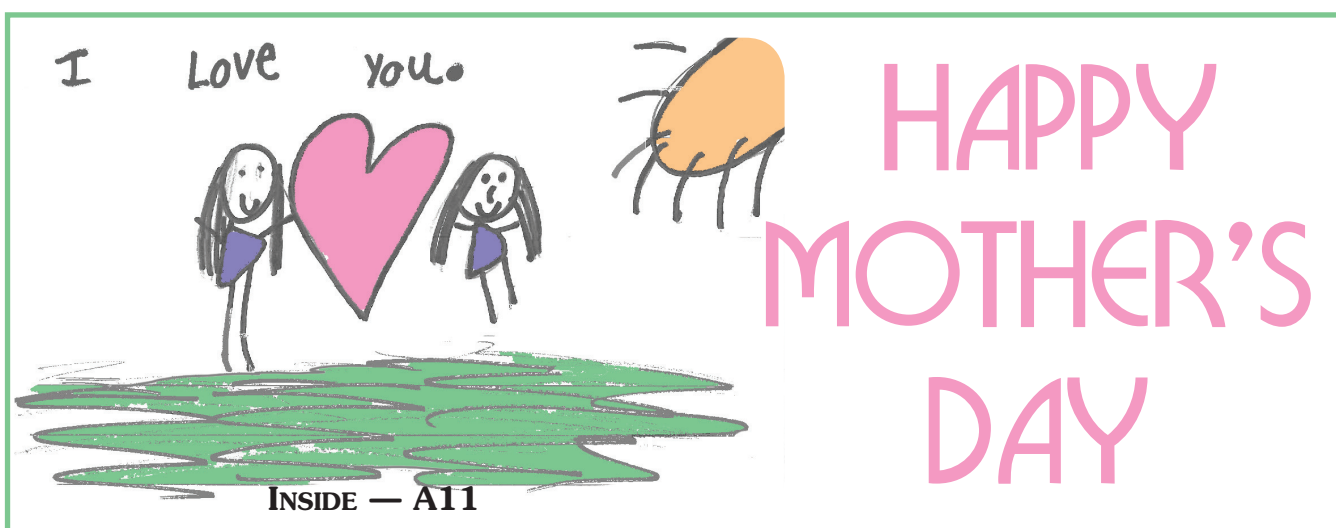




VOL. 129, NO. 38
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 61 and a low tonight of 50.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Continuing the Veteran Memorial Wall
INSIDE — A5

SPORTS



Viks fly over Falcons
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
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SIDE SHOW
Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B6

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Listings and public notices
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To 'stand with students'



Siuslaw focuses on education with Red for Ed, PTA Teacher Appreciation Week & school board meeting

STORY & PHOTOS
BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

"Our future is in the classroom. Let's invest in it!" stated one red and white sign Wednesday in front of Siuslaw Elementary School.

As part of the statewide and national Red for Ed program, Siuslaw School District staff wore red on May 8 in support of funding Oregon's schools to the requested amount of \$9.13 billion, instead of the \$8.87 billion budget planned for the state's K-12 system.

Sporting signs reading "Class size counts," "I stand with students" and "Fully fund Oregon schools," staff lined up on Oak Street to greet school buses and cars, encouraging people to honk their support.

After school, teachers participated in a "grade-in" at Nosh and Abby's Legendary Pizza, where people were encouraged to talk to them about the district's financial needs.

The day's activities were planned by the Siuslaw Education Association.

According to Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak, "Other school districts around Oregon are closing their doors or modifying operations due to teacher walk-outs. Knowing the value of our schools to the Florence community, the members of the Siuslaw Education Association have elected to participate in the 'Oak Street Morning Greeting' with educators dressed in symbolic red shirts rather than joining protests at the state capitol."

Education was at the forefront all week as Florence

Community PTA honored teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. Something fun was planned every day, including snacks, messages of support and themed days, including "You were *mint* to be appreciated" with breath mints and "You're *soup-er*" with a prepared lunch.

On Thursday, students and PTA members wrote messages of appreciation in each of the staff parking lots.

"We in the Siuslaw schools use this time to honor all school staff during this week," stated the Siuslaw Elementary website. "SES is a great place to be a kid because of the grown-ups we have on staff. Our students work with a number of adults every day at our schools."

