

PROGRAM INSIDE!
Sea Lion Caves presents Winter Music Festival - Florence, Oregon

Winter Music Festival
16th Annual
January 12, 13, 14, 2018
12 Groups - 3 Days of Music, Food & Fun!

REDUCED HOURS AT HONEYMAN

SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 3

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Local woman struck, killed near Glenada Road

BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

Traffic was stopped in both directions across the Siuslaw River Bridge Monday evening as emergency crews responded to the scene of a tragic motor vehicle accident that claimed the life of a young Florence woman.

At about 5:15 p.m., 28-year-old Heather Marie Sanford was reportedly walking in the southbound lane of Highway 101, just south of the bridge at milepost 191, when she was struck by a 2017 GMC Sierra truck driven by Arthur Brown, 70, of Florence.

Moments later, Tony Foglio was heading north just past Glenada Road when he looked to the left and saw Brown's truck quickly pull off to the side of the road.

"There were papers flying down everywhere from the air, so I thought someone had lost a load of trash or something," said Foglio, who then noticed a figure laying in the road and wearing a backpack, not far from his driver's side door. "I realized the papers had probably come from the backpack."



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Paramedics and first responders stop traffic on the Siuslaw River Bridge Jan. 8 after a truck fatally struck local resident Heather Marie Sanford.

Seeing that another car had pulled up and that someone was presumably calling 9-1-1, Foglio positioned his truck to protect Sanford by blocking traffic.

"I felt for a pulse and didn't find one," he said.

Florence Police, along with members of Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District, arrived shortly afterward, and were joined by Oregon State Police (OSP) Troopers from the Springfield Area Command and Florence Worksite.

"Our preliminary investi-

gation has determined that Sanford was walking in the travel portion of the southbound lane of Highway 101 when she was struck," said Sgt. Erik Fisher of the OSP's Springfield command office, who oversaw the investigation. "Sanford suffered fatal injuries and was declared deceased at the scene by medical personnel."

Sanford was wearing dark clothing at the time and had been reported by other passing motorists as a hazard immediately prior to the accident.

See **FATALITY 7A**

Weekend's Winter Music Festival set to 'exceed expectations'

Al Stewart, Laurie Lewis headline event with eye towards music diversity

The 2018 Florence Winter Music Festival (WMF) begins this weekend at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., and the musicians participating in this year's concert series represent a broader range of styles and genres than in previous seasons.

The appearance of Saturday's high profile headliner Al Stewart, a staple of FM radio in the late 1970s, is the most noteworthy attempt by the Friends of the Florence Events Center to broaden the appeal of the festival, now in its 16th season.

Festival coordinator Howard Cusack said the change was needed, if the WMF was to continue.

"From a financial perspective, the previous folk music model was not generating the ticket sales needed to sustain the event. We needed more diversity to attract a wider audience. Clearly, this has worked, because we are exceeding our own expectations. As of this week, we will have sold over 1,000 tickets to this year's event," Cusack said.

Another internationally recognized star that should draw a large crowd is Friday's headliner, Laurie Lewis.

Lewis is one of the most respected and prolific bluegrass performers and educators in the country. She is a Grammy winner and has twice been named "Female Vocalist of the Year" by the International Bluegrass Music Association.

Lewis is backed by a band of musical all-stars, beginning with her sidekick of more than 30 years, mandolin master Tom Rozum.

The two longtime friends collaborated on the Grammy nominated CD, "The Oak and the Laurel."



"I'm lucky to have wonderful musicians to share the stage with. People can expect to hear stellar fiddling from Kentucky native Brandon Godman, beautiful singing and mandolin from Tom Rozum, sparkling banjo and harmony vocals from Patrick Sauber, and irrepressible, groovy bass playing from Sam Grisman," Lewis said. "The songs will draw from my deep catalog of originals and also from the repertoires of many of the bluegrass greats."

The latest CD by Lewis and her band is the 2016 release, "The Hazel and Alice Sessions," which was nominated for a Grammy award for Best Bluegrass Album.

Jeff Scroggins and the band Colorado will precede Lewis on stage Friday evening, playing at 7 p.m.

Scroggins is a masterful banjo player who brings amazing technical prowess to his renditions of classic and original bluegrass and Cajun blues.

Winter Music Festival's Saturday shows begin at 10:30 a.m. and continue through out the day, with six performances before the highly anticipated set by Al Stewart at 8:30 p.m.

On Monday, FEC Director Kevin Rhodes said Stewart's concert is "five tickets short of a sell out."

