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CITY *from page 1A*

On the Let's Talk, Florence Oregon Facebook Page, Donna Rudd wrote, "I called FPD and they have no police report on file and did not acknowledge that this incident happened. Tammy Westrich, was a police report filed? Did your daughter go to the hospital?"

Jennifer Ann Morin wrote, "No police report nothing when you look it up, a witness says the non-homeless person was provoking the homeless lady but alright..."

Tarvin answered, "While that is true, unfortunately the few bad ones make it bad for the rest. I'm speaking from experience. in the case of yesterday's beating, where is the mercy for the young girl? she WAS being friendly and look what it got her."

On Jan. 17, Florence Police Department released a statement titled: "Official Police Report Released On Eighth Street Melee," which read in part: "There has been a lot of commenting and relaying of misinformation on social media regarding a fight that occurred last Thursday on Eighth Street across from Safeway reportedly involving 'a group' of homeless people attacking a young woman …"

The statement listed the police department's information, which determined that it was a mutual combat situation with no arrests, though one female was placed in protective custody. The statement was listed as case number #20-0331.

That police department statement was widely shared on social media, including on the *Siuslaw News*' Facebook page. Sandy Todd, who helped lead the local Point in Time count on Jan. 30, posted the following:

"Violence is awful no matter who engages in it. It's terrible at a bar, in someone's home, a business, anywhere and by anybody. Alcohol contributes to probably 90% of violent incidents that police have to respond to and break up and I'd bet 90% of those incidents do not involve homeless people."

Jeannie LaRocco posted, "Odds are the witnesses were the friends of the attacker. Defending yourself should never be considered mutual combat. This needs to go to district attorney for review."

Westrich replied to LaRocco, making additional claims that the specified group of homeless watch out for each other and were the only witnesses. "I do wish this was caught on camera so people would understand my daughter only stopped this disgusting woman from trying to put her tongue down my daughters [sic] throat," Westrich wrote. "I am disgusted by this. I am and support all rights of people who ever they love but no don't try to kiss my beautiful daughter because her Traumatic brain injury makes her vulnerable at times."

Marlene Goodman Rodriguez wrote, "What facts are there tho? I mean, it's hearsay to even the police because they were not there. It's all a bunch of malarkey … I am homeless been that way over a year I don't leave my trash and stuff all over. It's all about the consequences if they get none it will continue to happen and nothing will change."

"This particular event has been portrayed significantly differently to the public through Facebook than what actually occurred." — Police Chief Tom Turner

In public comments during Monday's council meeting, local artist Daniel Burgess spoke to the city council.

"The problem, Florence has an increasing vagrant and homeless population," he read from a statement to the city council. "We're seeing more handout seekers on corners, particularly on Eighth Street on the bus stop located on the north side of Safeway. Unfortunately, it is common to find in this demographic, personalities and habits, that can be very negative."

He then described the attack from Westrich's point of view, stating, "This incident is boarding on gang behavior, not simply panhandlers on a corner."

Burgess went on to claim that though this incident was the worst situation to arise, it is not isolated. "Others have expressed feeling unsafe or receiving aggressive behavior of those who have staked out this section of our city. The area is constantly littered with garbage. My wife used to walk between Safeway and the Dunes Village Center for her shopping needs. She no longer does this because she feels this area is unsafe, especially when she has our two children with her."

Burgess suggested a solution to the problem: to remove the shelter and bench at the Eighth Street bus stop. One member of the audience later added that they would be happy to remove the stop for the city.

Burgess closed by saying, "The City of Florence, and those who have a responsibility of managing it, need to implement effective policies and practice habits personally that encourage those who are unable to live in a traditional manner to still be a positive influence in our town. And those with actions that are negative or dangerous must receive consequences that do not encourage them to continue to do so."

See **POPULATION** *page 11A*

Florence In Bloom
Valentine Package Special
$125.00
One Dozen Roses
One Bottle of Wine
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WEEK #1 WINNERS

LOSE! to WIN.

