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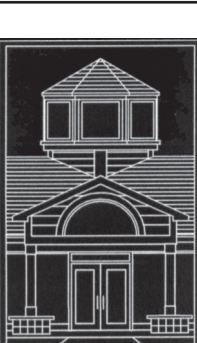
VOL. 129, NO. 101
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Clouds and rain with a high of 51 and a low tonight of 46.
Full forecast on A3

LIBRARY NEWS



Let it snow with area ice makers.
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Viking boys nab win.
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

KID SCOOP
Activities and comics every Wednesday
Inside — B7

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
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Oregon Pacific Bank celebrates 40 years

Yesterday, OPB marked 40 years of financial service to the community

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

“In less than one year, Oregon Pacific Banking Company [OPB] has become a significant new financial institution in the greater Florence area and is privileged to open our new facility to better serve you, the residents of our fine community,” the letter from OPB’s board read.

It was Oct. 30, 1980 and the fledgling bank was opening a state

of the art bank in Florence, the first to have “in-house computer services.” To celebrate, Chairman of the Board A.J. Brauer, vice chairman Henry Johnson, board directors Bob King, Gary Hoberg, Dick Kirby, Jack Garrison and the bank’s CEO, Jim Mandersheid, penned an open letter to the community.

The letter continued, “We desire to be a concerned, responsible and progressive citizen, ready to help serve the needs of our growing

community. Our chief goal is to always give you the best hometown personalized banking service possible.”

The letter was published in the *Siuslaw News*, and adjacent to it was a picture of the new building with the following caption:

“We are proud of our new facility and hope you will come join us in our celebration. We have the warmest, friendliest service in town. Come meet the gang.”

Four decades later, OPB is inviting members of the community to again “meet the gang” as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

“December 17 is the 40th anniversary of the bank’s charter being filed with the State of Oregon as an Oregon bank,” current OPB president and CEO Ron Green said. “This organization started with five local small-business people that had

See **OPB 6A**

Community caring in action



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



The annual Soroptimist’s Christmas Food Basket giveaway took place at the Siuslaw Middle School on Saturday. Carol Bennett is one of the coordinators of the long running event and she was pleased with the way the day went. “The Food Basket distribution was a great success this year. We had a lot of community support both in the number of donations we received to buy the food, but also in the number of volunteers that showed up to help hand out the food boxes.” The Soroptimist’s also held a toy giveaway Saturday for youngsters, at the Church of the Nazarene, which they distributed to nearly 200 families. Bennett also reported that close to 400 food boxes were disbursed by dozens of volunteers, including Mayor Joe Henry and City Manager Erin Reynolds, to members of the community.

City gets update on airport memorial

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Dec. 16 City Council meeting began with an update on the Florence Airport Memorial Gateway Project. Councilors were brought up to speed on recent developments in the process to create a fitting tribute to the aviators and other service personnel that have served during America’s military conflicts. The updated design concepts were highlighted in a 3D video shown to councilors and the few attendees at the only City Council meeting for December.

Sam Spayd is the point person for the project. He was joined by Travis Wood, who discussed the planned layout for the park, which will include a walking path and seating near the airport runways.

The seating area will allow visitors to watch the take-off and landings of aircraft at the airport and the walkway will be landscaped and follow the contours of the runways.

Wood has been

See **COUNCIL 7A**

PeaceHealth celebrates volunteers with ‘Feast of Gratitude’

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The spirit of volunteerism is strong in Florence. Many of the service-oriented organizations in the area rely on the contributions of volunteers to maintain appropriate levels of support for those they serve. PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Hospital (PHPH) is one of the cornerstones of the Florence community and definitely counts on volunteers to fill any gaps in care provided to patients.

Monday, PHPH recognized the contributions volunteers, employ-



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Eunice Telvin, 89, is stepping down after serving as a volunteer for 27 years at PHPH.

ees and community members have made in the past year to the organi-

zation with its annual PHPH “Spirit of Gratitude Feast.”

The event was held in the hospital’s cafeteria and is offered each year, at no charge, as a way for PeaceHealth to thank community members for the support they provide.

Jason Hawkins, chief administrative officer for PHPH, commented on the positive work done by hospital staff with the support of volunteers.

“We call this celebration our ‘Spirit of Gratitude Feast,’ and I think that really sums up the sentiment of the day,” he said. “We are

so grateful to this community for its support and trust in us, and so grateful for the amazing team we have caring for patients in our hospital, clinics and beyond.

“This special day gives us an opportunity to reflect on all we have to be thankful for — and of course, to celebrate the holiday season together over a delicious meal and fellowship.”

Eunice Telvin is one of the individuals that Hawkins is referring too when he discusses the contributions made by the PHPH team.

See **FEAST 9A**

Embrace the goodness of the season, and look forward to the blessings coming your way.

Happy Holidays to all.

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