



Siuslaw News

Schultz & Associates Law Center, P.C.
Invites you to a FREE Estate Planning Workshop on Wills, Trusts & Nursing Home Asset Protection
Learn How to Protect Your Assets and Provide For Your Loved Ones

Tuesday, June 19
 1:30-3:30 PM or 6:00-8:00 PM
FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER
 715 Quince Street • Light Refreshments Provided

Seating is Limited! Registration required.
 www.schultz-law.com or (541) 485-5515

Schultz ASSOCIATES Law Center, P.C.
 969 Willagillespie Road
 Eugene, OR 97401

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 48 SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890 FLORENCE, OREGON



PHOTO BY MICK SNEDDON

'To safeguard and secure Florence'

Former Fire Chief Skip Passenger, who served for 30 years, passes

By MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

Former Florence Fire Chief Skip Passenger passed away June 3 in Eugene. Passenger had been a first-responder for Florence fire departments, in differing capacities, for some 30 years before his retirement in 2002.

Passenger moved to Florence with his family as a child in 1952 and lived

Chief Verne Passenger Sr. (left), and Assistant Chief Verne "Skip" Passenger Jr. (right) stand next to Rescue 16 during the Florence Rhododendron Parade around 1982.

here until 2002 when he moved to Eugene. He was a well-known and respected member of the community, serving at various times on the Siuslaw School Board and the Port of Siuslaw Board of Commission, in addition to his duties at what was then Florence's City Fire Department.

Skip's brother, Brad, served alongside him for 10 years and is still struck by the determination Skip had as a youth, which carried through his adult years as well.

Brad remembers spending a great deal of time as a family beachcombing and speaks fondly of a particularly successful day on the sand.

"One time I went out with my dad and Skip, and we found and collected more than 400 glass floats off of the beach. There were a lot more fisherman then, and a lot more floats were being used. We didn't think much of it at the time, but now it seems incredible that we would have found that many in one night, but we did," Brad said.

Skip joined the fire service in 1972, serving under his father, Verne, who was fire chief at the time. Skip followed in his father's footsteps, taking over as fire chief after his father retired in 1996.

See PASSENGER page 6A

Florentine Estates deals with complex ballot issue

By JARED ANDERSON
 SIUSLAW NEWS

An upcoming vote at Florentine Estates regarding the future of rental properties has created some friction among its residents.

The measure, wherein ballots are due on June 22, asks if the estate of 449 lots should continue to allow certain rental properties in the estate. The measure doesn't ban all future rental properties and allows current properties to exist. However, it does seek to curtail the number of rentals allowed in the future, as well as the circumstances that allow them.

Chuck Waide, a director who sits on the Florentine Estates Homeowner Association (HOA) Board, said, "There are very strong feelings on this, obviously both ways."

"It's all-out war," one opponent to the measure said. Several Florentine residents, who asked not to be identified, are opposed to the measure and contacted the Siuslaw News about the voting process, stating there was possible corruption in how the vote is being handled.

Accusations of voter intimidation, using HOA funds for propaganda and corporate takeovers of the small retirement community have been bandied about.

But finding evidence of these claims has been difficult. Waide and Florentine's general manager, John Nelson, hadn't heard these claims before the Siuslaw News contacted them. But they also stated that there has been some misinformation in the minds of proponents who are for the measure. Both sat down to talk about the story of the "rental ban" vote, which is an interesting study in the pitfalls of civic engagement.

See FLORENTINE page 7A



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence's new Goodwill, 1310 Highway 101, restores a long-vacant building in the Florence Urban Renewal District. Several hundred area business members, representatives and shoppers attended the new thrift store's grand opening on June 14. The new location also offers a Goodwill Job Connections Center to help educate and equip job seekers in the Siuslaw Region. For more information, see story on page A3.

Dunes City could place a minor levy on property owners in November vote

By JARED ANDERSON
 SIUSLAW NEWS

On June 13, Dunes City Council approved a pair of ballot measures to be placed on the city's November general election ballot, the biggest being a new option levy that serves as a property tax for Dunes City residents.

While most residents cringe at the idea — the city does not have an established property tax — the levy would be one of the smallest property taxes in the nation.

The levy is not meant to give the city any meaningful amount of funding. In fact, Dunes City only expects to receive around \$1,200 annually in total from the levy, which consists of a \$0.005 tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Instead, the purpose of the levy is to continue to receive thousands of dollars from Lane County.

The reason behind the levy goes back to 2007, according to Dunes City Administrator Jamie Mills. Before that, Lane County allowed all cities to collect shared tax revenue from cigarette, liquor and gas and other taxes, with no strings attached.

The amount of money coming in wasn't small change. Anywhere from \$70,000 to \$100,000 was given to Dunes City on any given year, which helped the city keep afloat.

But around that time, the rules changed, Mills said. Only cities that had property taxes could collect the shared funds. Since Dunes City never had any property taxes, it should have been cut off from the funding.

Except it wasn't.

At the time of the change, there was what some describe as pandemonium in the city.

"There were differences of opinion on the future direction of the city," Mills said discreetly.

See LEVY page 9A

Summer meals for students begin Monday

Locations include Siuslaw schools & Siuslaw Public Library

By MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

There are some issues that all Americans agree upon. One of these is the belief that children should not be hungry. The United States is the world's second most productive agricultural economy, behind only China. We produce enough food domestically that there is no logical reason for any child in America

to go to bed hungry. However, No Kid Hungry, a national children's advocacy group, has determined through accumulated research that 22 million students rely on free or reduced-cost lunches and 12 million rely on free breakfasts, most provided by public schools.

In addition, three out of four public school teachers say they have students that regularly come to school hungry.

Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak sees this need on a daily basis.

"With the level of poverty in our community, there is a great amount of food insecurity for many children. Over 60 percent of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch during the school year — and that need does not go away during the summer," he said.

See MEALS page 9A

INSIDE	Classifieds.....	B6	Records.....	A2
	Community.....	A3	Sideshow.....	B5
	Father's Day Letters.....	C	Sports.....	B
	Opinion.....	A4	This Week on the Coast.....	A6

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
 Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
 63 53

SUNDAY
 71 54

MONDAY
 66 54

TUESDAY
 69 55

SIUSLAW NEWS
 3 SECTIONS | 24 PAGES
 COPYRIGHT 2018



JIM HOBERG
 Broker/Owner

Jim Hoberg is a Florence native, and has been working in Real Estate since 1989. He has served as a Principal Broker for 29 years. He has obtained several designations that require continuing education, which keeps him on the cutting edge of the industry and he is constantly looking for ways to expand his areas of expertise. Jim enjoys helping people find solutions to their real estate needs and discovering why Florence is such a great place to live.



• RESIDENTIAL • LAND
 • COMMERCIAL • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

541-997-7653 • WWW.JIMHOBERG.COM
 1870 Hwy. 126, Suite A • PO Box 3040, Florence, OR • Fax 541-997-7654