



Reedsport event carves up the competition

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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Port of Siuslaw chooses new commissioners

5-member commission now complete as Craig Brandt, Craig Zolezzi join port

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Port of Siuslaw Commission chose two new commissioners Wednesday night, filling two vacancies that opened earlier this year.

Craig Zolezzi, who owns two branches of Zolezzi Insurance Agency in Drain and Sutherland, Ore., and Craig Brandt, a retiree who has done a considerable amount of volunteer work with the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), were chosen.

The openings were created when commissioners David Huntington and Nancy Rickard stepped down from their positions. Huntington was hired as the port's manager, while Rickard vacated her position to focus on her new role as a board member on the Siuslaw School Board District Advisory Committee.

"It's a tough position for us to be in," Commissioner Terry Duman said as he opened the nomination process to a packed house of potential hopefuls and curious audience members.

Ten people in total submitted applications for the positions and were then whittled down to five who received public interviews.

"We have to make a tough cut," Duman said. "The 10 applicants were more than what we thought we would ever get, and then we had to pare it down to five. It's just a tough cut, as we have friends and neighbors (among the applicants). It's going to cause some hurt feelings."

He later added, "I wish we could have a board of eight."

See PORT page 10A

Local police, sheriffs serve warrants, arrest 6 Friday

On June 22, a pair of search warrant executions escalated into a full police presence that included officers from Florence Police Department, Lane County Sheriff's Office and the Lane County Special Response Team (SRT) at a pair of residences just north of Florence.

At about 7:15 a.m., neighbors along Highway 101 near Friendly Acres Road reported hearing what they believed to be gun shots coming from a home at 88359 Highway 101 as Florence police and its partner agencies executed search warrants simultaneously at that residence and a nearby home at 5459 Friendly Acres Road.

The gun shots that residents heard were actually "flash bangs," which officers used to disorient occupants of the homes after gaining entry, according to City of Florence Public Information Officer Megan Messmer.

By 10 a.m., the operation had been completed and six individuals had been arrested for counts ranging from illegal drug possession to felon in possession of a firearm.

See ARRESTS page 6A



STORY AND PHOTOS
BY NED HICKSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Police Officers and Lane County Sheriff Deputies worked together to arrest six individuals after serving search warrants to two residences near Friendly Acres Road Friday.



OCHS holds annual member meeting

First public meeting under new leadership shows positive interactions with members

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) held its annual membership meeting June 21 at Lane Community College Florence Center.

It was the first OCHS board meeting open to members since the election of a new board of directors in April following a recommendation by the Oregon Department of Jus-

tice (ODJ) to hold an election to seat new directors as soon as procedures for the process could be put in place. The ODJ's recommendation was the result of an inquiry undertaken after members complained of voting irregularities and personality conflicts within OCHS.

ODJ's inquiry turned up no financial or criminal wrong doing and primarily focused remediation efforts to replace previously seated

board members whom ODJ lawyers felt had been elected or appointed under questionable circumstances.

None of the previously serving directors choose to run for re-election and all seven seats on the board were filled by new directors.

For the seven individuals on the new board, their primary task has been aimed at restoring the community's confidence in the leadership of OCHS.

At Wednesday's meeting, a table was set up to assure all attendees were current members of the OCHS. The board of directors were seated at a long table with their names prominently displayed on placards at the front of a large classroom. Copies of the meeting agenda and reports from board members were made available to all attendees.

See OCHS page 6A

FLORENCE CONTINUES TO ADDRESS AREA'S HOUSING NEEDS

New multi-use Cannery Station could bring progress, concerns

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The City of Florence Planning Commission held a meeting on June 12, to discuss the new Cannery Station project, a multi-use development that could bring hundreds of jobs and new residents to the community.

The project will have a whole host of features geared toward the 55+ community, including transitional housing, an assisted living facility with a memory care unit, apartment complexes, homes and multiple storefronts that can hold shops, business and restaurants.

The meeting was not to approve a finalized plan of the project, but to approve the overall concept and construct guidelines in

the next phases of the project that will bring cemented plans before the commission.

While the 10-year project could help foster growth within Florence, there have been concerns about Cannery Station's impact on the city, including issues with traffic and concerns from neighboring communities.

But along with the concerns, there are also high hopes that the project will truly cement Florence as a "City in Motion."

HISTORY

Cannery Station, or Cannery Hill as it was originally named, was first proposed in 2008 by Arlie & Company, a development company founded by the husband and wife team John Musumeci and Suzanne Arlie. The company was responsible for the

mixed-use, urban center Crescent Village in Eugene.

"They had wanted some rental properties I had, and they said in exchange for that I would be part of their Florence property," said Chuck McGlade, one of the founders of the Cannery Station project.

McGlade is a physician by trade who has dedicated his work to senior care for the past 15 years. He also owns Ridgeline Management Company, which manages senior housing in multiple states.

Arlie and Musumeci thought that his experience would be a good fit for Cannery.

In 2008, they proposed their plans to the city, and it seemed like the project was a "go."

See CANNERY page 8A

Florence, nonprofits move forward with land agreement

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Monday night, Florence City Council approved an option agreement and agreement to sell the real property at 1424 Airport Road to Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS) and Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO). The two nonprofits will use their new site con-

trol to help with the application for an Oregon Housing & Community Services Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT) grant. The grant application period closed yesterday.

"This is a grant that is focused on homeownership, so affordable housing but on a homeownership track. It's not for rentals," said City Recorder Kelli Weese.

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Full Forecast, A3

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