



Dear Santa ...

SPECIAL SECTION — C

LADY VIKS BLOCK BRAVES

SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

127TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 102

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

CITY OF FLORENCE COULD BE FEATURED ON 'MAIN STREET' TV

Downtown Revitalization Team draws focus of Small Business Revolution business series

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence's Downtown Revitalization Team (DRT) announced this month that the city is in the running to be featured in a web-based TV series that focuses on small busi-

nesses and a thriving main street. "Small Business Revolution — Main Street" may choose Florence after a site visit on Jan. 3 with representatives from the DRT, City of Florence and area businesses.

DRT Chairwoman Ellen Huntingdon has led the initiative from initial query to this month's announcement that Florence has been selected for a site visit from Small Business Revolution's production team.

"I thought, 'Oh, heck. We'll give it a try.' I filled out the online application, and I think Florence spoke for itself. They got more interested, and

now we're in the top 10," she said.

Huntingdon is the marketing coordinator at Oregon Pacific Bank (OPB). She has worked there since returning to Florence after attending college abroad in Tokyo.

"I do marketing for OPB, so I get to do sponsorship and charitable giving," she said. "Over the years, I learned a little more about the community and the organizations in it, and got to know people. Through that, I was contacted about DRT."

OPB encourages staff members to get involved in community groups and volunteering, so when former DRT Chairman David Wiegand invit-

ed her to join the group, Huntingdon agreed.

"Everything just sort of snow-balled off itself, and I've become slightly more involved," she said. "The more you learn about this town, the more you want to be involved."

DRT works within the same area as the Florence Urban Renewal District, which surrounds Historic Old Town. The district boundaries are the Siuslaw River to the east and south, Kingwood Street to the west and Ninth Street and Highway 126 to the north, with some areas extending slightly beyond. Some of its current projects include the holiday banners

and seasonal flower baskets in the Florence Antiques District on Highway 101.

Its slogan is, "Our purpose is to coordinate and promote marketing, visual improvements and business development for Historic Florence."

About a year ago, DRT also began working with a group that helps revitalize downtown areas, the Oregon Main Street Program. This is a coordinating program with Main Street America, which works with communities to develop comprehensive, incremental revitalization strategies

See **MAIN STREET 7A**

State police arrest man after 6-hour standoff

Scott Williams, 54, charged for weapon offenses

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Florence area resident Scott Williams, 54, was taken into custody early Thursday morning by Oregon State Police (OSP), after a six-hour armed standoff at the Rhododendron Trailer Park on Highway 101. Williams was charged with multiple weapons-related offenses, including pointing firearm at another, menacing, disorderly conduct and unlawful use of a weapon.

Backup for OSP was provided by Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Police Department.

A statement released by OSP detailed the standoff and the measures taken by officers responding to the call.

See **ARREST 6A**

OCHS employee cited for animal neglect

A tip from a local resident led to Lane County Animal Services citing Mapleton resident Heather Dollman on six counts of animal neglect Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Two horses were removed from the property occupied by Dollman by Lane County Animal Welfare Officer Bernard Perkins and an assistant.

Lane County Public Information Officer Devon Ashbridge confirmed that Dollman was present to receive the neglect citation and that Oregon State Police were called to the location to assist in the removal of the animals.

Dollman was cited on two counts each for lack of food in sufficient quantity and quality; lack of necessary veterinary care; and unsuitable confinement.

"Thankfully, we received a call about the condition of the animals," said Perkins. "We know that the care and health of animals is very important to our residents — it's important to Lane County too — and we appreciate their help identifying possible problem situations."

See **NEGLECT 7A**



Warm holiday wishes

PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN AND CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



People in the Siuslaw region stepped forward this holiday season to provide food, toys, clothing and blankets for their community members. From the Salvation Army exceeding its fundraising goal of \$25,000 to dozens of blankets donated to Siuslaw Outreach Services, people lent a helping hand to their neighbors. North of Florence, Twin Lake Store sponsored 29 teens with a Giving Tree. Hundreds of gifts donated by the community filled Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Station No. 4 Thursday. Around town, many homes and businesses decorated with colorful lights, and the Port of Siuslaw sponsored its second annual Holiday Light Contest.



Merry Christmas from all of us at Siuslaw News

Port moves forward on longstanding issues

Commissioners approve FEMA project, finalize manager job description

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

There was a flurry of progress at the Port of Siuslaw on Wednesday as the council made decisions regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) erosion project, posted the open port manager job position and looked into several other key projects.

One of the first issues the commission tackled was the FEMA erosion project after final plans were submitted to repair the damage at the east end of the campground. The erosion was caused in part by the heavy winter of 2015-16. The affected portion of the campground has been closed since April 2016.

The project has been mired in controversy and delays since its initial proposal, including longstanding debates on what caused the erosion, how the erosion should be fixed and how much the repairs would cost. The project was also continually postponed by a myriad of bureaucratic hurdles from federal and state agencies.

But on Wednesday, the final designs for the project were finally approved, with a start date planned for March or April 2018.

However, even this decision was met with some controversy. Marine Engineer Jack Aiken, who has worked on the project since the beginning, had submitted the final proposal as a scaled down version, with a reduction of rock and fill used to fix the erosion.

The original plans called for a 2:1 slope to a 1.5:1 slope. While the new, steeper angle would save money on the project, it could potentially prohibit individuals from walking on the slope.

The commissioners were confused as to why Aiken had made the change.

"We've been led to read the Bible saying our shore land is going to wash away using a 2:1 slope, but now we're building a 1.5:1 slope," Commissioner Terry Duman said. "This is the same as a contractor saying we'll build 12-foot ceilings, but then building 8-foot ceilings, saying, 'We'll save you money, now.'"

The commission didn't disagree with the change per se, and they found the cost benefits to be substantial. But they questioned why Aiken made the change now, and not earlier.

See **PROJECTS 11A**

INSIDE Classifieds B7
Community A3
Letters to Santa C
Opinion A4

Records A2
Side Show B6
Sports B
Weather Data A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
62 48

SUNDAY
54 46

MONDAY
52 43

TUESDAY
50 38

SIUSLAW NEWS
3 SECTIONS | 28 PAGES
COPYRIGHT 2017

88267 02345 1