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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



LEAVING A LEGACY TO BE PROUD OF

MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The varied waters of the Siuslaw River watershed were often featured in Wesley Voth's writings about the Upriver community and the greater world.



Local writer, environmentalist and community leader impacted all he touched

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.

— Henry David Thoreau

There are some people in the world that just seem to “get it.” They are better able to filter out the nonsense we are confronted with on a daily basis. These gifted people seem to have the unusual ability to sort through the bluster, clutter and crazy cacophony of modern society — and see clearly to the heart of the matter. Wesley Voth, a colleague of the Siuslaw News, was one of these individuals. These rare people can see what is truly important and lasting. They are able to see the

beauty in the small things and recognize the importance of the quiet animals that only come out at night, and the beauty and fragility of the flowers and insects that live all around us. These folks have an inner compass, an internal guidance system, that senses what is truly important in life. They gently, but firmly, turn our collective attentions in that direction. These individuals see the world we live in as a treasure that deserves to be appreciated

and protected — A world that needs to be protected from the human inclination to exploit and overuse, quite often to the future detriment of society's children and grandchildren. These individuals' observations and interpretations of the world cause others to take notice of the beauty, fragility and, ultimately, the interconnectedness of life. Voth was one of those people. One of the organizations that

See **LEGACY 7A**

Remembering a gentle ‘Neighbor’

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By ROBERT SERRA
PAST EDITOR OF SIUSLAW NEWS



Last month on a plane heading east I read the opening lines of the novel “Mink River” by Brian Doyle:

*A town not big not small.
In the hills in Oregon on the coast.
Bounded by four waters;
one muscular river, two shy little creeks, one ocean.
End of May — the first salmonberries are just ripe.*

I immediately thought of Wesley Voth, long-time correspondent/columnist for Siuslaw News. Wesley, in a number of his spring columns, described in sensual detail the pleasure of finding and eating the first salmonberry of the season. Wesley died suddenly last week and left a permanent void in the fields and woods and alongside the beautiful river that served as the church and classroom for a son of the natural world.

I met Wesley and his

wife, Susan, shortly after the turn of the century. As editor of the Siuslaw News, I was forming a small group of correspondents to write a weekly feature called “Neighbors.” Wesley and Susan volunteered to represent the Mapleton/Swisshome area. In later years, Wesley took over for the pair, and after the death of revered historian/storyteller Bob Jackson a couple years ago, Wesley became the final Neighbor still writing for the paper. Wesley's columns on the one hand chronicled life along the Upriver communities where people are hard working, honest and kind. Mostly. He would let us know what events were planned or took place that defined

See **NEIGHBOR 7A**

Meals on Wheels makes holiday adjustments

Senior food delivery will continue but dates of service may change

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The holiday season is a busy time for many residents of Florence, especially as the holidays cause office and service closures during the workweek. Representatives of the local Meals on Wheels food program said that seniors dependent on the program might require flexibility. The Meals on Wheels program is funded by the Senior & Disabled Services Division of Lane Council of Governments. Senior Meals Program Assistant Manager Heather Demsky wants to notify seniors of upcoming seasonal changes to the food program. “We provide freezer meals for Meals on Wheels clients on days when we are closed for a furlough day or a holiday,” Demsky said. “In November,

we will be closed and sending out freezer meals in advance to cover closures.” Meals on Wheels' closure dates include Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day; Friday, Nov. 17, for a furlough day; and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday. The holiday season also presents other challenges to the program, as Meals on Wheels has additional staffing and delivery concerns that impact the service in areas like Florence. “The Senior Meals Program provides Meals on Wheels in eight Lane County communities,” Demsky said. “Hot noontime meals are delivered two, three or five days a week depending on location. This allows us to spread the services to as many eligible Lane

See **MEALS 8A**

School Resource Officer Program builds rapport

Florence Police Department works with Siuslaw School District in new city program

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council heard a report from the newly initiated School Resource Officer (SRO) program at Siuslaw School District during Monday's city council meeting. City Manager Erin Reynolds introduced Florence Police Sgt. Brandon Ott and Officer Brandon Bailey to the city council. “They are both operating our SRO program, a new program for the city,” Reynolds said. “Anytime we spend money on new things, we like to make sure that you're in the know about what's going on in a very significant aspect of our community.” According to the adopted City of Florence Biennial Budget for 2017-2019, the SRO position is fully offset by funding from the Siuslaw School District and a federal grant totaling \$107,000. The SRO program works with Siuslaw School District, primarily the elementary and middle school, to develop a law enforcement presence on campus.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Florence Police Sgt. Brandon Ott is the current School Resource Officer at Siuslaw School District, where he helps with education, counseling and law enforcement for students.

Ott said, “Towards the end of the summer, Commander Pitcher and myself decided that I would be trained up to temporarily staff this position. It has actually turned out to be a fun and awesome assignment, and has been really enjoyable.” Florence Police Department put three officers through the National Association

See **OFFICER 8A**

Looking for election results?

Readers looking for results from the Nov. 7 Special Election will have to wait until Saturday's issue of the Siuslaw News to see them in print. The results were made public last night beginning at 8 p.m., after the

paper's print deadline, but an updated tally can be found online at www.TheSiuslawNews.com. Lane County Elections will continue to provide updates on the results until all ballots are processed.

Early deadlines for Veterans Day

Due to the U.S. Postal Service's Veterans Day schedule, the Saturday edition of the Siuslaw News will instead be delivered on Friday, Nov. 10. Deadlines for this week's second issue will be advanced. All display advertising, legal publication and by-the-word classified deadlines move to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Deadline for news articles and press releases is 5 p.m. Wednesday.

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