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INSIDE

# Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 45

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Police prepare for National Night Out

August event set to strengthen relationship between Florence Police Department, community

At Monday's council meeting, Florence Police Chief Tom Turner approached the Florence City Council about garnering interest in the National Night Out held in August.

"National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie," Turner said. "It is celebrated by more than 38 million neighbors across 16,000 communities in all 50 states and we are very interested in participating in it."

This is the program's 35th year, but the first for Florence. The event is set for Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Miller Park from 6 to 9 p.m.

Turner said that School Resource Officer Brandon Bailey and other officers in uniform will provide community interaction, a free barbecue and games. Attendees of all ages will be welcome.

According to the National Association of Town Watch, "National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances."

There will be displays from Florence Police Department and Florence Public Works, as well as other community groups who decide to join.

See NATIONAL NIGHT page 7A

## Workshop discusses 'End of Life' issues

The Oregon Death with Dignity Act, enacted in 1997, has proven to be a model for other states seeking a way to address the issues that arise in any discussions centered around end of life decision making.

There are aspects of the original law, however, that have come to the attention of those working in the field, or with those attempting to utilize the law, that has raised concerns.

The requirements of the act are very specific and, under the law, a competent adult Oregon resident who has been diagnosed, by a physician, with a terminal illness that will kill the patient within six months may request in writing, from his or her physician, a prescription for a lethal dose of medication for the purpose of ending the patient's life. Additionally, the patient must be determined to be free of a mental condition impairing judgment.

Then, if the request is authorized, the patient must wait at least 15 days and make a second oral request before the prescription may be written.

See WORKSHOP page 7A

## New transmitter installed on Glenada Hill

Central Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club gets grants, support for new repeater

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Communication is central to human success on Planet Earth. The ability to share information from one individual to another, and between groups of people in different places, has elevated our species to a position of dominance and control around the world.

Electronic and digital technological advances are an important part of this equation and Florence has recently added another level of sophistication to its worldwide digital communication footprint.

The Central Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club, (COCARC) has added an additional repeater to the local antenna array that translates and rebroadcasts radio signals. COCARC supports an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

Bob Pine, the emergency coordinator for West Lane ARES/RACES, believes this additional piece of equipment will allow for significantly better communication in the region during an emergency situation.

"Florence's new amateur radio digital repeater on Glenada Hill will extend existing emergency ra-



The antenna on Glenada Hill, pictured across Siuslaw River from Historic Old Town Florence, now features a new repeater.

ABOVE PHOTO BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

dio communications coverage to Mapleton, Dunes City and west Lane County," Pine said. "The new repeater also helps facilitate communications with the Lane County Emergency Manager's office in Eugene."

He said the repeater uses Yaesu's "Digital Fusion Technology."

"This is equally exciting for local ham radio operators as the Wires-X system allows any amateur radio operator to enjoy world-wide communications using only a 5-watt digital handheld transceiver from anywhere within the west Lane community," Pines said.

There are non-emergency uses for the newly installed equipment, which can be utilized at events or training exercises that might benefit from continual communications.

"The new capability was put to good use during the recent Dunes City Triathlon/Duathlon, when COCARC used the repeater to provide complete communications coverage of both the entire bicycle and running courses," Pine said. "Twenty members of the club were positioned throughout the course to provide instant status and emergency reports on the racers."

See RADIO page 7A



COURTESY PHOTO

## Residents could put STAR Voting on November ballot

Proponents say it is 'A step toward freeing people to vote for their favorite candidates'

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Hallie Roberts believes that STAR (Score Then Automatic Runoff) Voting will revolutionize the way people vote in Lane County, and throughout the entire country.

"People are aware of the problems with our voting methods," Roberts said. "We end up with results that are not really what the people wanted. If we can implement a system that will lead us to more broadly favored candidates winning, I think our political process will be reinvigorated and people will be inspired to be a part of the process once they see it's working more smoothly."

Roberts is the campaign manager for STAR Voting, which was created by political scientist Alan Zundel and Mark Frohnmayer, a

Eugene entrepreneur and creator of the organization Equal Vote Coalition.

The three are looking for signatures for an initiative that would both change how county officer elections are held, and how Lane County residents would vote for those candidates.

Roberts said the system has the potential to save candidates money while campaigning, greatly reduce voters and candidates gaming the political system and, eventually, doing away with the need for partisan politics all together.

It's a tall order, particularly when looking back at the difficulties that have faced the American electorate in the preceding decades that have created labels like "spoiler candidates" and "strategic voting" that many believe point to fundamental flaws in how Ameri-

cans choose their elected officials. But is STAR really the right choice to fix these electoral ills? Is it a fool proof system, or are there lingering issues about the process that still need to be resolved? To find that answer, it's best to look at what the STAR system is and how it relates to the electoral problems of the past.

### THE SYSTEM

Roberts will tell anyone about STAR. In an attempt to gather signatures for the group's initiative in hopes of getting STAR into the November election in Lane County, she has been using every trick in the book to get the word out, from online videos to newspaper interviews.

"I'll even go to your house to help explain it to you," she said.

The initiative she is advocating for is broken into two parts, the

first of which is to do away with May primaries for the non-partisan Lane County races for commissioners, sheriffs, assessor and district attorneys.

Instead, the votes would take place during the main November election.

Currently, these races are mostly decided in May. If a candidate wins the race with a plurality of votes, that person becomes the winner.

In the example of the May West Lane County Commissioner race between Jay Bozievich, Nora Kent and Beverly Hills, Bozievich received 55.75 percent of the vote, compared to Kent's 38.61 percent and Hills' 5.39 percent. Bozievich received over 50 percent, so he will move alone to the November general election ballot in November, clinching the win.

See STAR page 8A

INSIDE Classifieds... B7 Opinion... A4  
Community... A3 Records... A2  
Kid Scoop... School Zone Sports... B  
Library Tidings... A5 Weather Data... A2

**THIS WEEK'S WEATHER**  
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
61 48	60 49	61 50	57 47

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2 SECTIONS | 22 PAGES  
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