



VETERANS DAY SATURDAY, Nov. 11, 2017



READY TO WRESTLE

SPORTS — B

Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

TWO BROTHERS, TWO WARS — A SHARED EXPERIENCE

Local brothers, John, 96, and Bill Weiser, 84, served in World War II and the Korean War



HISTORIC PHOTOS BY BILL WEISER



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

From left, brothers John and Bill Weiser of Glenada



During the Korean War, Bill Weiser took these photographs of his ship, the U.S.S. Guadalupe, and his crewmates during "liberty" and time at sea.



By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Americans will recognize the service of all veterans on Saturday, Nov. 11, in honor of the Armistice that ended World War I (WWI) on Nov. 11, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson created Armistice Day in 1919 on the one-year anniversary of the end of WWI, and the holiday was renamed Veterans Day years later in 1954.

The connection to WWI may seem simply a matter of history to most of us, but to 96-year-old Florence-area resident John Weiser, it is a matter of personal history. John was born in 1922 and the distant memories associated with the time immediately following WWI were the experiences of his youth.

See **BROTHERS 6A**

Voters pass local option levy by wide margin

Renewal will allow Siuslaw School District to continue to offer classes, enhance learning

Florence voters had only one ballot measure to consider in Tuesday's special election — the renewal of a local option levy for the Siuslaw School District, Measure 20-281.

A total of 5,606 votes were cast in the district's three precincts, with 3,511 (62.63 percent) voting to continue the levy and 2,095 (37.37 percent) voting against.

Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak was hopeful the measure would pass and was pleased with the strong support the renewal received once the ballots were counted.

"The general comments people have shared with me over the past few weeks have been very positive with regards to the renewal of the operating levy," he said. "I was fairly confident the levy would pass, and when I downloaded the first results Wednesday night I was surprised that the margin of victory was so significant. With the 'yes' votes coming in over 62 percent, that really shows that our community cares about education and kids."

The funds generated by the passage of 20-281 will provide the money needed to fill in the fiscal gaps in a number of district programs.

In the last year, the federal administration has significantly cut the funding for the Department of Education and has scaled back or completely eliminated the funding for many after school programs, the teachers for those programs and needed technology upgrades.

According to Grzeskowiak, the renewal of the levy option will bridge these funding gaps.

"The school district is very appreciative of the support the community has shown for education here locally as demonstrated by the election results," he said.

See **LEVY 9A**

Community rallies around Florence Food Share

New corporate programs and a slew of donations help the local program

By JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

After Florence Food Share's financial difficulties were brought to light last week following a dearth of cash donations and changing corporate sponsorships, the nonprofit has seen a rash of donations and support from local corporations.

"Since then, the community has stepped up and the donations have been pouring in all week," Florence Food Share Executive Director Norma Barton said. "Thank you, Florence community."

In addition, two major compa-

nies in town have promised major donations within the coming months.

Florence manufacturer Top Hydraulics Inc. will be a second sponsor of Cindy Wobbe's 18th annual Pounding for Florence Food Share, which will be held next Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grocery Outlet.

"For every pound of food donated on that day, Top Hydraulics will donate \$1," Barton said. "That means, for this year only, along with our original anonymous donor, we will have a two-for-one match. For every pound of food donated at the Pounding fundraiser, Florence

Food Share will receive \$2."

Three Rivers Casino Resort, which had put its philanthropic endeavors on hold while going through a corporate reorganization, announced this week that it will be using its Tuesday night Progressive Jackpot Bingo promotion to raise food donations for food share.

Beginning on Tuesday, Nov. 14, individuals will be able to bring three cans of food for one extra bingo card, once from noon to 3 p.m. and again from 6 to 9 p.m.

"The promotion is set up without an end date," Three Rivers Director of Consumer Marketing Richard Colton said.

While it's possible the promotion itself may end if it doesn't bring interest, Colton said giving to the food share will always be a priority of the casino.

"It will be really easy to move it to another promotion that is working well for us, so we can continue to support Florence Food Share," he said.

Three Rivers will also continue its Toy and Food Drive through Thursday, Dec. 14, which will allow Players Club members to bring in unwrapped toys or three cans of food to receive \$5 in free play.

See **DONATIONS 9A**

Dunes City marijuana grow operation may be denied

Oregon Liquor Control Commission application may be at risk due to improper approval

By JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

One of the proposed marijuana grow operations that has been in the middle of a hotly contested debate in Dunes City during the past few months may have its application pulled by Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC), according to information released at the Dunes City Council meeting on Nov. 8.

The application that may be denied was submitted by Valerie Caine-Mathis.

According to Dunes City Administrator Jamie Mills, Caine-Mathis first came into the office in February to apply for a Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) to create a marijuana grow on her property.

Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) requires potential commercial growers to submit a LUCS to city officials, who then must verify that the proposals meet city ordinances.

The Caine-Mathis LUCS states, "I will have three green houses, each measuring 30 feet wide and 60 feet deep."

However, there was no mention of a residential structure. The green houses would be considered accessory structures, which are only allowed in combination with residential property.

At the time, Mills was at a conference in Eugene and the LUCS was approved by former Permit Technician Renee Green. When Mills came back from her conference, she reviewed the LUCS and stated that the LUCS could not be

approved as is. A residential property had to be built on the premises, and, to do that, a residential permit had to be purchased.

Dunes City staff contacted Caine-Mathis.

"I wasn't privy to that conversation," Mills said. "But I do recall them telling her, 'You have to have something different. You have to have the residence.' She said, 'OK, we'll bring in a site plan for the residence.'"

But, according to Mills, the new plans were never submitted and a new permit was never purchased.

The old LUCS, which Mills states should have been denied, was submitted to OLCC.

Therefore, the existing LUCS OLCC has does not meet city code, according to Mills.

As to why this occurred, Mills

stated the issue is still under investigation.

On Oct. 31, Mills drafted a letter to OLCC informing them that the existing LUCS does not comply with the city's land use regulations.

However, Mills stopped short of stating that the city requested the withdrawal of the LUCS. She instead requested that OLCC determine whether the LUCS needed to be simply amended, or pulled all together.

In that case, the decision of rescinding the LUCS would fall squarely on OLCC, not Dunes City.

OLCC Media Representative Mike Pettinger stated that OLCC is evaluating the situation, reviewing the chronology of events and examining the LUCS itself.

See **APPLICATION 8A**

INSIDE	Classifieds	B5	Religion	A5
	Community	A3	Sideshow	B4
	Opinion	A4	Sports	B
	Records	A2	This Week on the Coast	A9

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
54 45

SATURDAY
56 46

SUNDAY
55 46

MONDAY
51 46

SIUSLAW NEWS
2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES
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