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VOL. 129, NO. 29
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Rain all day with a high of 51 and a low tonight of 46.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Headstart learns about safety from Officer Bailey
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Area groups organize Earth Day activities
INSIDE — SPORTS

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KID SCOOP
Newspapers in Education every week
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The 'Wall that Heals' does just that

Traveling Vietnam Memorial creates rare conversations for area veterans

STORY & PHOTO BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

America is fighting a war today. The U.S. War in Afghanistan began when the United States invaded Afghanistan in October 2001, seeking to destroy the Taliban which the U.S. had determined was responsible for the attacks of 9/11. The War in Afghanistan, officially known as Operation Freedom's Sentinel, is the longest war in U.S. history at 19 years and counting. However, the longest undeclared war in America's his-

tory lasted 20 years and took place in Vietnam. Americans who return from the current conflict are respected by most for their service and are welcomed home by family and community. In addition, the federal government now has in place numerous veterans' services to assist in the transition from fighting and killing, back to civilian life. Many of the problems that veterans face when attempting to reestablish a normal life have been anticipated and options are available

to deal with issues that arise. That has not always been the case, especially after the war in Vietnam. The arrival last week of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial known as the "Wall that Heals" served as a catalyst for many Florence-area veterans to revisit one of the most tumultuous periods in American history, the Vietnam Era. Conversations regarding service during Vietnam, and the residual emotions from that time, reverberated throughout

local veterans' groups when the wall arrived last week. Many of these veterans have rarely, if ever, shared their feelings or emotions concerning the war and their treatment after the conflict had ended. The replica of the original memorial brought renewed appreciation for the sacrifices and the disrespect many serving during the conflict have buried or simply chosen to forget. See VETERANS page 7A

'Experiencing the world through volunteering'

Part I: Siuslaw High School teens discuss experiences during National Volunteer Week

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

"You get to have a lot of experiences," Siuslaw High School senior Audrey Lowder said about what volunteering does for her, and why it remains an important part of her life. "Living in the moment is kind of a big thing for me because when I was younger, I used to watch a lot of TV. It just kills you. It sucks, because you're just sitting there watching something instead of experiencing the world around you. Volunteering helps you experience the world around you instead of living in this little, mythical realm. And it helps you mature as a person." To honor National Volunteer Week, which kicked off April 7, Audrey, along with sophomore Allison

Huff and seniors Samantha Scheer and Nic Wilkinson, sat in the counseling center of the high school to talk about why they volunteer, its triumphs and some of its drawbacks. The conversation soon delved into a variety of complex issues, such as what it's like to live in a small town, their hopes for the future of Florence and some of the fears they have in moving on to different places.

"You just get drawn more and more into it"

Audrey began the talk by listing off her recent volunteer duties, some of which helped her earn the 2018 Future First Citizen designation from the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's Siuslaw Awards in January.

See TEENS page 8A



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Preserving local history through 'signs of the times'

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Old Boarding House on Maple Street feels like a time machine. There is a sign on the front of the recently refurbished building that gives a brief description of the early history of one of Florence's first suc-



Pamela & Patrick Emmingham of Thrifty Threads

cessful businesses, and it says simply: "Old Town Rooms for Rent." That five-word declaration was enough information to keep the dozen or so rooms in the two-story building occupied for most of the next 50 years.

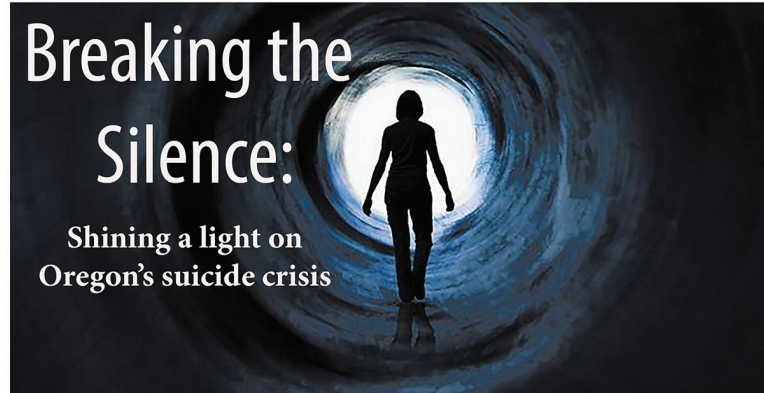
See SIGNS page 9A

SUPPORTING THOSE WITHOUT SHELTER

Conditions associated with homelessness dramatically increase the likelihood of suicide

Editor's note: This is the second in a four-part special collaboration between the Cottage Grove Sentinel, The Creswell Chronicle, Siuslaw News and Newport News-Times focusing on the rising suicide rate in Oregon. Each Wednesday through April, the four newspapers in this collaboration will each be contributing a part to the series and will be publishing them together. The hope is that, by sharing our resources and readerships, we can begin establishing a dialogue within each of our communities about this important subject.

Special 4-part series



A collaborative series between the Cottage Grove Sentinel, The Creswell Chronicle, Siuslaw News and Newport News-Times

Breaking the Silence:
Shining a light on Oregon's suicide crisis

BY STEPHANIE BLAIR
NEWPORT NEWS-TIMES

Homeless individuals are 10 times more likely to commit suicide than their general population counterparts, according to the findings of a 2012 study conducted by A. A. Patterson and R. R. Holden. "We know that people with severe mental illness, or especially psychotic disorders, are more vulnerable," said Sena Benson-Arb, a clinical counselor in the Lincoln County Behavioral

See SHELTER page 7A

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