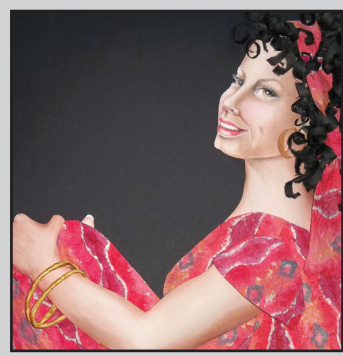


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ART EXHIBIT AT FEC (A5)

## Threat of violence at SMS quickly deemed 'prank'

*Student who made threat could face expulsion and criminal charges*

By JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw School District was on alert Monday night as the district and local police responded to a threat of violence against students at Siuslaw Middle School and a staff member. However, the threat turned out to be a hoax and the district rescinded any safety notices regarding the incident by Tuesday morning.

The threat was made Monday evening at 5:48 p.m., according to school officials.

"The threat was made after school through an anonymous texting app, and directly related to those students," Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzskowiak said Monday evening, stressing that the police were looking into the issue.

"The threat of violence, if it were to occur, would most likely be tomorrow [Jan. 14] when the students are at school."

The family of any students named directly or indirectly were notified, as well as the staff member. Police began a quick investigation, and automated calls went out to all parents just before 7 p.m. on Monday.

"If you or your child may be able to identify the person that made such a threat, please contact the Florence Police with that information," the district asked in the robo-call, which also stated "an enhanced police presence" would be at the building and that all student bags would be searched prior to entry.

"If parents feel a need to keep students home on Tuesday, please call your child's school to register the excused absence for the day," the call stated.

By 11 p.m. that night, the perpetrator had been identified by police, who found no credible threat at the middle school or any other school facility.

"In essence, it was a hoax," Grzskowiak said. "The student does not have the ability or means to complete any threat but was 'pranking' their friends and it went too far."

See THREAT 7B



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

**C**oast Guard Station Siuslaw River held its Auxiliary Change of Watch on Saturday, Jan. 11, at The Pier Point Inn. The annual Change-of-Watch is often the only formal gathering of Division and Flotilla members during the year. The ceremony itself is patterned after the Coast Guard's formal, time-honored Change-of-Command ceremony. Tom Divis was reinstalled as Commander of Division 5 and Steve Mathis was also re-installed as Vice Commander. Division 5 covers all of the Southern Oregon Coast, from Depoe Bay to Brookings. Division and Flotilla Commanders are elected each year by their membership and can serve up to two terms. The Flotilla Commander, and the Vice, serve as the leadership for their unit. While the event was about the auxiliary, active-duty members attended to show their support for the countless hours volunteers serve as members of the local auxiliary. The Change of Watch ceremony also serves as time to remember members who have passed on and those POWs that will never come home.

## Court decision allows homeless to sleep in public spaces

By MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS  
WITH DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

A Dec. 16 Supreme Court decision to deny a petition to review *Martin v. City of Boise* has finalized a significant holding by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals which protects the right for homeless people to sleep in public spaces without reprisal.

The 9th Circuit reviews cases from 10 western districts including Oregon, Idaho, Washington and California.

The plaintiffs in the controversial case, supported by the

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, were individuals that were homeless.

The decision not to hear the appeal filed by the Boise case impacts not only locations under 9th Circuit Jurisdiction but could have a significant impact nationally.

The impact in Florence will be less dramatic as there are few instances here where the homeless are actually arrested or cited for vagrancy or loitering in city limits.

Commander John Pitcher is the point person for the Florence Police Department, and he reports the FPD does not target the

homeless for sleeping in public places, but they do enforce other laws that may be broken by individuals without a permanent residence.

"We have been complying with the 9th Circuits order for some time now and have not been enforcing prohibited camping on public property," Pitcher said. "We do enforce other ordinances and crimes that are public nuisance issues such as offensive littering, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, blocking a sidewalk, disorderly conduct, etc., that are committed by a variety of people

See COURT 6B

Siuslaw News  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
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FLORENCE, OREGON

### WEATHER



Rain and wind with a high of 49 and a low tonight of 38.

Full forecast on A3

### COMMUNITY



Local brewery taps first batch of beer.

INSIDE — A3

### SPORTS



Siuslaw open league play this Friday

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

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## FLORENCE NOW HOME TO HOSTEL EXPERIENCE

By MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The idea of a less traditional lodging experience is one that many countries in Europe have adopted and embraced for decades. The concept of a less insular travel experience has spread and been adapted to many different cultures around the world over the years.

Known as "Hostels," these lodging establishments generally have a shared kitchen, bathroom and meeting space alongside rooms that range from dormitory style sleeping quarters to those with pri-



COURTESY PHOTO

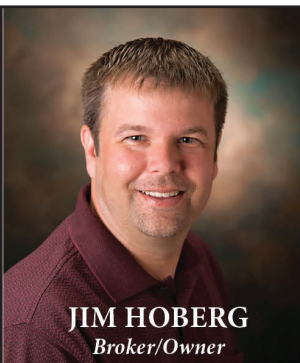
The Florence 101 Hostel takes its cue from a popular European style of lodging.

vate and semi-private rooms.

Florence has recently joined cities offering the public the opportunity to save some money and meet others, with the opening of Florence 101 Hostel, located at 1495 Eighth Street.

The Florence Hostel is the brainchild of local businessperson and entrepreneur Marianne Brisbane, who has owned and operated a

See HOSTEL 6B



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