



Jim Hoberg is proud to be

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

in real estate as a Realtor here in Florence.

WEST • COAST
REAL ESTATE
SERVICES, INC.

• RESIDENTIAL • LAND
• COMMERCIAL • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

JIM HOBERG
Broker/Owner

541-997-7653 • WWW.JIMHOBERG.COM
1870 Hwy. 126, Suite A • PO Box 3040, Florence, OR • Fax 541-997-7654

VOL. 129, NO. 9

SERVING
WESTERN
LANE COUNTY
SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 58 and a low tonight of 39.

Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Three Rivers, Tribes continue donations to local Coast Guard

INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Viks excel in Bowling Championships

INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

KID SCOOP
Newspapers in Education every week
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
Inside — B6

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

[f](#) /SIUSLAWNEWS

[t](#) @SIUSLAWNEWS

THE SIUSLAWNEWS.COM

2 SECTIONS | 24 PAGES

SIUSLAW NEWS

0 88267 02345 1

COPYRIGHT 2019

Winter Music Festival brings toe-tappin' sounds



(From left) Groups from various genres — including Katie Jane Lubiens and Adam Easley's lively Ameri-Celtic, True North's folk and bluegrass and gospel with Andiel Brown and the U of O Gospel Choir — performed at the Florence Events Center Jan. 25 to 27 as part of the 2019 Florence Winter Music Festival.

17th annual music, arts festival features 11 groups at the Florence Events Center

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

The 2019 Florence Winter Music Festival took place at the Florence Events Center (FEC) this past weekend, featuring bluegrass, Americana, folk and gospel music as well as local art and community concerts. The event was presented by Sea Lion Caves and

produced by the Friends of the FEC. "It went shockingly well," said Rachel Pearson, Winter Music Festival chairperson. "It was what a festival is supposed to be within the space of the FEC." While the bulk of the festival took place at the events center, including the Kiwanis Kids Concerts on Thursday

and the two-day Florence Regional Arts Alliance's (FRAA) Winter Arts Festival, additional music events took place throughout town. Oregon Pacific Bank hosted a community concert and ICM Restaurant hosted two evening acoustic jam sessions, with Siuslaw Public Library providing an additional jam on Friday.

The festival kicked off with the annual Kids Concerts, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Florence with additional sponsorship. These lively performances based in nearly 900 students from Mapleton, Reedsport and Siuslaw elementary schools. Pearson thanked Siuslaw Elementary Principal Mike Harklerode and his staff for

organizing the logistics for seating and buses for each of the shows, as well as the teachers and bus drivers from each school in attendance. At the start of the concert, she told the enthusiastic students, "If you want to clap, you can clap; if you want to bounce in your seat, that's OK. No one has hit the ceiling yet." See FESTIVAL page 8A

Local vets advocate for county services

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Leadership from Florence-area veterans' groups met with Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich and Lane County Veterans Services (LCVS) Program Supervisor Joseph Reiley last week at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 23 headquarters in Florence.

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3232, DAV, American Legion Post 59 and the informal coalition of vets known as the of "Band of Brothers" all participated in a discussion of the needs of area veterans, in regard to the county's Veterans Service Officer program.

Bozievich and Reiley were here to respond to requests from the veterans for an increase in the time that a Veterans Service Officer (VSO), provided by Lane County Veterans Services, would spend in Florence to assist veterans with claims and other matters related to previous military service.

There were also concerns expressed by the vets that the current location of the intake interviews was not adequate for the meetings between the VSOs and those needing assistance.

Bozievich began the meeting with a brief disclaimer, citing the need for the county commission to approve the additional funding needed to increase the hours a VSO could spend in Florence.

See VETERANS page 6A

VOICE OF FREEDOM

KXCR continues mission by livestreaming in 2019

STORY & PHOTO
BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS



KXCR DJ Charlie Walker

"'Charlie's Place' is an imaginary bar," Charlie Walker said. "I refer to it as a place where you can live it up and never have to worry about living it down. It's located on the corner of your fondest memory and your wildest fantasy. So, come on down."

