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Hot 100

RADIO AUCTION

100 Items at Bargain Prices

AUGUST 23 AT 9:15 AM

AUCTION ITEMS LISTED ON PAGE A12 & KCST.COM

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VOL. 129, NO. 67
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER

Rain earlier in the day with a high of 65 and a low of 55.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY

House Concert benefits OCHS
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS

Gearing up to cheer
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

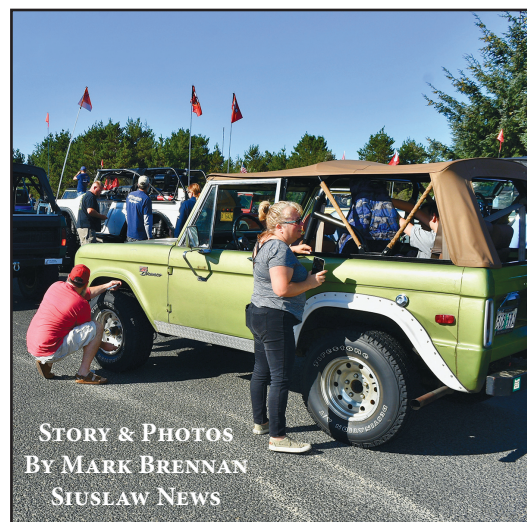
KID SCOOP
Activities and comics every Wednesday
Inside — B3

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
Inside — B4

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Northwest Bronco Roundup now yearly highlight



STORY & PHOTOS
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The City of Florence hosts tens of thousands of visitors each year from around the country and around the world. Most are here to enjoy the natural abundance and beauty of the forests and the coastline in and around Florence. The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area is among the most spectacular and commercially relevant of these tourist destinations with off-road enthusiasts coming in ever greater numbers each year.

The vast expanse of sand dunes that starts at the confluence of the Siuslaw River and the Pacific Ocean and then runs south for approximately

Annual vintage Bronco visit donates more than four tons of food

50 miles is the largest in the continental United States. These mountains of shifting sand have gained increasing notice in the last decade and many visitors make their way to the northwest corner of the country each year to play in this giant natural sandbox.

One of the largest and most noticeable of the

Members of Northwest Vintage Broncos were in town over the weekend for the "Round Up," their yearly visit to Florence.

groups that visit the dunes at this time of year is the Northwest Vintage Broncos (NVB), who plan the Northwest Bronco Roundup.

Dedicated to restoring, rebuilding and riding in classic Ford Broncos, the members of the NVB have made a visit to Florence a stop on their club's yearly itinerary and have developed a close relationship with the city and its residents.

See BRONCOS page 11A

Siuslaw Middle School Bond paid off 1 year early

'Taxpayers paid their bills, and paid them timely' says district business manager

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

After 20 years, the Siuslaw School District announced the completion of the Siuslaw Middle School bond.

"Taxpayers said 'yes' for a bond starting in 1999, and 20 years have passed. We made our final payment June 30," said Siuslaw School District Business Manager Kari Blake. "This last payment was \$1.6 million, so I'm happy to not have to write that check again."

In February 1999, the Siuslaw School Board voted to include the middle school, bus barn and an athletic facility on a bond measure for the May 1999 election. The total cost was projected to be \$15.39 million on a 21-year bond.

Under those estimates, "The



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Middle School was approved for its current location, 2525 Oak St., through the passage of a bond in 1999.

proposed new middle school would be built at a cost of \$12.04 million and would be a two-story, 95,000-square-foot building to accommodate classroom space for 600 students and a 'core' for 800 students, which would encompass the commons area, administrative offices, gym, auxiliary gym and locker rooms," reported the Siuslaw News at the time.

The former middle school was

built in 1954. By the 1980s, the school district began to consider replacement of the building due to increased maintenance costs, building deterioration and the need to better serve students.

The Nelson Report, a public opinion research firm, conducted a telephone survey in 1999, ultimately talking to 386 registered voters within the district.

See SMS BOND page 10A

Council approves sale of Airport Road property to NEDCO

Nonprofit will build 12 new houses on 1.73-acre city lot

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence City Council approved the sale of a parcel of city-owned land to the Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services and the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) at Monday's regularly scheduled council meeting.

Councilor Joshua Greene had been excused from the meeting, and the presentation to councilors by City Recorder Kelli Weese was comprehensive, recommending the

sale by citing specific aspects of the location — located at 1424 Airport Road, just south of the Boys and Girls Club facility and Miller Park — as a primary reason for the recommendation of approval from staff.

"It is zoned multi-family, it has a central in-town location and it has utility infrastructure already available," Weese said. "It is really close to family services, it is owned by the city and its lot size is kind of the perfect lot size for this type of development."

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services and NEDCO merged in November 2017 and have worked jointly in pursuing the grants needed to build the 12 structures planned for the undeveloped site. A delay

in the approval and distribution of these grants and the attendant regulations surrounding the financing has set back the sale of the Airport Road property for nearly a year.

The proposed sale Monday evening was the latest step in the two-year effort to offer moderate income earners the opportunity to purchase a home in Florence, for less than the current market value, in an attempt to increase the availability of less expensive homes.

NEDCO Executive Director Emily Reiman and NEDCO's Director of Real Estate Development, Erin Day, recapped the process and explained the delays in arriving to the point where the city would offer the land to NEDCO for free.

See HOUSING page 9A

Dunes City discusses housing project, water testing, deer

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Little Woahink Lake project was again a topic of discussion during last Wednesday's Dunes City Council meeting, along with issues of how water quality is tested in Woahink and Siltcoos Lakes, public works equipment and an unusual rise of deaths in the local deer population.

The public comments that opened the meeting were centered around a planned housing development on Little Woahink Lake. The project, which has gone through multiple legal issues for over a decade, has seen struggles between developers, Dunes City and local residents on the environmental impacts on the lake, which is used as a drinking water resource for some residents.

The city's Planning Commission had done an initial review of the project in late July, ensuring that the project adhered to city code.

See DUNES CITY page 8A

8th annual Coastal Caucus Economic Summit begins today

In what has become an annual tradition, the Oregon Legislative Coastal Caucus is sponsoring a coastal Economic Summit, a two-day event designed for state legislators from the coast to discuss the region's economy and communities.

The tradition has been to hold the summit at one of the tribal casinos on the coast. This year will be somewhat different. The event will be held at two venues. The first day's activities on Wednesday, Aug. 21, take place at Three Rivers Casino,

See CAUCUS page 11A

A SAMPLING OF WATER-RELATED HOMES FOR SALE IN FLORENCE...

SILTCOOS LAKEFRONT CABIN



5394 Buckskin Bob
Quaint 1938 Cabin w/modern updates, studio below. \$359,000

MERCER LAKE VIEW CHALET



5918 Mercer Lake Road
Sweeping views, Cozy Chalet on 1 acre with 1,900 SF & privacy. \$324,900

6 ACRES CREEKFRONT & SHOP



12421 Hwy. 126
1,200 SF original 1950's home, 1,000' Knowles Creek, shop \$279,000

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



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