



**THEATER REVIEW**  
OF LRP'S  
"MAMMA MIA!"  
INSIDE — A10

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VOL. 129, NO. 88  
**NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY**  
FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**

Sunny with a high of 63 and a low tonight of 40.  
Full forecast on A3

**COMMUNITY**

Heceta Head Lightstation now has new nonprofit  
**INSIDE — A3**

**SPORTS**

Siuslaw XC teams win district races  
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Activities and comics every Saturday  
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## PeaceHealth 'streamlines' Medicare partners

*Trillium Medicare Advantage and Health Net no longer included in insurance coverage*

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

PeaceHealth hospitals, including Peace Harbor Medical Center, will no longer be accepting Health Net and Trillium Medicare Advantage plans starting Jan. 1, 2020. The insurance plans will still be accepted throughout 2019, but if patients do not move to a different plan during the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period, which ends Dec. 7, insurance coverage

will be cut off.

"As part of our ongoing efforts to streamline our Medicare partners and provide high quality, affordable care to our communities, PeaceHealth is not renewing its contract with Centene's Health Net and Trillium Medicare Advantage plans in 2020," PeaceHealth representatives said in a statement provided to the Siuslaw News.

They stressed that PeaceHealth is not pulling out of Medicare Advantage plans altogether. Instead,

PeaceHealth will be accepting plans from Moda Health, PacificSource, Providence, Regence and United.

"Our patients remain our top priority, and we are committed to supporting them during this transition," a PeaceHealth representative said.

Open enrollment for new insurance lasts from now until Dec. 7, where patients with Trillium and Health Net can switch to one of the approved providers. To help with the transition, Peace

Harbor has informational booths in the main hospital lobby Monday through Friday, now through Dec. 6.

Agents will be on hand to answer questions and help patients enroll during the remainder of the open enrollment period.

PeaceHealth will also have a Medicare Insurance Helpline available at 866-391-7750 throughout open enrollment to help patients.

See INSURANCE page 7A

## Community invited to "clean up" today

*Collection items include computers, appliances & more*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

This Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the City of Florence and the Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) will be holding the first "Fall Community Clean Up" at the Siuslaw High School parking lot. This event will offer free collection of a number of items that are not normally picked up by local waste haulers.

Florence Public Information Officer Megan Messmer is encouraging residents to take advantage of the opportunity to properly dispose of items that can be difficult to dispose of under normal circumstances.

"The City of Florence and EMAC are rebranding and expanding the previous recycling event known as the Black and White event," Messmer said. "The community event has expanded the list of dispose/donate items. More items will be accepted for collection, with local non-profit reuse and recycle businesses on site to create a one-stop drop for community members."

This collection allows for drop-off of items like appliances, computers, electronics, furniture and usable building materials. It is also an opportunity to jettison old paint and up to five automobile tires.

However, there are some limitations to what can be discarded.

Hazardous waste, batteries, garbage, chemicals, prescription drugs, fluorescent lightbulbs, car parts and large oversized items like hot tubs, boats and tractor tires cannot be collected.

During the cleanup, representatives from Florence Master Recyclers and other related non-profit organizations on location to assist with the separation and proper preparation of discarded materials and items.

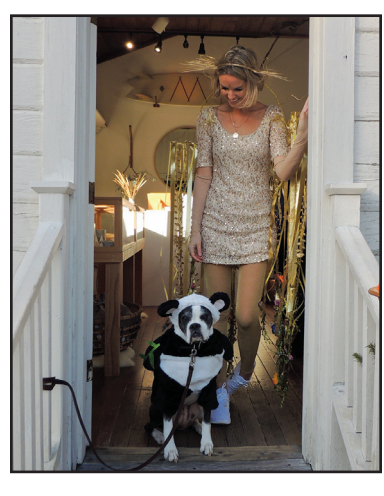
For more information on the specifics of the Fall Community Clean Up, go to [www.ci.florence.or.us](http://www.ci.florence.or.us).

# TRICK OR SWEET

Halloween continued the sweetest tradition in Historic Old Town Florence Thursday as area merchants gave out candy to countless trick-or-treaters and their families. Not only were the usual witches, dinosaurs and superheroes present, but so were a sea anemone, a Japanese temple and a dozen dogs in costume. Even adults dressed up this year, with several Old Town merchants getting into the spooky holiday spirit. Other heroes also attended, some in their actual uniforms, like Florence Police officers and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue firefighters, and some, like U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River members, in various pop culture costumes. People from all around the community attended before heading to neighborhoods, Trunk-or-Treats, Halloween parties and the last night of this year's Scare-CROW Haunted Maze.



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN & CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



## Lane County holds flooding forum at FEC

*New code may change regulations*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Staff from the Lane County Department of Public Works Land Management Division held an informational meeting Monday evening at The Florence Events Center. The public meeting was held to elicit public input on proposed changes to a number of county codes.

The forum presented area residents a series of proposed changes to the codes and regulations that clas-

sify flood related incidents in Lane County.

This meeting was the result of the passage of Ordinance 18-08 by Lane County Commissioners in January 2019, which directed staff to initiate a series of public meeting to solicit citizen feedback on the county's floodplain regulations and proposed updates to related county codes.

Monday's meeting was the second of three planned informational presentations to be held as adjustments to the county planning codes continuing into 2020.

The hope of the commissioners is to mitigate or reduce the destruction caused by future flooding events.

One of the major reasons the county is updating its maps is due to Lane County's membership in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The county's participation in the NFIP goes back to the 1970s and theoretically allows residents in a designated floodplain to purchase property insurance at a more affordable rate, or when insurance is unavailable through a retail insurance agency.

Floods in this region are often part of the annual weather cycle for those that live on, or close to, the 110-mile-long Siuslaw River.

See FLOODPLAIN page 8A

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