South of Louisiana in the 1950s, I had a defining moment happen in the grocery store. I was thirsty, went up to a water fountain and took a drink.

In my childhood memory, the whole store gasped and went silent, everyone looking at me for doing the unthinkable; I drank from the "colored" water fountain. I couldn't reconcile the response with the cool water I was drinking.

This event set me on a path of fighting racial injustice I've been a part of since.

Yes, it's expanded to all social injustice I see; it opened my eyes to the fact that, when we say liberty and justice for all, we have to fight for it when we see it corrupted or neglected.

That's where I am now. Standing in my truth. Fighting racism, bigotry and, yes, white supremacy.

White is just one color on a color spectrum. We all belong. I am your neighbor.

—*Judy Kinsman*
Florence

Let me Showcase your property.



Dan Gilday
Broker
541 554-1844



Royal St Georges #48 — Great location for your brand new home near Sandpines Golf Course in a gated community, under construction now. Still time left for you to customize this 1,843 sqft, 3 bdrm, 2 bath home. Includes large 3 car tandem garage and all the amenities of a fine custom home. **\$348,000.** #2711-17074865



1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

Cross Road
Assembly of God

We invite you to join us.

- **Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Family Connections**
- **Sunday Worship 9:00am and 10:45am**

Corner of 10th & Maple St. • 541-997-3533
www.florencecrossroad.org
email: office@florencecrossroad.org

CTR
County Transfer & Recycling
Commercial • Residential

- Drop Box Service
- Portable Storage Rentals
- Recycling Specialist
- Recycling Services & Containers available at no cost to customers.




5078 Coastwood Lane Phone: 541-997-8233
Florence, OR 97439 Fax: 541-997-7345

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices | Northwest Real Estate

The Top Choice in Florence Real Estate.




Let your next home find you!



HomeFinder Reports
Receive our automated HomeFinder Report, with


- Rapid updates of all new listings and price changes
- Interactive mapping with satellite images
- Price reductions clearly displaying \$ and % changes
- Complete listing details, including addresses
- Active inventory by price range

View all our active listings in Florence at [www.RealEstateFlorence.com!](http://www.RealEstateFlorence.com)


Or give us a call at (541)997-6000 and we'll do the searching for you!




NEW LISTING
Located at the Reserve. Charm, warmth & elegance! Brazilian Cherry wood floors, Quartz countertops, bonus room, 3 car garage, Timber frame style covered deck & patio, fire ring, privacy surrounded by nature!! 3 Bdrm, 3 Ba 2184 sq ft
\$459,900 BH7553 ML#17567670



NEW LISTING
In-town beautifully remodeled ranch style home. Fireplace, double garage, boat/ RV parking – professionally landscaped. A must see!
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1276 sq ft
\$235,000 BH7549 ML#17664947



NEW LISTING
This home is conveniently located, RV parking, newly fenced backyard and a new covered back deck.
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 792 sq ft
\$150,000 BH7550 ML#17109583




SALE PENDING
Premier subdivision-Shelter Cove!
Custom home, open & spacious design. Mint condition
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2211 sqft
\$415,000 BH7395 ML#17196889



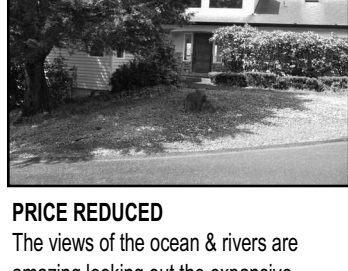
PRICE REDUCED
Beautiful open concept remodeled custom home, white Oak floors, formal living & dining room. 2 master suites. RV hookups & 3 car garage
4 Bdrm, 3 1/2 Ba 3141 sq ft
\$599,000 BH7467 ML#17538753



PRICE REDUCED
The views of the ocean & rivers are amazing looking out the expansive windows or sitting on the wrap around deck
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1999 sq ft
\$285,000 BH7472 ML#17070777



PRICE REDUCED
South Shore subdivision, Wohink lake access. Corner lot, ready for your dream home. Cleared, septic approval, lake water available.
1 acre
\$95,900 BH6892 ML#14666443



PRICE REDUCED
North Lake area, 2005 Fuqua. Excellent condition!! Double garage, fenced backyard with deck.
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1144 sq ft
\$174,900 BH7478 ML#17350413



NEW LISTING
Recreational opportunities abound & Mercer Lake views. Double-wide with detached 24 x 28 garage with bath & upstairs rec room. Plus single car garage, carport & ample parking
2 Bdrm, 3 Ba 1120 sq ft
\$289,900 BH7532 ML#17363341