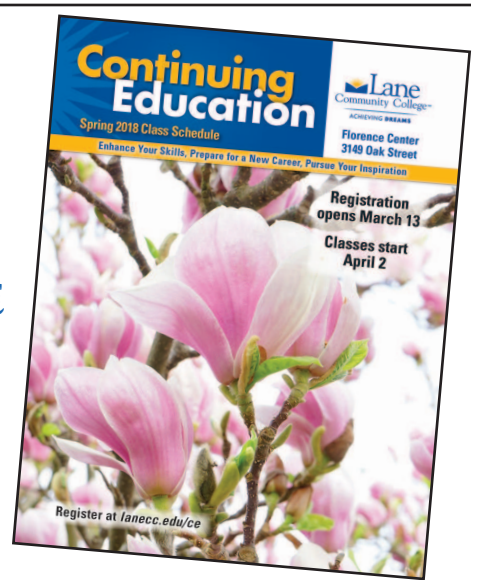




# SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

INSIDE



# Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 20

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## COURTS FIND DOLLMAN GUILTY OF ANIMAL NEGLECT

Former humane society employee fined \$2,900

STAFF REPORT  
Siuslaw News

On March 8, Mapleton-area resident and former Oregon Coast Humane Society employee Heather Dollman was found guilty of six counts of animal neglect. The guilty verdict was handed down in relation to two horses seized late last year by Lane County following reports of neglect.

Dollman's trial was held at the Florence Justice Center under the jurisdiction of the Lane County Circuit Court.

On Dec. 21, 2017, Lane County Animal Services responded to reports of neglect related to two horses, Pumpkin and Pepper, on Dollman's property.

The onsite visit resulted in the issuance of neglect citations and required assistance from Oregon State Police in the removal of the animals.

At the time, Dollman was cited on two counts each for lack of food — insufficient quality and quantity, lack of necessary veterinary care and unsuitable confinement.

In January, Dollman was arraigned at the Florence Justice Center on nine counts related to animal neglect.

Judge Rick Brissenden presided over the arraignment during which Dollman pleaded not guilty to all charges. Brissenden also presided over Dollman's Thursday trial.

See **COURTS 8A**



## VFW seeks to honor veterans with input from families

PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Veterans interred at Pacific Sunset Cemetery will be recognized for service in VFW program

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) District Nine Post 3232 is asking members of the surrounding communities to participate in an informal gathering of information pertaining to veterans buried in the Pacific Sunset Cemetery, located just outside of Florence on Highway 126.

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

Ken Smith, Commander of VFW Post 3232, hopes any information gathered will allow the local chapter members to officially mark the headstone of veterans with approval from their family.

VFW primarily undertook the effort so that identified veterans can be included in future military recognition ceremonies that take place



More than 500 veterans are interred at the Pacific Sunset Cemetery on Highway 126.

at Pacific Sunset. Florence plans events to honor veterans during Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Independence Day and other patriotic holidays.

"We want anyone with a relative or family member in the cemetery to let us know if they want us to put a permanent medallion, honoring their relative's service, on the individual's headstone," Smith said.

Pacific Sunset Cemetery has veteran headstones dating back to World War I — and VFW hopes to honor every veteran buried there.

See **VETERANS 8A**

## Forest assessment hits homeowners

Department of Forestry sends out Forest Patrol Assessment

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

A number of property owners and homeowner associations in Florence have received an unexpected tax assessment for 2018.

The bill comes as a result of a Forest Patrol Assessment imposed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) which reclassifies land parcels that the state feels may need protection from wildfires.

The initial phase of the process for determining the needed scope of the assessment process began in 2016 and included a well-attended public meeting that September at the Florence Events Center.

ODF Wildlife Fire Supervisor Tom Soward has oversight responsibility for the project and feels the work session at the FEC was important in beginning the dialogue with local property owners — many of whom are just now receiving confirmation of the change in their tax status.

"A year and a half ago we had the community meeting at the Florence Events Center to



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Areas where private property meets wild vegetation and brush are subject to the new reclassification guidelines put in place by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

explain the Forestland Classification process that was taking place in all of Lane County," Soward said. "At the meeting, it was explained to the attendees that as a result of the classification being done, that properties classified as 'forestland' would be protected from wildfire by the Oregon Department of Forestry."

More than 5,700 property

owners in Lane County, potentially affected by the forestland classification, were notified by mail in 2016 that the reclassification was underway and might affect their tax obligation.

Letters affirming the process and the assessment were required to be delivered by March 1 of this year.

See **ASSESSMENT 6A**

## Petition to repeal marijuana ban dismissed

Land Use Board of Appeals declares Dunes City marijuana case not a 'land use' issue

BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

On March 5, the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) dismissed a claim by Dunes City resident Catherine Caudle, which requested Dunes City's emergency marijuana ban be repealed.

In the dismissal, LUBA concluded that they lacked jurisdiction over the appeal.

The issue stems from Ordinance 245, passed on Nov. 17, 2017, by the Dunes City Council, which placed a ban on marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, dispensaries or any combination of those entities until the public could decide the ultimate fate of marijuana grows in November.

However, the ordinance allowed three marijuana grow operations that had opened within city limits prior to the decision to remain in business.

Dunes City officials feared that repealing 245 would open the floodgates to more marijuana facilities, since the ban would no longer be in place.

Caudle's petition, filed on Nov. 17, looked to deconstruct the marijuana argument in terms of land use.

The petition focused on the term "agricul-

ture" in the city code and comprehensive plan to combat the ordinance. It argued that the city did not follow residential (R-1) zoning regulations when drafting 245. Under the assumption that marijuana is agriculture, which is allowed in R-1 zoning, the petition

argued the city council erred in drafting the ordinance.

"(The) petitioner argues that in adopting the ordinance, the city should have applied six different policies from the city's comprehensive plan in adopting the ordinance and adopted findings addressing these policies," the LUBA dismissal read.

In one of the criteria, the comprehensive plan states, "Waste discharges from future facilities shall not exceed the carrying capacity nor degrade the quality of the land, air and water resources."

One of the main arguments opponents of the grow facilities made was that water seepage from the sites could damage the local environment. Air quality issues were also mentioned, with the smell of marijuana creating a nuisance.

See **LAND USE 7A**

INSIDE Classifieds . . . . . B6  
Community . . . . . A3  
Girl Scout Appreciation . . . . . A6  
Opinion . . . . . A4

Records . . . . . A2  
Sports . . . . . B  
This Week on the Coast . . . . . A7  
Weather Data . . . . . A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER  
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY  
60 47

SUNDAY  
66 47

MONDAY  
64 45

TUESDAY  
51 42

SIUSLAW NEWS  
2 SECTIONS | 22 PAGES  
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