The atmosphere, along with an eclectic mix of jazz and blues, is the main attraction of KXCR Community Radio's show "Charlie's Place."

"We don't mention the booze, we just assume its presence," Walker said. "But there's a lot of strange creatures visiting the club. We have Lionel, our resident philosopher, and he does a lot of strange humor like, 'He's very happy because he just found out he's going to be the last person to die during his lifetime.'"

After a long pause, the reporter interviewing Walker laughed.

"It takes a minute, doesn't it?" Walker said with a wry smile. "He was the same one that was raised by his father because his mother left home before he was born. Nice trick."

After 100 episodes, "Charlie's Place" has closed its doors at KXCR 90.7 FM as Walker is searching for a new project for the radio station.

"It's almost two years of shows," said Walker. "I figured, either the show or I will get stale fairly easily. I said all I have to say. Now I've got to find a new format and say it again. Might put something together that has some nostalgia attached to it. At the age I am, nostalgia's what I've got

going for me." Walker, age 90, stated that he's not realistically active anymore, heavily relying on a cane for mobility, "but the mind is still working. I figure that I enjoy life so much, so if I can share it with joy with somebody else, I'm happy to do it."

And it's through the airwaves that Walker, along with the dozens of other community radio practitioners, have a place to share that joy.

"FM is the voice of freedom," Walker said. "KXCR is a voice crying in the wilderness. I don't know what listenership we have, or if it's a potential money maker. What I do know is that if I want to express my opinion, I can come here and do it. And it will be accepted because it's my opinion, as a citizen. That's a very, very important freedom, in my way of thinking."

Walker believes that KXCR is freedom, giving a voice to those that don't have one. It's a sentiment that Larry Bloomfield, who was just promoted to station manager, shares.

"We give a voice where a voice can be given," he said. "We give a local voice to a local area that has a wealth of knowledge that needs to be passed on. And we're really lucky to have such a wonderful community."

See RADIO page 7A

Lane County on alert for measles, flu

Health officials brace for potential measles outbreak as first case surfaces in Oregon

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
FOR SIUSLAW NEWS

Lane County Public Health (LCPH) has issued a general health alert after 22 cases of measles had been confirmed in Southwest Washington as of Tuesday — with one confirmed case in Portland last Friday.

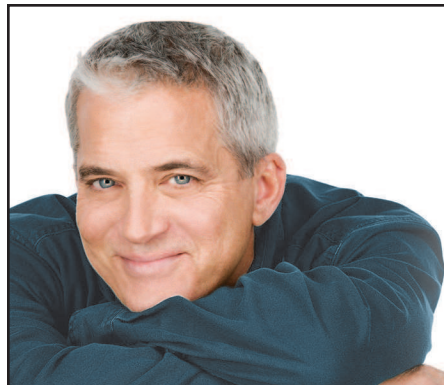
The department is encouraging the public and medical professionals to watch for symptoms and take steps to reduce the virus's spread.

Individuals with confirmed cases were reported by LCPH to have traveled throughout the Portland Metro area during their communicable period, prompting health officials to issue a warning down the I-5 corridor.

"Given the proximity of these cases to Lane County, the amount of travel that happens daily between us and the greater Portland Metro area, and the particularly contagious nature of measles, we are concerned about the risk of exposure," said Lane County Senior Public Health Officer Dr. Patrick Luedtke in a press release.

Clark County Public Health has so far confirmed at least 35 cases this year alone. The county is located directly across the Columbia River from Portland, and includes Vancouver, Wash.

See MEASLES page 6A



I WILL
HEAR
BETTER
THIS YEAR

The first step to better hearing?
Getting your hearing tested by the ONLY
doctors of audiology in Florence.

FREE TV Adapter* Hear the TV through your hearing aids!

* With purchase of a set of level 5, 7, or 9 devices.
Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 2/14/19.

HEARING ASSOCIATES of Florence

Call today to start your year off right!

541.991.4475

1901 Hwy 101, Ste A | Florence

HearingAssociatesOffFlorence.com | Doctors of Audiology

AUDIGY CERTIFIED