



## Volleyball season for Mapleton, Siuslaw

SPORTS — B



## Sand Dunes Frontier reopens after fire

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# Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 75

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Habitat breaks ground on 29th home



STORY & PHOTOS  
BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
SIUSLAW NEWS

(Above center) Carl Palinkas, a pastor at Church on the Rock in Florence, dedicates Florence Habitat for Humanity's 29th home during a groundbreaking ceremony Friday. The home will be built with community support.

Florence Habitat for Humanity began construction on its 29th house Friday, Sept. 14 with a groundbreaking ceremony on the corner of Kingwood and Seventh streets.

The planned three-bedroom, two-bathroom house has been awarded to Calvin Lloyd and his two teenage sons.

"I feel very blessed," Lloyd said. "This is going to be an awesome chapter in my life and my kids' life."

Habitat houses are awarded through a family

selection process that includes evaluating a family's income, credit and need. Once chosen, a family takes out a zero-interest mortgage on the house and must commit "sweat equity" hours to building construction and other Habitat for Humanity functions. For single-adult housing circumstances such as Lloyd's, the organization asks for 300 hours of sweat equity from the family.

Lloyd was selected based largely on the criteria

of need. After separating from his wife, he found himself living in a cramped, leaky trailer while trying to balance his role as a father.

See HABITAT page 8A

## Florence airport to receive more than \$1 million for upgrades

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, announced the attainment of \$2,686,954 for airports in Florence, Bandon and Roseburg.

Florence Municipal Airport will receive the lion's share of the funding, with \$1,050,000 designated for runway maintenance, improvements and the installation of a precision approach path indicator to improve the information received by air traffic using the airport.

"This is great news for the many businesses and general aviation pilots who depend on these airports," said DeFazio. "These funds will allow for important maintenance and critical safety improvements to be made to our local air infrastructure. I'm proud to support infrastructure investments like this and will continue to push for increased investments as the top Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee."

City of Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller said, "It's great news on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant. It is slightly more than we requested, as we requested \$1,030,000. We received notification that the grant will actually be \$1,050,000."

Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds stated, "The City of Florence is thankful to be receiving this funding to pay for significant improvements to our municipal airport. With this FAA grant, we are able to leverage local dollars with state funding to upgrade the lighting and airport runway safety improvements."

The process of hiring contractors and the order in which needed upgrades will occur is still being determined by Miller, the Florence City Council and staff.

See AIRPORT page 7A

## Siuslaw meets for first board meeting of school year

School Board hears about Political Action Committee, improved website

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The first Siuslaw School District Board of Directors meeting of the new school year was held Wednesday evening at the district office.

New board Chairperson Suzanne Mann-Heintz gavelled the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a brief agenda on the docket.

There were no members of the general public in attendance as Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak and

district staff shared with directors the changes and new programs that students and parents will see as they return for the upcoming school year.

Recent hires for the classroom and for classified positions were discussed first, with brief biographical

information and work experience highlighted.

Then Mann-Heintz, who is involved in many ways with student education issues in addition to her

See DISTRICT page 7A

## 'First Step' for transitional housing approved by Planning

Area partnership seeks to establish temporary housing

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

A newly developed program named First Step, which assists individuals with transitional housing, was awarded a temporary conditional use permit at a City of Florence Planning Commission meeting this Tuesday,

paving the way for the organization to install three interim housing units on land occupied by the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw.

First Step, which is still in the process of applying for its nonprofit status, is a pilot program that has committed to helping those without a secure and safe place to live move toward a more stable living situation.

"We are limiting our focus to families with children and the most needy," First Step board member Kathryn Lenox told the commission.

"Our program will provide families a safe place to live and will also provide them to referrals to agencies for assistance to support their transition to self-sufficiency."

First Step representatives said that program participants will primarily be local residents, forced out of their homes due to unforeseen circumstances.

"We are focusing on people who already live in the community," Lenox said. "How do these families get into this situation? I can't really answer

that. Does a parent lose a job? Does someone get sick? Or maybe they thought they had the security they needed, but got kicked out of their apartment. There are many reasons people lose their homes."

Participants in First Step will be referred by Siuslaw Outreach Services, local school systems and other local agencies, who will then be provided with temporary affordable housing to help get back on their feet. They will be set up with a case manager who will help the participants gain

or maintain meaningful employment, learn helpful budgeting tips and work to purchasing or renting a more permanent home.

"We are creating an environment for participants to move from temporary housing into jobs, other housing and a productive life," Lenox said. "We know we will not solve the housing crisis here in Florence, but we will provide a hand up for our clients toward self-sufficiency."

See FIRST STEP page 9A

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

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SIUSLAW NEWS  
2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES  
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Mayor Joe Henry presents Prostate Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation to Us TOO Florence leader Bob Horney

★★★★★★★★★★★★ SEPTEMBER ★★★★★★★★★★

### NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Exciting new developments in prostate cancer diagnoses and treatment:  
IsoPSA - MRI prostate scan/targeted biopsies - Axumin (PET) scan - & more.

Stay up-to-date – attend Us TOO Florence meetings – talk with urologists.  
2nd Tuesday with Dr. Bryan Mehlhaff – 5 to 7 p.m. at Ichiban Restaurant  
3rd Tuesday with Dr. Roger McKimmy – noon to 1 p.m. at Ichiban Restaurant

**BETTER TO KNOW – THAN TO NOT KNOW**  
maribob@oregonfast.net or 541-999-4239 for more information  
(Bob Horney)

**Us TOO Florence**  
\*Prostate Cancer Education & Support Chapter

Someone to talk to... who understands  
\*Chapter - Us TOO International

[www.ustooflorence.org](http://www.ustooflorence.org)