



PUBLICATION INSIDE



VIKS SET SCHOOL RECORDS SPORTS — B

What is FURA's ReVision for Florence's future?

Get a glimpse in this Saturday's edition



# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Florence Farmers Market set to open May 15

Local farmers will offer an array of healthy food products Tuesdays at new Bay Street site

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

Florence residents will soon have the opportunity to purchase healthy, locally grown food, directly from the farmer growing and harvesting that food, on Bay Street in Historic Old Town.

Starting on Tuesday, May 15, there will be a weekly Florence Farmers Market, offering organic and sustainably grown farm products for sale to the public. It will run from 3 to 7 p.m.

According to Mary Shaw, president of the Florence Farmers Market, which was organized in 2017, the community will now have the opportunity to buy products sourced within one hour driving distance. Besides increasing local access to farm-fresh food, this will also provide financial support to farms and organizations.

"The goal was to create a marketplace for farmers within a 60-mile radius of Florence to sell their locally grown and produced products in the community of Florence," Shaw said. "The benefit to the community is access to these foods and an opportunity to meet the farmers who grow/produce their food," Shaw said.

Another main focus of the new market will be to assist those with less financial ability to be able to purchase wholesome food.

"A cornerstone of the market is the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) food stamp program, including 'double up food bucks,'" Shaw said. "If a person elects to spend \$4 of your food stamps at the market, they will receive an additional \$4 to have a total of \$8 to spend on healthy, local food."

People have had a desire to create a farmers market for the Florence area for years, but there have been a number of obstacles to making the market a reality, according to Shaw.

See MARKET 7A



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

## Vision Quest's 'Get Wild' series watches for birds

This weekend, area residents learned "All about Birds" with Siuslaw Vision 2025's "Live Learn Explore" initiative, Vision Quest.

*Vision Quest's free two-day workshop educates, then takes public for a walk on the wild side*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

The new Vision Quest group, an initiative of the Siuslaw Vision 2025, presented its second two-day "Get Wild" workshop with "All about Birds" this past weekend, with assistance from Eugene's Cascade Raptor Center and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Saturday session featured a lecture and a discussion overseen by Cascade Raptor Center Staff member, Carrie Sigloh, in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library.

The mixed age capacity crowd was treated to a fact filled lecture

while having the unique opportunity to see a Swainson's Hawk from a few feet away.

Guapo, which means handsome in Spanish, was clearly the star of the show, preening and looking out at the crowd with intelligence and awareness.

The large bird of prey sat calmly on the hand of the knowledgeable Sigloh as she discussed the habits and tendencies of the beautiful bird.

The hushed crowd seemed fascinated by the information it heard and by the sight of the large raptor slowly working its way through lunch: a small field mouse.

"Carrie from Cascades Raptor

Center held everyone's attention for the entire presentation ... from the moment she introduced the visiting Swainson's Hawk all the way to the end," said Siuslaw Vision team member Dina Pavlis, who coordinates the "Get Wild" series. "It was fascinating."

According to Pavlis, more than 120 people attended Saturday's presentation.

"Our 'All About Birds' weekend exceeded our expectations in terms of community participation and quality," she said. "We received immediate feedback as people exited and everyone was thrilled."

See WILD 7A



BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

## THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

Part V: Engaging in debate – 'If people talked with each other, that would save lives'

Scarberry posted a March 27 article by the left-leaning Washington Post, which stated only 21 percent of all Americans wanted to repeal the Second Amendment with 39 percent of Democrats supporting the move, 16 percent of Independents and eight percent of Republicans.

"It is what happens when you neglect a problem for so long," Stone said. "When you see a law protecting abuses of a right, you alter it to better address the current situation. No rational person is saying to get rid of all guns. People want rules on what kind of weapons we allow in our society, and rules on acquiring and conducting themselves with them."

"Agreed," Scarberry said. "The problem is, this country is so divided that rationality left the building a long time ago. Very little room for compromise with today's political and social climate being what it is."

That social media conversation — a polite example of the ongoing debate — was an encapsulation of the difficulties facing America right now when it comes to the debate on

guns, or any other political discussion.

Scarberry's views of gun reformers is understandable.

One gun rights advocate who

**"There are good arguments on both sides, and the facts are there for both sides. And if there was a way to get in the middle and actually look at the issues and the problems, and how we could best protect our kids in their schools, it would be great. I just don't know if those two sides can get together. Each side is very passionate, but does that leave room for compromise?"**

— Commander John Pitcher, Florence Police Department

wrote to the Siuslaw News about the series said, "As a firearms owner and supporter of the Second Amendment, I am pretty used to being portrayed in most media outlets as a terrorist, a homicidal maniac or a stupid, redneck Neanderthal."

On the other end of the spectrum, conservatives often accuse gun reformers, and liberals in general, of being un-American.

"Liberals want the government to be ever larger and more intrusive," one reader commented via email. "Ergo, they are contrary to the American premise."

From the research done on this series, none of the gun rights advocates interviewed could be classified as "homicidal maniacs or stupid, redneck Neanderthals."

Nor, too, could it be said that the liberals interviewed for this series do not believe in America. While certain political parties may have different views on what role the government should play in America, liberals were just as passionate about America and what they viewed as its core principles.

These examples were more nuanced when it comes to how different sides of the debate view each other, especially in the names sometimes lobbed about for those with a different point of view — including "snowflakes," "deplorables," "Libtards" and

"Repugnican." And some people just refuse to talk about it.

"You can't debate it," one Facebook user said. "Each and every gun control law is by nature unconstitutional."

While the sentiment that gun control laws are unconstitutional is technically inaccurate (the reasons for which will be explored later), the sentiment was clear: There is no point in debating, even if the facts state otherwise. Both sides are intractably entrenched.

But as Jaeda Forral posted on the Florence, Oregon Facebook page, this kind of thinking is dangerous in today's society.

"When you strip away all of the partisan bulls\*\*t, the simple fact is kids are dying at school and they'd rather not," Forral wrote. "They are asking for help. From adults. That's it."

**"FREE STATE"**

"The debate was settled in 1776," wrote one Facebook commentator on why it is useless to talk about the guns in America.

See SPECIAL SERIES 6A