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GALLERY TOUR INSIDE — A6

VOL. 129, NO.63
 NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
 FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Mostly cloudy with a high of 65 and a low tonight of 58.
 Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Tour Yachats River Valley Farms this weekend
 INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Cape Perpetua offers amazing view
 INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
 Obituaries & emergency response logs
 Inside — A2

KID SCOOP
 Activities and comics every Wednesday
 Inside — B3

CLASSIFIEDS
 Listings and public notices
 Inside — B4

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2 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES
 Siuslaw News
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Yachats-to-Florence bus gets big, new lease on life

Bus has few passengers but gets an extension

QUINTON SMITH
 YACHATSNEWS.COM
 SPECIAL TO THE SIUSLAW NEWS

Alan Herring pulls away from the bus stop at the Little Log Church in downtown Yachats and heads south on U.S. Highway 101.

In 45 minutes — with one stop — his 10-passenger bus pulls up to a small shelter near a strip mall in Florence. Ten minutes later he starts up the bus and retraces the route north — one of four roundtrips Herring will make each weekday.

There's just one passenger



PHOTO BY QUINTON SMITH/YACHATSNEWS.COM

on board.

The 23-mile drive between the

two coastal cities is one of the most beautiful along all of Highway 101,

John and Betty Munoz of Florence get off the Florence-Yachats Connector bus shortly before noon at the bus stop in front of the Little Log Church. The Munozs said they wanted to ride the bus on a sunny day and have lunch in Yachats.

crossing two capes and passing by beaches and waysides along the Pacific Ocean.

But not many people are using the Florence-Yachats Connector, a nine-month-old \$290,000 experiment to close the last missing link of public transportation along the Oregon coast.

Since it started last September — three months later than planned —

See YACHATS BUS page 7A



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Visiting kayakers enjoyed an up-close view of the Siuslaw River Bridge this week after renting equipment. Several area outfitters offer rentals of kayaks, paddleboards, personal flotation devices and other boating needs. Travel Lane County reports that there are 249 lakes in the "Eugene, Cascades & Coast" region, and many of them are within a couple minutes drive of the Florence area. In addition, the Siuslaw River watershed supports many creeks, waterfalls and other fun areas to explore.

City explores new mandate for Public Art Committee

BY MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence City Councilors had a full day on Monday as they met in the morning for a work session with members of the Public Art Committee (PAC) and later in the day attended the first of two council meetings scheduled for August.

The future of PAC and the manner in which the city and the Florence art community interact, while still tentative, appeared to take a positive step forward Monday morning.

See PAC page 8A

Lane County Sheriffs seek shooting suspect in Florence

Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is still seeking assistance in locating a shooting suspect in Florence.

On July 29, at 5:50 p.m., LCSO responded to Peace-Health Peace Harbor Hospital in Florence regarding a gunshot wound victim who was reportedly shot in the leg earlier in the day in an area south of Florence off Highway 101.



Gene Manuel Joseph of Florence

See SUSPECT page 9A

Florence honors National Lighthouse Day

Proclamation precedes productive city council meeting Monday

STORY & PHOTOS
 BY MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

The Monday, Aug. 5, Florence City Council meeting began with Mayor Joe Henry reading a proclamation recognizing the work done by volunteers and staff at one of Florence's most iconic destinations, the Heceta Head Lighthouse:

"Whereas, communities all across America will be celebrating National Lighthouse Day this week on Aug. 7, marking the anniversary of the signing of the Lighthouse Act 230 years ago, and to the commissioning of the first Federal lighthouse in the United States,

"and Whereas, our City and neighboring community mariners traversing our waters have been protected by the ever-shining light at

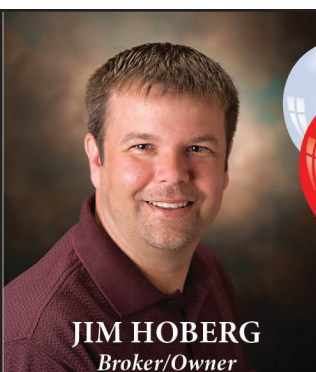
The 125-year-old Heceta Head Lightstation and its caretaking crew is celebrating National Lighthouse Week in Florence this week.

Heceta Head Lightstation for 125 years,

"and Whereas, the lightkeepers of Heceta Head Lightstation have worked tirelessly to the service of the lightstation, raising families and serving their country at Heceta Head with the utmost dedication to their work being productive citizens of the Florence community,

"and Whereas, we acknowledge the presence of those currently dedicated to preserving the lightstation's grounds, buildings and history and to their

See COUNCIL page 8A

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