

ALL STAR BASEBALL

SPORTS — B



Summer Vacation

End of the 2017-18 School year

INSIDE — A8

Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 49

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Florence plans Block Party for 125th birthday, mayor's conference

On Monday, Florence City Council heard preliminary plans for an upcoming street closure on a Friday night in July — a street closure with plans built in to boost business and increase the city's visibility to dozens of visiting dignitaries.

"In celebration of Florence's 125th birthday, we're having a Block Party Celebration," said City of Florence Intern Claire Waggoner.

The city selected Friday, July 27, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., as the time to celebrate the city's founding.

City Project Manager Megan Messmer said, "We were founded in 1893, I think in April. But hopefully the weather will be much nicer in July."

According to the presentation, the block party will close Bay Street in Historic Old Town Florence from Siuslaw River Bridge down to Laurel Street. The area in front of the Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Center will be open to pedestrian access to businesses, restaurants, public art and the celebration.

"What's a block party if you can't be in the street?" Messmer asked.

"It's a community event," Waggoner said. "We're really encouraging the public to come and hope businesses and shops will stay open for extended hours."

In addition to the Bay Street businesses, local organizations such as Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Florence Public Works, Florence Police Department, U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River and the Oregon Coast Military Museum plan to have representation at the Block Party Celebration.

See CELEBRATION page 10A

'Ambassadors for bees' encourage awareness

National Pollinator Week buzzes close to home with Oregon Bee Project

On May 22, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued a proclamation designating June 18 to 24 Pollinator Week across the state.

This week is held in conjunction with National Pollinator Week and global efforts to promote pollinator awareness.

In her proclamation, Brown pointed to the critical role pollinator species play in many important sectors of Oregon's economy.

"Pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply ... and they play a vital role in the health of our national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources and recreational opportunities for communities," she said.

The wide array of economic sectors that are impacted by the health of the bees and bugs, often considered pests by home owners and many farmers, is indicative of a rising awareness of the importance pollinators.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture re-



CHRISTIAN BAUER/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Oregon Bee Project and Pollinator Week seek to draw attention to bee and pollinator issues.

ports that more than 100 agricultural products directly depend on pollinators to develop and grow.

The precarious situations facing insects, bats, birds, beetles and butterflies has increased due to aerial spraying of pesticides and development of forested areas across the state. These issues are not unique to Oregon, which is the reason Brown's edict is timed to coincide with similar statements by the governors of all 50 states.

See POLLINATORS page 9A

Summer traffic sees surge in fatalities

Drivers should minimize distractions and keep eye out for pedestrians on roadsides

The frequency and severity of fatal car accidents is on the rise in Oregon. While Western Lane Ambulance District shows calls in Florence are tracking at levels similar to last year, fatalities on state highways and interstates leading into and out of small towns continue to increase.

According to the 2016 Oregon Transportation Safety Plan, fatalities rose from 313 in 2013 to 495 in 2016, the most recent data available, which is a 58 percent increase.

The increase occurs after years of reductions in state fatality rates and is attributed to faster car speeds and longer distances being traveled by first responders to reach accident scenes.

Oregon Department of Transportation Crash Analysis and Unit Reporting Manager Robin Ness suggests that the increase in fatalities statewide may be due in part to more pedestrians using roads alongside automobiles in urban areas and drivers who may not be aware of the laws governing crosswalk right of way.

She reports that in 2016, 73 pedestrians were killed in car accidents.

"All intersections are supposed to be crosswalks. It's definitely the law, unless it's a closed crosswalk. Drivers need to allow pedestrians, especially when turning right or left, to get safely across the street before making a turn," Ness said.

One of the reasons that may explain why there are fewer fatalities in Florence than in other areas of the state is the rapidity with which Western Lane and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue EMTs respond to

a call.

Usually, first responders from these organizations are on the scene of an accident in just a few minutes, with an average response time of under eight minutes. This average includes calls that may be close to or even outside city limits. Response within city limits can be much quicker.

This rapid arrival by responders at the scene of a crash is critical to saving lives, as evidenced by an emergency situation this spring at a busy Florence intersection.

See TRAFFIC page 8A

'MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER' INTO 2018-19

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting chooses 'thrive' as focus, names Pierson as president

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting on June 14 at Three Rivers Casino Resort's Event Center.

"Our theme this year is going to be 'Thrive,'" said Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan. "This is because we're the kind of community that can thrive through adversity."

During the meeting, the chamber bid farewell to past board members, welcomed the new board and encouraged chamber and community members to mingle and munch on the catered hors d'oeuvres.

The chamber's annual meeting highlight-



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

2018-19 Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Board President Russ Pierson talks about the chamber's theme of "thriving" during the annual report at Three Rivers Casino Resort last week.

ed accomplishments from the past year and showed a clear path for the chamber board moving forward.

"Our membership has grown in the past two years by almost 30 percent. We are at 360 members right now, up from 273," Hannigan said. "I think our community is seeing that the chamber is really an economic driver, and we're proud of that."

See CHAMBER page 10A

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Community.....	A3	Records.....	A2
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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY 61 56	THURSDAY 63 53	FRIDAY 66 53	SATURDAY 67 53
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SIUSLAW NEWS
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CUTHBERT
OREGON JAMBOREE
Brett Eldridge • Brantly Gilbert
Jerrod Nieman / Clint Black

BRITT FESTIVAL
Rodney Carrington • Brandi Carlile
The Mavericks & Los Lobos
Boy George & Culture Club • Rodrigo Y Gabriela

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band • Pat Benetar & Neil Giraldo

CUTHBERT AMPHITHEATRE
Jackson Browne • TajMo
Halestrom / In The Moment

LANE COUNTY FAIR
Trace Adkins • Melissa Etheridge
Night Ranger • Bill Engvall • Valley High

Coast Radio Summer Entertainment GIVE-AWAY

ENTER TO WIN MUST BE 18 OR OLDER
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

1 ENTRY • PER PERSON, PER LOCATION - EACH DAY

LOCATIONS: Reedsport Pharmacy • Bridgeport Market & Wine Shop
Siuslaw Glass & Mirror • Jerry's Place & Brew Pub • Florence Dairy Queen
Bedrock's Pizzeria Chowder House & Grill • Florence Shipping Solutions
Laurel Bay Gardens • Beach House Gifts • Sandland Adventures
Word of Mouth Home Decor • Shervin's Tire & Automotive

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