



VOL. 129, NO. 48
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON



Partly cloudy and windy, with a high of 66 and a low of 51.
Full forecast on A3



Mural moves along
INSIDE — A3



Race Day
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
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LOCAL VETERANS CELEBRATE OREGON'S 1ST WOMEN VETS DAY

STORY & PHOTO
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Women have always played a critical role in the development of freedom and democracy in America. While women's contributions have generally been regarded as domestic in nature, this belief stands in stark contrast to the facts, which show that women have been involved in fighting and dying for America since its inception.

In his book detailing the surreptitious nature of resistance to British rule, "Washington's Spies," Alexander Ross shares the powerful story of America's first woman spy, Anna Smith Strong. Ross believes that Strong was at the heart of the spy ring that Gen. George Washington created to improve his almost non-existent intelligence on



Members of the Coastal Women's Veteran's Group gather Wednesday to honor Women Veterans Day, the first in Oregon.

the British military's troop movement and supply routes.

Strong was the wife of Selah Strong, a delegate to the first three Provincial Congresses in New York, where he also served as a captain in the militia. Selah was imprisoned under suspicion of

being a spy and Ross believes that his imprisonment led to his wife becoming Washington's "Agent 355." Ross is convinced that Anna Strong was, indeed, America's first female spy.

See VETERANS page 7A

Dunes City prepares for natural disasters

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Disaster relief was discussed at the Dunes City Council Wednesday, as councilors passed a resolution approving the city's Lane County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, listened to public comments on emergency radio services and heard Councilor Duke Wells speak on his own natural disaster which happened earlier in the day.

"Since 2009, Dunes City has been working with FEMA and Lane County, rewriting and re-doing the emergency operations plan," said Dunes City Administrator/Recorder Jamie Mills. "Each community has its own annex to the overall emergency operations plan for Western Lane Emergency Operations Group (WLEOG) and to Lane County."

The report was a risk assessment of natural disasters that could befall the city, categorizing natural disasters from most threatening to least.

"Windstorms often impact above ground electrical lines that are vulnerable to damage from falling limbs and trees," the report said. "Recent history includes notable damage and power loss in 2015 and 2016. A winter storm in 2014 caused trees to fall on private homes due to snow and wind. The Darlings Marina Resort sustained wind and flooding damage. The dock and jetty were also damaged, forcing the closure of the Marina."

The worst storm occurred on Columbus Day in 1962, with winds that measured well over hurricane strength up and down the Oregon Coast.

The report stated the best practice for windstorm mitigation is for new construction to utilize underground utilities whenever possible.

Number two on the list was earthquakes, which will affect the entire city uniformly. The probability of a Cascadia earthquake in the future is a certainty, with the only question being when the event will occur.

"Vulnerability is complex to assess due to varying standards of construction," the report stated.

See DISASTER page 5A

Creating a 'SAFE' community



STORY & PHOTOS
BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

Above, personal trainer Roby Hodge demonstrates how a cane or walking stick can be used for self defense. Right, Florence Police Sgt. Len Larson gives safety tips and answers questions about an April rape at Carter Lake.

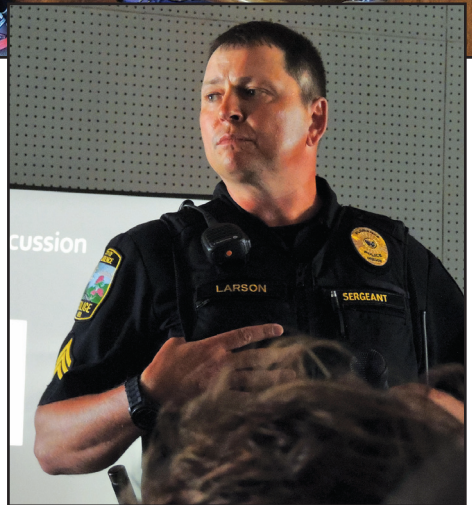
Organizers put together event to promote public safety, awareness

On June 10, a group of community members organized SAFE, an event for Smart Alert Fearless and Equipped women and seniors at The Blue Warehouse at the Port of Siuslaw. Organizers Jacquie Beveridge, Catherine Rourke, Linda Moy and more put together the session to give practical tips for people to increase their situational awareness and be ready for attacks against their person.

"As you probably know, this event was organized as a direct result of a rape of a 66-year-old

woman at Carter Lake on April 28," Beveridge said at the beginning of the event.

People found out about the incident in May, spawning multiple Facebook posts, queries to the Florence Police Department, Lane County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police and Douglas County Sheriff's Office and a brainstorm session "to see what we as a community could do," Beveridge said. "You're all here as a result." More than 90



people attended SAFE.

The Carter Lake incident led to the arrest of Edward Spalione, a 63-year-old Reedsport resident who was also tied to a previous attack at the same lake.

See SAFE page 9A

Lane County Parks to consider potential long-term lease of North Jetty Park from the state

Lane County Parks is considering entering into a long-term lease with the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) for the North Jetty Park in Florence.

North Jetty Park is 250 acres that abuts Lane County's popular Harbor Vista Campground and is south of Heceta Beach. The North Jetty Park is currently owned by DSL and operated by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (ORPD).

The park is zoned "Park and Recreation" and "Beach/Dunes." This largely undeveloped park includes: beach access, an informal trail system, a dive dock, portable restrooms, ponds and stands of shore pine.

According to ORPD's annual car counts, the park receives an average of 114,000 visits annually.

"Incorporating North Jetty into our county parks system is likely to have several benefits for the nearby


community, including more regular maintenance and park ranger presence," said Lane County Parks Manager Brett Henry. "However, before the Board of Commissioners makes any decisions, we want to hear any concerns, hopes or suggestions from the neighbors and other community members."

A community meeting will be held on Monday, June 24, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Res-

cue, 2625 Highway 101 in Florence.

There is also a short online survey available at <https://forms.gle/z1Jc4iZHEmxs5Tg8> or by visiting www.lanecounty.org/parks.

There is no deadline for the Lane County Board of Commissioners to make a decision. Information gathered during the community meeting and from the survey will be shared with commissioners as they consider any next steps.




SUPPORT OUR S I U S L A W V A L L E Y FIRE AND RESCUE

Come to the "Hope Breakfast" **June 21st 7 to 9 AM**
\$15.00 per person

100% of proceeds goes to our Florence Fire and Rescue Emergency Fund. Choose from: Pork Chilli Verde over crispy hash browns topped with two fresh farm eggs OR Baked Strawberry French Toast topped with fresh whipped cream.

Tickets available at Shorewood Office now, or at the door the day of the event.



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ALL proceeds go to our local fire department.