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VOL. 129, NO. 94
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
 FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER

Partly cloudy with a high of 54 and a low tonight of 41.
 Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY

Local Coast Guard holds inspection.
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS

Lady Viks basketball gets new coach.
INSIDE — SPORTS

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 Obituaries & Police logs
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SIDE SHOW
 Activities and comics every Saturday
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City of Florence, RAIN celebrate success of entrepreneurial program

BY CHANTELE MEYER
 S I U S L A W N E W S

(Editor's Note: In the interest of full disclosure, Siuslaw News was invited to participate in the panel portion of the Entrepreneurial Activation Event reported on in this story.)

On Nov. 14, Oregon Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network (RAIN) held the Florence Entrepreneurial Activation Event at City Lights Cinemas. The event included speeches by Florence and RAIN representatives, an

eight-person panel, updates from some of the area's successful entrepreneurs and business pitches by brave residents.

Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds summarized the City of Florence's relationship with RAIN, which began four years ago and continues with additional city and grant funding.

"We've been able to increase the number of startups and living-wage jobs, and increased the level of awareness of the importance of entrepreneurs and innovators in our economic development strategy,"

See RAIN 8A



PHOTO BY MITRA F. DUNN FOR OREGON RAIN

Panelists from Florence's entrepreneurial ecosystem discuss their roles in local small business and the growing movement towards economic development.



MARK BRENNAN/S I U S L A W N E W S

Harlen Springer, chair of the Public Art Committee, will join the board of the Oregon Art Commission.

PAC CHAIR APPOINTED TO OAC BY GOVERNOR

BY MARK BRENNAN
 S i u s l a w N e w s

Art has been a topic of considerable interest to residents of Florence during this past year.

The installation of a large mural on the corner of Highway 126 and Highway 101 caused an uproar that prompted public meetings and a city council confrontation.

The upside to the tumult was a broader discussion on the subject of public art. The passion and divergent opinions shared by the dozens that went to Florence City Council meetings to speak, as well as those who attended the mural's dedication ceremony, was a testament to the power of art.

As a result, the subject of public art remains high on the communi-

ty's radar. The recently completed rewrite of the Florence Public Art Committee's (PAC) workplan took considerable time and required several meetings and public forums before finalization and approval.

One of the individuals at the center of the heightened interest in

See ART 10A

New recruits recognized at joint SVFR/WLAD meeting

BY JARED ANDERSON
 S I U S L A W N E W S

Four new volunteer firefighters received their badges during Thursday's meeting of the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority (WLFEA), Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD), while the respective boards also heard progress on the regions two mobile health programs.

"Today we have four individuals

who are going to graduate from the Fire Academy," SVFR Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Pete Warren said in the ceremony introduction. "It was one of the most difficult academies I've seen since I've been here, which is almost 13 years. And they all prevailed and made it through, so I think a round of applause would be deserved."

Three of the volunteer firefighters will be serving with SVFR, including Andrew Jeffords, William Jones and Naomi Warren. The fourth graduate,

Jim Yeo, is serving the Deadwood/Swishhome district.

The Autumn Firefighter 1 Academy was smaller than normal, according to Warren; "However, numbers only count after seeing who's still on the roster after one year. It's not uncommon to lose half of those who graduated, after a year. We're thinking we have a small group who'll stick it out and help their departments for many years."

See SVFR 7A

Algae levels still high in DC area lakes

New free app provides users with current algae level readings.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CYAN mobile app is now available to Android owners, showing cyanobacteria (blue green algae) counts on the surface of lakes.

The app is available in the Google Play Store under CYAN EPA and is free to download. Once it has downloaded, users can find a lake on the map and click on it. The app will then provide a blue green algae reading.

Florence and Dunes City area residents are advised that, according to the app, the current reading is 346,736 cells per milliliter.

Any reading over 100,000 is considered a concern when a whole column (from surface to lake floor) is considered. The number, however, appears to have come down from 1,423,372 on Nov. 8.

"I do not have any idea as to accuracy of the information contained in this app, but this is more than we have had available to us in the past," said Jamie Mills, City Recorder for Dunes City, in an email statement. "Please make sure your septic systems are operating correctly and do not allow any silt or mud to enter the lake. Both of these actions have been shown to increase blue green algae growth."

Mills explained that it is suspected that decomposition of plant materials are also a cause.

"We know for a fact that high water temperatures are a factor," said Mills. "The fact that water levels are so low mean water temperatures are higher. We need rain and cooler temperatures. Hopefully the

See ALGAE 9A

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