See EDUCATION page 10A



Siuslaw School District staff wear red Wednesday in support of Red for Ed, which wants to see Oregon's schools fully funded. In addition, Florence Community PTA and students decorated the school with positive affirmations during Teacher Appreciation Week.



Florence works toward approving requested \$58.4 million budget

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The City of Florence Budget Committee has approved a recommendation to accept City Manager Erin Reynolds' proposed budget of \$58.4 million to run the city during the next fiscal biennium (two-year period). The Florence City Council will hold a public hearing on the approved budget on Monday, June 3, at 5:30 p.m. at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101.

The budget committee, which is made up of five citizen members and the five city councilors, met May 8, immediately after this month's Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) meeting.

The FURA agenda was brief and included a brief statement from Reynolds updating committee members on the projects that are scheduled to be completed during this budget cycle, as well as plans for the future.

See BUDGET page 8A

Spring heat results in busy day for local first responders

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Multiple fires were reported in the Siuslaw region during a 12-hour period on Thursday and Friday, one of which resulted in the loss of a home on Collard Lake, and another that was a result of arson.

"It's been a busy couple of hours," said newly installed Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance (SVFR/WLAD) Chief Director Michael Schick.

The first fire began around 4 p.m. in the Westlake area on 3rd St.

"The day before, a resident there had been burning some brush and it reignited," said Schick. "That's typical with brush fires. You think it's out, and all it takes is a little warmth, a little wind and a little ember to start up again. That had the potential to be really bad because it was at the bottom of the hill, and fires like to go straight up."

Hours after the brush fire, SVFR and WLAD received a call at 11 p.m. regarding a house fire on Collard Lake Way, north of Florence. The home, which was surrounded by trees and thick shrubbery along



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley Firefighters enlisted mutual aid from Reedsport this week after multiple calls required extra coverage.

a narrow gravel road, was fully involved when firefighters arrived.

The residents were out and safe, so it was a purely defensive fire for us," Schick said. "It did start to advance into the tree line, but they knocked that down pretty quick."

With the majority of personnel and apparatus involved in knocking down the house fire, a call for mutual aid went out to Reedsport Fire Department as back up in covering Florence should another emergency occur in town. Meanwhile, SVFR Crews were able to contain the fire to the home and avoid what could have been a dangerous, fast-spreading fire through the heavily wooded area.

See FIRES page 10A

SVFR, budget committee discuss need for tax increase

District faces shortages in reserve funds for aging equipment

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) made an initial approval for a tax increase in a joint SVFR board and budget committee meeting on Thursday night. The increase — \$0.4026 per \$1,000 of assessed value — would help reserve funds for aging equipment within the district, which currently has no financial plan to replace apparatus such as fire engines to lifesaving gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs).

In his first public meeting for SVFR, newly installed Chief Director Michael Schick, who sat alongside outgoing interim-chief Steve Abel, opened the meeting

See DISTRICT page 9A

A SAMPLING OF HOMES FOR SALE IN FLORENCE...



5394 BUCKSKIN BOB
\$369,000 11822 MLS#19043807

SILTCOOS LAKEFRONT CABIN...RARE! Discover a bit of history. Siltcoos Lake, largest lake on the Oregon coast, provides stunning setting & playground for this circa 1938 cabin. Fresh and ready for you w/ hardwood floors, charming and wood filled, 2 bed 2 bath, 1000+ sq ft, Vermont Casting woodstove, heat pump, carport & boat house on the lake's edge. Massive monkey tail & magnolia trees. Same loving owner for over 35 yrs. Priced to sell!



2151 ROYAL ST GEORGES DRIVE
\$385,000 #11772 MLS#19236733

New construction. Now completed! 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home in Sandpines West. Large lot with a cedar fencing. Open great room, quartz counters in the kitchen and bathrooms, stainless kitchen appliances (washer & dryer included) and a custom master suite w/french doors to covered patio. Vaulted ceilings, ductless heat pump and much more.



1470 SPRUCE STREET
\$285,000 #11820 MLS#19227729

Wide open spaces and artistic styling in this conveniently located home backing to Munsel Creek Bike Path. Dual-living set-up potential w/ separate up and down living areas. Oversized wooded lot w/ great garden/green space. A total of 2712 SF under roof (576 SF garage has been converted to studio/living space).

"We're next to the Bridge"
100 Hwy. 101
See all Florence Listings at cbcoast.com



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