

## Masons fund Ambassador of Music

INSIDE — A3



## JULY ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT — INSIDE



VOL. 129, NO. 52

NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
FLORENCE, OREGON

### WEATHER



Partly sunny with a high of 64 and a low tonight of 51.  
Full forecast on A3

### COMMUNITY



Music 'Legend' comes to Three Rivers  
INSIDE — A3

### SPORTS



Sand Master Park makes move  
INSIDE — SPORTS

### RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs  
Inside — A2

### SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday  
Inside — B4

### CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices  
Inside — B6

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

f /SIUSLAWNEWS

@SIUSLAWNEWS

THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES

COPYRIGHT 2019

0 88267 02345 1

Siuslaw News

1

## SVFR & WLAD increase revenue, welcome recruits in June

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) passed resolutions to increase needed revenue during two meetings in June, as well as ushered in new recruits for SVFR, honoring retiring board members for both boards and burning down an entire house.

In a June 12 Budget meeting, SVFR adopted the 2019-2020 budget for the General Fund and Capital Reserve Funds in the total amount of \$3,915,549. Attached to the budget was a resolution imposing a rate tax of \$1.5417 per \$1,000 of assessed value, an increase of \$0.4026.

"They've been looking at capital replacement plans, and there was absolutely no funding to think about replacing fire engines or some of our vehicles," SVFR/WLAD Chief Michael Schick said. "Some of our engines are going to cost \$600,000 to \$700,000.

See SVFR/WLAD page 10A

## 'A match made in the makerspace'

RAIN connects resources to residents' ideas



BY CHANTELLE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS



The Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) held its first of two summer workshops this week at the newly minted Florence Maker Space. The Bring Your Idea Work-

shop walked attendees through a business plan model while introducing RAIN and its resources to local residents.

Ariel Ruben, RAIN's new rural venture catalyst, led the meeting for

### RAIN Rural Venture Catalyst Ariel Ruben talks ideas in the new Florence Maker Space.

the 20 people in attendance.

"RAIN is a statewide organization that essentially builds ecosystems for startups. We work in rural communities. A lot of cities have es-

established networks and resources, accelerators, incubators, coworking spaces, makerspaces and a network of mentors and all that. But a lot of rural communities don't, as you prob-

ably know. So RAIN hires people like me," she said. "We're catalyzing new ventures and helping all of you start, begin and launch in rural areas."

Ruben is based in Eugene but comes to Florence on Wednesdays and Lincoln County on Thursdays to meet with past RAIN cohorts and new startups seeking assistance.

See IDEAS page 8A

## Councilor conflict dominates discussion

Florence Urban Renewal meeting filled with controversy on budget, public art

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The June 26 Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) meeting was short on action and long on acrimony. The often-displayed personality conflict between Florence Mayor Joe Henry and City Councilor Joshua Greene took center stage at the meeting, which devolved into a series of comments questioning the leadership of Greene as chairperson of FURA and a call for new officers for the group. There were also heated exchanges that questioned the truth of public comments recently made regarding the city's public art funding by Harlen Springer, chairperson of the Public Arts Committee (PAC), and Greene.

As has been the case since the seating of a new city council in January, the issue of public art and FURA's contributions to the purchase and placement of art was at the crux of the discussion.

The meeting began with Director Bill Meyer asking for a clarification of the procedures for selecting chair and vice chair of the agency. Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds explained the process, indicating that the July meeting was customarily

the time new officers would be selected. Meyer accepted the explanation and the timeline for electing new officers.

The agenda for the meeting was the first sticking point of the evening as Henry questioned the last-minute addition of an item listed as No. 6 - Public Art Grant Funding: "Discuss and consider directing staff to amend the FY 19/20 budget to transfer the \$20,000 of public art funding from available funds to future public arts projects."

Henry took exception to the inclusion of the item on the docket saying, "I have some comments on the agenda, specifically item No. 6, which magically appeared on the agenda at 5:30 this morning. ... I actually think this item should be removed from the agenda and I will make that as a motion. ...

"It is my personal belief that FURA does not legally have the right to make this decision about the \$20,000. It was specifically stated in the grant that the money was to be spent on the mural project artist stipend, which it has, we've already paid the artist \$20,000, so that money is spent, and I will challenge any decision you make."

See FURA page 7A

## Fireworks return on Thursday

BY CHANTELLE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Independence Day Celebration will again take place in Historic Old Town and at the Port of Siuslaw on Thursday, July 4. This year, family-friendly activities start at noon and the famous fireworks will be displayed over the Siuslaw River at 10 p.m.

"The Fourth of July is a special day for Americans to celebrate our nation's birthday and honor the patriotism of those who made our independence possible," said Florence Area Chamber of Commerce



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

Executive Director Bettina Hannigan. "For the past several years, we've been able to present an outstanding display over the Port of Siuslaw which draws thousands of spectators to our beautiful town."

See FIREWORKS page 7A

## MAPLETON

The community of Mapleton is also hosting July 4 fireworks. Funded by local donations, Terry Saubert and Carl Halverson will put on the fireworks display at dusk.

The best viewing areas will be the Mapleton High School parking lots and football field, though the school district is not affiliated with the event.

"Please be respectful of the school grounds," wrote Janine Halverson on the official Facebook event page.

"If you bring it, take it home with you. No alcohol, tobacco, weapons or fireworks are allowed on school property. Thank you and Happy Fourth of July all!"

Linda Wheeler is part of the group putting on this year's show.

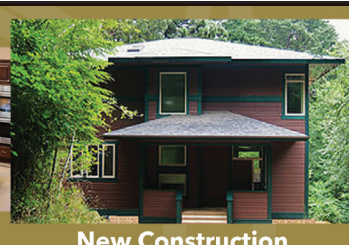
"This year, we're going to set out the donation hat to work toward next year," she said.

People can find out more by going to the "Mapleton Fireworks" event on Facebook.

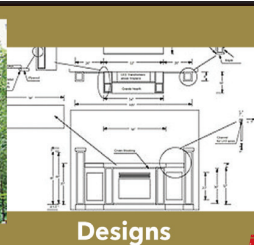
**LOFY CONSTRUCTION, LLC**  
Serving Florence for over 30 years  
"When Quality Counts"



Remodeling



New Construction



Designs

Tel: 541-590-3691 • dlofy@bmi.net • www.lofyconstruction.net  
CCB# 221760 • 2285 Suite J Highway 101 • Florence, Oregon 97439

