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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

ODOT institutes more Siuslaw River Bridge safety measures

Changes include a reduced speed limit in the construction zone, additional signage and help traversing hazards

By JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

New pedestrian safety improvements have been made to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Siuslaw River Bridge construction zone, including a reduction in the speed limit and additional signage for pedestrian routes.

Issues surrounding the safety of the construction zone arose in January

after the death of Florence resident Heather Marie Sanford, who was struck and killed while walking in the highway's southbound lane by milepost 191 near Glenada Road.

Multiple concerns about the bridge were raised by the community, including the lack of a discernable pedestrian crosswalk, a 40-mph speed limit on the bridge during construction and limited visibility for motorists and pedestrians going into the bridge.

"Safety is our priority," ODOT Public Information Officer Angela Beers Seydel said. "On the Siuslaw Bridge Project, we appreciate the people who travel through the area sharing their experiences and concerns. We took those concerns through our internal traffic engineers and our safety review process and found that there were things that could be done to improve pedestrian safety."

The list of improvements includes a

reduced speed limit throughout the work zone, making it a 30-mph zone all hours of the day.

Enforcement of the speed limit will be increased as well, as Oregon State Police will be focusing additional enforcement on the south side of the bridge, where the pedestrian crossing location is.

ODOT has added additional signs for the pedestrian route from one side of the bridge to the other, identifying

crossing locations and closed sidewalk areas so motorists and pedestrians know where crossing will occur.

Included in the additional signage are electronic signs that have been placed on Highway 101 northbound and southbound that rotates the messages "BIKES/PEDS ON SHOULDER" and "SLOW NARROW BRIDGE."

See **BRIDGE 11A**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: LATINOS ALONG THE SIUSLAW PART II

Latino residents continue discussion into community, culture

By JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Editors note: This is the continuation of a discussion held by members of the Latino community on their place in the Siuslaw region, published on Feb. 28 in the Siuslaw News. Participants of the discussion included Liza Alvarez, Rosy Dominquez Guillenus, Karla Sanders and Sanders' mother Rosa Hernandez and sister Andrea Sanchez. Portions of the interview were spoken in Spanish, with Alvarez providing translation for the transcript below.

Why is it important to have a community?

KARLA: A lot of people in town don't have the resources and the right information about us and about our culture. And a lot of us don't have the resources to feel backed by someone. We're afraid to come out and even say anything because of the looks we might get.

When you're not from this country, or you don't have a paper that says you're from this country, you can't say anything.

ROSA: Or then you get ICE coming. There are people (in Florence) who are very good, and I do not think they deserve to go. That's my opinion.

Those of us who are here came to work — we did not come to steal, we did not come here to do things that are not right. We came for a better quality of life. Not all of us had the opportunity to come with a document, and they don't know how difficult it is to obtain that document.

Not all of us have the opportunity to have people who support us or can count on to help us; simply to drive us to the store, to take us to the doctor, to take us to the hospital, the most basic things.

See **LATINOS 9A**



'Breath of Spring' breezes through Home & Garden Show

PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS



The 22nd annual Florence Home & Garden Show welcomed spring to the area last weekend as 3,100 people came through the doors of the Florence Events Center (FEC). "A Breath of Spring" was the theme of this year's show, as multiple vendors created elaborate displays exhibiting various home and garden products, from hot tubs, furniture, appliances, woodwork and home decor. The centerpiece of the show was a large floral exhibit created by Laurel Bay Gardens. "It was one of our better shows based on the variety and quality of the displays," said event organizer Jon Thompson of KCST, who presented the show in conjunction with the Siuslaw News. Displays at the show included a full bedroom by Roby's furniture, a restroom display featuring a claw foot tub and working shower by ReVision Design Build and a full kitchen cabinet set by Willamette Custom Woodworks. "One of the keys to our show is that it's small, so we have to have good diversity in our vendor lineup," Thompson said. "I think this was one of the shows where we had a really good variety from multiple categories that fit the theme. That, combined with vendors that did outstanding displays, is what made this year stand out."



Florence City Council discusses policy, procedures

Mayor Henry addresses rumors about gun legislation

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

On March 5, Florence City Council met at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Main Station on Highway 101, one of several locations city staff has picked out for meetings while Florence City Hall undergoes an upgrade. The councilors discussed several topics, including council rules and procedures and projects at the Florence Municipal Airport.

Mayor Joe Henry opened the meeting by addressing people in attendance.

"We're going to deviate a little bit from our normal opening since we have such a large audience here with us this evening. I'm going to talk a little bit about public comments, but first I would like to tell you that there is a big rumor going around town that 'the mayor is going to take your guns away,'" Henry said. "I'm going to preface our meeting by saying there is nothing on the agenda this evening that involves any kind of gun legislation."

See **POLICY 10A**

Founder of Alpha Farm turns 90

Society has changed since 1972, but Caroline Estes is still hopeful

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Humans are social creatures that congregate in towns, cities and rural areas. They create systems for food distribution, merchandise production and for the efficient transport of these goods between population centers.

Central to all of these efforts is good communication between all the participants, whatever their goal.

Deadwood resident Caroline Estes has spent the past 50 years working to help people communicate more effectively and more

respectfully, and she is considered a leader in assisting groups to communicate, regardless of their opposing positions or beliefs.

Estes is also one of the original members of an intentional community located in Deadwood, known as Alpha Farm.

Estes is a Quaker and she is approaching her 90th birthday with mixed feelings about the future. Her faith is still a strong element in her life and she believes that the best way to accomplish goals is for all participants in a

project, whatever that might be, to agree on the outcome and the manner in which the goal might be best achieved.

This concept is known as consensus.

"Consensus is based on the belief that each person has some part of the truth and no one has all of it, no matter what we would like to believe," Estes said. "It is based on a respect for all persons involved in the decision that is being considered."

See **FOUNDER 11A**



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Alpha Farms founder Caroline Estes will turn 90 this month. Her enthusiasm for improving communication between those with differing opinions has made her a leader in the process of building consensus.