Stewart is comfortable with his place in rock and roll history. While the crowd may come to hear the hits they grew up with, there are other

See **FESTIVAL 7A**

Past high school principal honored with dedication

Richard Whitmore served in numerous capacities for more than three decades

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Yesterday, Siuslaw High School (SHS) unveiled a permanent tribute intended to honor a past principal who positively affected generations of graduates.

The district dedicated the SHS "mall and commons area" to Richard Whitmore, a SHS biology instructor, school administrator and vice principal who ultimately served as principal for 19 years.

Overall, he was a member of the Siuslaw staff for more than 30 years, serving in the district from 1961 to 1992.

He was the type of person who cared about his students in a way that carried on after graduation. His legacy was always one of unconditional support for students of the district, according to Siuslaw School Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak.

"Mr. Whitmore was a long-time educator here in the Siuslaw School District. He served as both a teacher and an administrator. After his retirement, as a measure of the respect he held amongst both

students and staff, the end of the year the awards for outstanding senior students were renamed in his honor," Grzeskowiak said.

One of Whitmore's former students, Gina Castro-Brandt, is currently an instructor at SHS. She has been involved in the process of obtaining the permission and the funding to complete the dedication project.

"This has been a Booster Club project that we have been working on for quite a while," she said.

District policy made it difficult to rename part of the facility, and then it took time to purchase plaques.

"I was vice president of the Booster Club at the inception of the project, and we received overwhelming community and alumni support through social media and written letters for the presentation," Castro-Brandt said.

Whitmore's wife, Barbara, was on hand for the unveiling of the plaque honoring her late husband. Whitmore passed away in 2012 at age 76.

See **PRINCIPAL 7A**

THE VOLATILE NATURE OF EDUCATION IS COASTAL LIVING IN JEOPARDY? PART VIII

Local education systems struggle with the ups and downs of funding while trying to build the future

BY JARED ANDERSON & DAMIEN SHERWOOD
Siuslaw News

Jesse Motichka fiddles with his iPad during his fifth-grade math class. His eyes are transfixed on the screen and his headphones drown out the world around him. In most cases, this would earn him an earful from his teacher and a time-out, but in Mapleton Elementary School, kids are encouraged to play with their technology.

Jesse is playing a game — on his teacher's orders. As he fidgets with dials that scroll through numbers, a digital window correspondingly shoots through space, whizzing by celestial bodies until he narrows in on his target number. A correct matching of numeric place values deposits more coins into his online profile. His classmates at either side are engrossed in their own math-based games, each working busily to earn more points.

Activities like this have become part of the curriculum in Mapleton's elementary math classes, instituting a unique digital approach to learning.

"The kids just soak it up and they're not afraid to jump in and start pushing buttons," said Sarah Timpe, who teaches third- and fourth-grade. "It's more like a video game, so it's more engaging to them. But instead of typical video games, they're figuring out answers."

A Smart Board at the front of each class

invites students to write, erase and drag objects on a digital screen for a more interactive experience. For reading classes, children can find sound patterns and drag words into matching columns. It's a technology the students are enthusiastic to engage with and one the teachers are finding helpful.

"The Smart Board was a little tricky, but I figured it out," said fifth- and sixth-grade teacher Clara Smith. "I can pull up a PowerPoint with our lesson on it and I can write on it. ... We have a document camera, too, which is part of the new-age overhead."

Mapleton Elementary School's advancements are preparing a generation for an age that increasingly relies on new technology for commerce, work and education. As these tech-savvy children grow up, it remains to be seen if their skills will remain in the community or entice them to find work elsewhere.

Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O'Mara believes future workers may have more opportunities to work with technology.

"When they graduate, a lot of the jobs out there are going to be technology-based or even home-based," she said. "I think it could potentially keep more graduates in the community."

While the degree to which technology will play a role in each child's life depends on the paths they choose, Mapleton teach-



ing staff agree technology encourages problem-solving skills in a way unique to their generation.

"I think it's good because they're seeing a different kind of technology than they would use at home," said Smith.

Timpe said, "I can say from personal experience I'm somewhat challenged with learning new technology. Having access to it now is an advantage because technology is always changing."

Jesse and fellow fifth-grader Alex Burnett both plan to follow family footsteps.

"I wanna do what my dad does," said Alex. "He does logging."

"I'll probably do the same thing," said Jesse.

Neither boy thinks all this new technology will influence their jobs as adults.

See **EDUCATION 9A**

INSIDE

Classifieds	B4	Opinion	A4
Community	A3	Records	A3
Kid Scoop	B3	Sports	B
Library Tidings	A5	Weather Data	A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
52 48

THURSDAY
53 44

FRIDAY
55 40

SATURDAY
57 42

SIUSLAW NEWS
2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES
COPYRIGHT 2018

0 88267 02345 1