

Sept. 4 **By Jared Anderson** SIUSLAW NEWS

After years of deliberations, planning and delays, the Florence-Yachats Connector bus will finally be up and running starting Tuesday, Sept. 4. The route begins in Florence with a pickup at Grocery Outlet, makes a stop at Carl G. Washburne Memorial State Park and ends up at the Little Log Church in Yachats.

"This is the last gap of the Oregon coast to be filled with public transportation," said Michelle Haring, co-owner of River Cities Taxi and the Rhody Express. The company will be running the route in conjunction with Lane Transit District (LTD), which is funding and planning the project.

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Free OHV safety class offered today



By Mark Brennan SIUSLAW NEWS

The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA) stretches approximately 40 miles from the Siuslaw River to the Coos River in North Bend. The dunes are part of the Siuslaw National Forest and administered by the United States Forest Service.

The ODNRA is the largest expanse of coastal dunes in North America, with some rising hundreds of feet above the sea. In 1972, Congress designated nearly 32,000 acres of the Siuslaw National Forest as a natural recreation area in order to recognize and protect this special place.

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Quail Ridge Farms' Nemesio Nieto, manager of the fresh produce booth on the Siuslaw Port's boardwalk, helps to load vegetables into the delivery van for Florence Food Share. David Montes, Director of Food Share, says the contributions from the farm, located in Alpine Ridge, have a very positive impact on his clients. "Quail Ridge Farms has been a long-term supporter of Food Share by donating fruits and vegetables," he said. In August alone, Quail Ridge Farms donated over 350 lbs of produce. We look forward to working side-by-side with our partners, like Quail Ridge Farms, to meet the need in the local communities we serve."

City wastewater treatment plant reports release of unhealthy bacteria

Subsequent testing by city shows levels were back to normal as of Friday

By Mark Brennan SIUSLAW NEWS

On Wednesday afternoon, City of Florence Public Infor- 22), operations at the Florence mation Officer Megan Messmer released a statement to the press and public, noting that the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant al parameters," Messmer wrote. had experienced a recent exponential growth of a filamentous causes 'bulking' in the treatment bacteria that may have resulted in periodic exceedances of its

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the Siuslaw River.

"As of 2 p.m. today (Aug. Wastewater Treatment Plant are improving and appears to be back within normal operation-"The filamentous bacteria... process."

According to Messmer, the



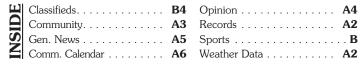
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process can result in bulk material not settling out in the final stage of treatment prior to disinfection during high flow periods.

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"The filaments interfere with the UV disinfectant process whereby the UV system is not as effective as it should be when the effluent is clear," Messmer explained. "This may result in

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