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# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## 18th annual Pounding brings in record haul

*Hundreds of area residents help fill the pantry of Florence Food Share before the holidays*



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

People flock to Grocery Outlet on Nov. 18 to participate in the 18th annual Pounding for Florence Food Share. Far left, Food Share Director Norma Barton works alongside volunteers to weigh items. Each pound of food donated was matched by up to \$2.

BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

The 18th Annual Pounding broke records this past Saturday as Siuslaw area residents donated 13,088 pounds to be given to Florence Food Share. The event broke the all-time record by almost 2,000 pounds, set last year when 11,111 pounds were donated. “I couldn’t be happier,” said Florence Food Share Executive Director Norma Barton. “We are incredibly grateful to this amazing community.”

The pounding is a yearly event held at Grocery Outlet, where community members buy food and donate it to the food share. The groceries are

weighed, and then donors match those funds in cash donations, which assist Florence Food Share with operational costs. This year, two groups donated matching funds: an anonymous donor and Top Hydraulics, located in Florence.

The anonymous donor, who has been donating to the Pounding for the past three years, matched funds up



Cindy Wobbe founded the Pounding after Sept. 11, 2001.

to \$10,000, while Top Hydraulics donated \$1 for every pound. On top of that, individual donors throughout the day donated a total of \$2,878. All told, the event brought in \$25,966. “It’s amazing,” Barton said. “I thank the public so much.” However, Barton wanted to remind the community that the need for donations is a year-round issue.

“This isn’t a one-time need,” she said. “It’s ongoing.” The Pounding began in 2001, just after the terrorist attacks that brought down the World Trade Center. “In the weeks and months after Sept. 11, everybody responded in a big way by sending their donations to the Red Cross and other agencies that were helping those immediately impacted by 9/11,” said Cindy Wobbe, co-creator of the fundraiser. Because the donations were being funneled to the larger national crisis, local charities like Florence Food Share saw a dip in contributions.

See **POUNDING 6A**

EMERGENCY

## Florence man drowns in accident at Siltcoos

*Agencies respond to overturned boat*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

On Saturday, Nov. 18, emergency response agencies received a call about a capsized boat on Siltcoos Lake, seven miles south of Florence.

Florence resident Gordon Bradford was pronounced deceased at the scene.

According to the incident report, at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, crews from Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District, (WLAD) were dispatched to an overturned boat at the Siltcoos Lake boat ramp.

According to witnesses, the fishing boat accidentally flipped over when approaching the dock.

The boat was occupied by Bradford, his wife Eileen Lundquist Bradford and their dog. When the boat overturned the couple and the dog were trapped underneath the boat.

On their arrival, SVFR first responders found the overturned boat and immediately began using rescue equipment to lift the front of the boat.

After a few minutes, paramedics and firefighters were able to access Lundquist Bradford and the dog.

During the search, the responders were unable to locate Bradford.

Lundquist Bradford and the dog were treated for hypothermia and transported to PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center in stable condition.

The rescuers were not able to locate Bradford, and requested assistance from Lane County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) Dive Team.

See **DROWNING 7A**

## Siuslaw School Board turns attention to building needs

*Elementary, middle schools need upgrades while high school may need to be replaced*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw School Board met on Nov. 15 to address the future needs of the district.

The passage of the district’s local option levy earlier in November was a positive step in securing the funding needed to maintain the district’s current level of student services, but does not address many of the facilities’ long-term needs. These needs are most notably tied

to building size, structural integrity and technological options currently available.

The district has three buildings that will require upgrades, all of which will be extensive and costly.

Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak said, “In short, the big consideration is the time students would spend trying to learn in a construction zone. An incremental remodeling of the high school would take at least five years and still leave some of the deficiencies

to building size, structural integrity and technological options currently available. “We can’t change some of the geometry and layout of the current building, no matter what is done during a remodel. Building a new facility would save on time and allow all of the site deficiencies to be properly addressed, without subjecting students to the noise, smells and other distractions of construction around them.”

The next challenge for the board is to decide what level of upgrades to undertake to provide safe and modern

learning facilities for the student population.

An integral component in determining the most effective process begins with the assessment and recommendations made by Curt Wilson, principal architect at Pivot Architecture of Eugene.

Wilson leads a team of designers and architects who have been engaged in an overall analysis of the district’s current structures and future requirements.

See **DISTRICT 6A**

## IS COASTAL LIVING IN JEOPARDY? PART II: STATE OF HOUSING

*City of Florence details current struggles, future plans for housing and services*

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence’s mission is, “To meet community expectations for municipal services, provide a vision for civic improvements, maintain a quality environment and position Florence to have an economically viable and sustainable future.”

“Livability and Quality Life” is second on Florence City Council’s 2017 goals, an overarching objective that includes housing and much of what makes coastal living worth it.

“Our goal is to sustain and improve,” said Florence Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell.

She said that the city has been aware of the recent housing crisis, and gave some background information on how the city got here.

Rental rates are rising, there are few

vacancies and even median home prices make it hard for people to rent or buy homes in the Florence area. As such, people live out of the city or stay in unsuitable conditions.

“I see a lot of people moving here, I really do,” FarleyCampbell said. “Just finding a place, period, is probably the greatest challenge.

Assuming you find something, will it meet your needs, from a rooms and amenities perspective?”

She said more often it is a quality perspective people have to face with the rentals available in their income bracket, especially as long waitlists for certain units make people more will-

ing to go with the option they can attain than the one they may wait to hear back from for months.

Still, in some ways, that woman was one of the lucky ones — she was able to find a place to live.

“There’s definitely a housing shortage, no doubt,” FarleyCampbell affirmed. “That’s why people are willing to live in an uninhabitable place. I have a place just up the street from me that

I’ve been watching for years. It took a tree falling on the thing to actually get the residents moved out of there. Social services showed up to get the kids. It was horrible, and they lived in it with the tree crashed on it. For months. Finally, it’s gone now, but people will live in what they need to

**“Based on an up-to-date, accurate accounting of Florence incomes and the price of homes and rental rates, the average wage earner in town cannot afford to purchase a home at the median home price offered today and there are not enough dwellings having the amenities and acceptable level of condition in the price range that he or she can afford.”**

— City of Florence Housing Needs Assessment, 2008

See **HOUSING 7A**

INSIDE Classifieds . . . . . B8 Opinion . . . . . A4  
Community . . . . . A3 Records . . . . . A2  
Kid Scoop . . . . . B6 Sports . . . . . B  
Library Tidings . . . . . A5 Thanksgiving Greetings . . . . . C

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER  
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY  
61 34

THURSDAY  
56 45

FRIDAY  
58 48

SATURDAY  
56 48

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