



Siuslaw News' annual Year in Review looks back at some of the Florence area's top stories from 2017

JANUARY

FRESHLY DRIVEN SNOW

The Florence area received between four and eight inches of snow Jan. 4, causing schools and government offices to close or open late.

ALWAYS READY TO RHODY

2017 is the 110th annual Rhododendron Festival in Florence, celebrating a tradition of native rhododendrons and honoring local youth in the Grand Floral Parade and a yearly coronation.

HUNDREDS GATHER FOR SOLIDARITY MARCH

On Jan. 21, a Women's Solidarity March was held in Florence in support of the Women's March in Washington.

VISION OF 'A CITY IN MOTION' BECOMES A REALITY

Florence Mayor Joe Henry gave the State of the City address at the Florence Events Center, focusing on the city's work plan,

goals and current and future projects. Henry said, "Early on we talked about our dream of being a 'City in Motion.' You will see our dream is no longer a dream, instead it is a daily reality and has turned into action and results."

FEBRUARY

LANDSLIDE TOPPLES TRAILER

The nearly five inches of rain the Florence area received were likely a major contributor to a hillside collapse at the Siuslaw Marina and River RV Park.

Fire Marshal Sean Barrett said, "Calls like this really test our abilities. We classify them as high hazard and low frequency. They don't happen very often but they are very hazardous — not only to the victim but to the first responders."

FLORENCE CLARIFIES POSITION ON IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

City of Florence issued a statement Feb. 3 in response to President Donald Trump's Executive Order 13768, signed Jan. 25, expanding the authority of state and local police to include enforcing federal immigration law.

Executive Order 13768, Section 8 states, "It is the policy of the executive branch to empower state and local law enforcement agencies across the country to perform the functions of an immigration officer in the interior of the United States to the maximum extent permitted by law."

This statement directly conflicts with language in the Oregon Revised Statutes, (ORS) and the Florence City Charter.

SIUSLAW AWARDS HONORS CITIZENS, BUSINESSES

The community gathered to celebrate the best of Florence during the ninth annual Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Siuslaw Awards banquet celebration.

More than 30 businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals were nominated for nine categories. A panel of seven unidentified judges from in and outside the Florence area se-

lected the winning applicant in each category. All winners were kept secret until the awards presentation.

Ron Caputo was selected as the 2016 Florence First Citizen, and Siuslaw High School senior Claire Waggoner was selected as the Future First Citizen.

PEACE HARBOR COULD FACE CHOPPY SEAS

Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) member nurses at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center have been negotiating for better terms in a new contract since Nov. 30.

According to Peace Harbor Hospital registered nurse and ONA negotiating team member Sandy Fleetwood, the major negotiating points between nurses and PeaceHealth are healthcare benefits, wage and hour issues, recruitment and retention and security.

MARCH

TREGONING ADVANCES TO MASTER CHIEF

U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw Officer-in-Charge Tim Tregoning advanced to the title of master chief petty officer, the "pinnacle" of his career, in a ceremony held at Oregon Coast Military Museum in Florence.

"Today is a momentous day for the Tregoning family," Trimpert said. "Advancing to master chief is the pinnacle of being an enlisted man in the U.S. Coast Guard."

ROTARY AUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH FOR THIRD TIME

Rotary Club of Florence announced the grand total of this auction and the total had club members dancing. The March 11 auction, called "Dancing for the Stars of Tomorrow," raised \$109,131.89.

Auction Committee co-chair Kevin McMullen said the total came from just the auction alone.

"This is what you guys did in just one night," he said. More than 300 people attended the Rotary Auction at the Florence Events Center.

FOR THE REST OF 2017, SEE PAGE 2

2017 Year in Review section for January, including articles on snow, Rhody Festival, solidarity march, and city vision.

2017 Year in Review section for February, including articles on landslide, immigration enforcement, awards, and bridges.

2017 Year in Review section for March, including articles on Tregoning's promotion, rotary auction, and local option levy.