



WEEKLY CALENDAR INSIDE



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**SERVING
WESTERN
LANE COUNTY
SINCE 1890**
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Evening rain with a high of 52 and a low tonight of 42.

Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Three Rivers Casino Resort features live music in January
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Viks open Basketball season this week
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B6

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MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Lila Chambers and Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessy are two of the many volunteers who help keep Cape Perpetua open and running all year.

Keeping the doors open

Volunteers staff Cape Perpetua during multi-week government shutdown

**BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS**

The partial shutdown of the U.S. Federal Government is entering its third week and the effects of the shutdown on consumers and travelers will become more widespread as the funding impasse continues.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is one of the departments affected by the shutdown and many national parks are either not operating or limiting services and park access.

This is not the case at one of Oregon's most visited tourist destinations, The Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. The reserve and surround-

ing forest remain open primarily because of the dedicated volunteers that staff the busy visitors center at the site. The popular location includes a marine reserve, two Marine Protected Areas, a Seabird Protection Area, a campground and an extensive hiking trail system.

The Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve is overseen by the State of Oregon, but the adjoining forest and campground is staffed by employees of the USDA, which has not received funding as of Friday at press time. The site encompasses 2,700 acres of coastal habitat and the location was identified by early explorer Captain
See PERPETUA page 5A

FEMA Coastal Flood Map ready for public feedback

**BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS**

In September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and a varied assortment of civic entities, coordinated a well-attended public forum at the Florence Events Center on the area's flood risk. The purpose of this interactive and informational meeting was to gather professionals from city, county, state and the federal government together to assist residents with understanding, and acting upon, the many different

aspects of living in a coastal floodplain.

A main thrust of the open house was the presentation and explanation to the public of new digital techniques for mapping Lane County's coastal flood plain, along with providing updated information for community emergency response and risk mitigation strategies.

These more accurate maps will be used to determine new insurance coverage areas and the rates to be assessed in those areas.

The 90-day Comment and

Appeal periods started for unincorporated areas of Lane County and Florence on Dec. 18 and is expected to start for Dunes City on Jan.16.

David Ratte is the Regional Engineer for FEMA Region X and he was the main presenter at the September forum.

He wants the public to be aware of the need for the changes to the last Flood Plain Map and is hopeful that residents will benefit from new information regarding mitigation opportunities and changes in the physical areas updated by FEMA.

"FEMA's goals include developing credible flood hazard risk data based on the best available data and using sophisticated modeling tools to share with community officials and the public so that informed decisions can be made relative to addressing the flood risk," Ratte said in an email. "Hopefully, those decisions can lead to greater preparations and mitigation efforts in advance of the next flood event in coastal Lane County."

The improved mapping aspect of the process will undoubtedly have a major im-

pact on individual homes and businesses in the coastal plain areas, including areas in and around Florence.

The City of Florence was well represented at the open house, with employees from the Planning Department and City Hall on hand to answer questions from residents.

Florence City Planner Wendy FarleyCampbell oversees much of the staff work done for the city in this area, and she recommends residents, particularly those that have property interests on
See MAPS page 8A

JEOPARDY, GUNS AND CHAOS

Behind the scenes of Siuslaw News' biggest series of 2018

**BY JARED ANDERSON
& NED HICKSON
SIUSLAW NEWS**

When Siuslaw News was putting together its list of the top stories of the year, we grappled with how to incorporate the number of special series included in our coverage in 2018.

Most of them, sans "Chaos in the Community," weren't "breaking news" stories and didn't really fit within the "top stories" format of a traditional Year in Review. But a good deal of those stories were among the most read stories of the year.

We decided to take a different approach and, rather than an overview or wrap-up of those special series stories, we thought it would be interesting to provide a behind-the-scenes look at three of our top series this year, explaining why we covered them as part of a series, how they were written, their effect on us as journalists as well as some of our readers and, most importantly, what we learned from them. We'll also talk about special series work in general, the series that didn't get published, and the future of special series coverage at the Siuslaw News.

So, sit back, relax and join us for an inside look at some of the special

series coverage of 2018, why and how we wrote them — and the possible impact they each had on our small corner of the Oregon coast.

"Is Coastal Living in Jeopardy?"
(Nov. 14, 2017, through Jan. 17, 2018)

When 2018 began, we were in the middle of the biggest series we had ever started, "Is Coastal Living in Jeopardy?"

Like most of our series, "Jeopardy" wasn't meant to be a multi-part article at first. We were speaking to a shop owner who had a customer that worked full time but was forced to sleep in her car due to troubles affording rent.

We knew there were housing problems, having reported on it from time to time through our coverage of the City of Florence, but the full extent of the issue was unclear to us. Our plan was to do a small story on a few folks having troubles.

So, on Halloween afternoon, just as the kids were setting out to trick-or-treat, we spoke with Bob Teter and Dianne Huenergardt of Siuslaw Outreach Services (SOS) about what they were seeing — and what they told us was devastating. They painted a portrait of a community within our larger community that included people working 60 hours a week and

yet were forced to live in their cars. Some residents hawked donations just to pay off rent, while others panhandled just to pay utility bills. They didn't say this for shock value; the conversation was measured. Matter-of-fact. And a reality they had become accustomed to.

We went to the city and spoke with Florence Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell about what we were hearing. Some of her stories were even more disconcerting.

The city viewed the housing crisis as intrinsically linked to employment and education in the region, and there were no easy fixes. It should also be noted that neither the city nor SOS referred to it as a "crisis," but an rather an "issue" or sometimes a "crunch."

It became clear to us that just a few articles wouldn't be able to cover the scope of the problem, so we got out a whiteboard to plan out the series, assigning sections to different reporters. At first, we were thinking about a six-part series. By the time we published our first article, that jumped to eight. The series finally ended with nine parts and more than 70 pages of text.

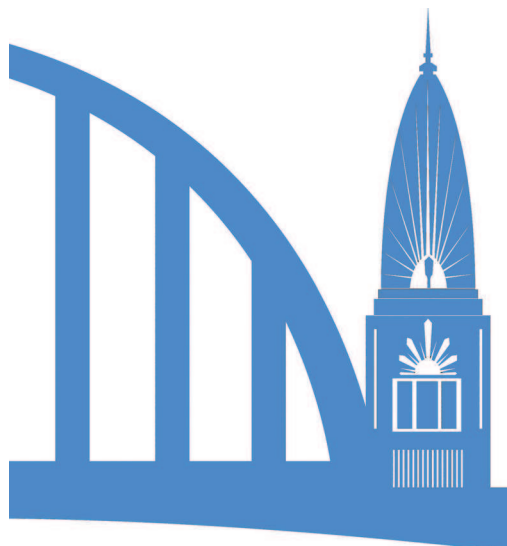
Despite our planning, the series was ever-evolving. We made an open call

at first, hoping for stories from people who were directly affected. People didn't want to talk. Many considered their circumstances too shameful to admit.

The style of the series was also of point of debate in our newsroom. If we had started with SOS's description of the issue, we were concerned it would appear like an intentional horror show aimed at polarizing people and even creating panic — the complete opposite of what we or the organizations we were talking with wanted.

On the other hand, if we didn't come out strong, we feared the issue could be ignored or not taken seriously. So, we opted to just lay out the truth right from the beginning so readers knew the honest scope of what we were hearing and the community was facing.

See SERIES page 5A



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