



WEEKLY CALENDAR INSIDE — A6

Continuing Education
Lane Community College
ACHIEVING DREAMS
Florence Center
3149 Oak Street

Winter 2020 Class Schedule
Enhance Your Skills, Prepare for a New Career, Pursue Your Inspiration

Registration opens Dec. 3
Classes start January 6
Register at lanec.edu/ce

VOL. 129, NO. 96

NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Cloudy with a high of 44 and a low tonight of 37
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Get ready to fill up Empty Bowls
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Vikings to remain in 3A
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B6

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

[f/SiuslawNews](https://www.facebook.com/SiuslawNews)

[@SiuslawNews](https://twitter.com/SiuslawNews)

TheSiuslawNews.com

2 SECTIONS | 24 PAGES
COPYRIGHT 2019



Florence Kiwanis continues tasty tradition

Community Thanksgiving Dinner serves 615

The holiday season began in earnest on Thursday with the Kiwanis Club of Florence once again offering a free Thanksgiving Day dinner to the community. The Elks Club provides the kitchen facilities and donations provide money to purchase the groceries needed to prepare and serve a traditional dinner to hundreds of Florence area residents.

"We are grateful for all the volunteers which help make this event successful for our community," said Shannon Sheets, one of three Kiwanis members who coordinated this year's event.

According to Sheets, the team assembled to cook and serve the dinner was made up of some volunteers that have been a part of the tradition for years and others that are new to the experience.

"As of now, our pre-event setup allows seating for about 270 people at a time, while utilizing about 60 to 65 volunteers from around the community to help make the event possible. Some of our volunteers are in the area temporarily, for work or pleasure, and have joined in the volunteer festivities," she said.



Diners enjoyed a full Thanksgiving meal at the Florence Elks Lodge on Thursday during Florence Kiwanis Club's annual free Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

One of the long-term volunteers at the Thanksgiving Dinner is Francie. She has been volunteering as a server for the past eight years and looks forward to the opportunity every holiday season.

"I think this such a wonderful way to spend Thanksgiving," she said. "There are many people who are alone during the holidays and this is

way for them to get out and have a meal with their neighbors. It is also a way for us, the volunteers, to share some of the fun of the season with people who may not have any family in the area or who are unable to cook."

There were a number of volunteers who helped with the meal, Sheets said, in addition to contributions made by diners to support local food distribution.

See THANKS page 11A

Plastic bag ban approaches

Reusable bags will be necessary as law goes into effect Jan. 1

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Consumers will notice a major difference when checking out at all stores and restaurants in Oregon, beginning Jan. 1, 2020. That is the date HB 2509, "The Sustainable Shopping Initiative," takes effect, which prohibits retailers from providing single-use check-out bags to consumers for their purchases.

Oregon now joins California, Connecticut, Maine, New York and Vermont in passing some form of statewide plastic bag restriction policy.

The new law places restrictions on the types of check-out bags retailers and restaurants may provide. HB 2509 will require retailers to charge a fee of at least five cents for providing sustainable bags at point of purchase.

The new rules also codify the ban on a statewide basis, making it easier for businesses to comply with the updated requirements.

"With so many city ordinances currently in place, we heard overwhelmingly that uniformity and predictability for businesses across this state was critical," said the bill's chief sponsor Rep. Janeen Sollman.

See BAG BAN page 9A

Top Hydraulics delivers matching funds to Florence Food Share



As area residents looking to stock up on food for the Thanksgiving holiday began to form a line outside the Florence Food Share on Wednesday morning, Maria and Klaus Witte (right) quietly slipped in through the back to present the organization with a check for \$23,410. The donation was spurred on by a record-breaking year from the annual fundraising event "The Pounding," where locals donated food and funds to the nonprofit.

For every pound of food donated, the Wittes, who own local auto parts manufacturer Top Hydraulics, promised to donate \$1.

While the Pounding was hoping to bring in 19,000 pounds of food, the event brought in a record-breaking 23,410 pounds for the food share, which Klaus and Maria were more than happy to match in dollars.

So on Wednesday, as food share vol-

unteers busily stacking the pantry shelves before opening, the Wittes presented the check (above) to Florence Food Share Executive Director Janet Engle (right), Operations Manager Colin Morgan (behind) and Board President Judy Plumery (center) in a brief ceremony before opening.

After the presentation, Maria pointed out how quickly the food on the shelves can be depleted, and stressed the importance of the Florence Food Share for residents all year round, not just during the holidays.

The couple thanked the volunteers and the generous community for their support of the food share.

Florence Food Share employees warmly thanked the Wittes for their continued support throughout the year, and then quickly got back to the task at hand — feeding those in need.

STORY & PHOTO BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Cold Weather Shelter opens its doors this week

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter opened its doors throughout the Thanksgiving week as old temperatures descended on the region earlier than expected.

"This is the first Thanksgiving we've been open, but it was a good day," said Pastor Greg Wood, president of the program, which is held at his church, the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw. "I think folks were overall thankful for being there. We've had some tremendous volunteers from the community come out and help out, which is very much welcomed."

A traditional turkey dinner, along with the prerequisite pumpkin pie, were served to the 23 people who utilized the shelter's services on Thursday.

"And most of our guests also attended the dinner at the Elks Lodge, so our guests ate well on Thanksgiving. I think that was welcomed," Wood added.

The emergency shelter, which opens when temperatures reach 32 degrees and below, or 34 degrees with rain, kept its doors open throughout most of the day on Thanksgiving.

See SHELTER page 9A

HOLIDAY Arts FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 7 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, December 8 11 am - 4 pm

An eclectic showcase and shopping experience for unique works of art and fine craftsmanship

Free Admission

(10% of Artists' Sales during the event will benefit the FRAA Art Center)

Florence Events Center • 715 Quince Street