TOP 5 Women

ANGIE BURNS 7.20%

SHARON DUTTON 4.83%

VICKIEHUNT 3.96%

LINDA CROWELL 3.70%

GUADALUPE GALVAN 3.25%

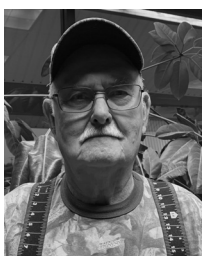
TOP 5 Men

AL ROJAS 5.61%

DUSTIN WILLIAMS 4.86%

JUSTIN KING 4.48%

FRANKLIN SPENCER 4.36%


MACK WADE 3.35%

Contestant Name	Weekly % Lost	Season %Lost
WOMEN'S RESULTS		
Angie Burns	7.20%	7.20%
Sharon Dutton	4.63%	4.63%
Vickie Hunt	3.96%	3.96%
Linda Crowell	3.70%	3.70%
Guadalupe Galvan	3.25%	3.25%
Vida Hanks	2.95%	2.95%
Ava Analco	2.82%	2.82%
Katryn Cooper	2.82%	2.82%
Debra Kaiser	2.75%	2.75%
Patricia Ann Timothy	2.40%	2.40%
Lisa Melaine Dallas	2.34%	2.34%
Margaret Free	2.30%	2.30%
Kasey Keppol	2.22%	2.22%
Mika Hutchinson	2.10%	2.10%
Noemi Santos	2.08%	2.08%
Siobhan Devaney	1.99%	1.99%
Jimi Wade	1.88%	1.88%
Alyssa Cargill	1.87%	1.87%
Betty Scarbrough	1.83%	1.83%
Lori Coffindaffer	1.82%	1.82%
Debbie Haring	1.68%	1.68%
Sheri Ostdiek	1.64%	1.64%
Gina Halpin	1.59%	1.59%
Jo Beaudreau	1.51%	1.51%
Kasey Strenke	1.28%	1.28%
Katherine Hemmens	1.27%	1.27%
Kelly Moore	1.26%	1.26%
Amanda Bryan	1.19%	1.19%
Linda Harklerode	1.16%	1.16%
Charlotte Lawrence	1.15%	1.15%
Nancy Robinson	1.12%	1.12%
Darlynne Acosta	1.06%	1.06%
Mimi Teachout	0.94%	0.94%
Betty Blake	0.93%	0.93%
Dahawal Moghe	0.92%	0.92%
Sonia Muños	0.84%	0.84%
Jamie Wilby	0.78%	0.78%
Chelsea Anttila	0.77%	0.77%
Sharon Osborn	0.69%	0.69%
Evelyne Carson	0.61%	0.61%
Robyn Barrett	0.53%	0.53%
Cassandra Souther	0.44%	0.44%
Andrea Kramer	0.40%	0.40%
Samantha Milbrett	-0.09%	-0.09%
Tyrah Forbes	-0.33%	-0.33%
Sherri Mackey	-0.39%	-0.39%
Kelty Tobinson	-0.41%	-0.41%
Mary Wendling	-0.48%	-0.48%
Sue Lindelof	-0.59%	-0.59%
Cassandra Burns	-2.03%	-2.03%
Gina Lovato		
Bryd Nelson		
MEN'S RESULTS		
Al Rojas	5.61%	5.61%
Dustin Williams	4.86%	4.86%
Justin King	4.48%	4.48%
Franklin Spencer	4.36%	4.36%
Mack Wade	3.35%	3.35%
James McKinney	3.32%	3.32%
Tyrell Hunt	3.31%	3.31%
Jim Hecker	3.17%	3.17%
Damion Fox	2.99%	2.99%
Wes Mahling	2.98%	2.98%
Brad Koehn	2.89%	2.89%
Ron Moore	2.78%	2.78%
Bob Weber	2.76%	2.76%
Matt Danielsson	2.69%	2.69%
Daniel Keppol	2.15%	2.15%
Delbert Hanks	1.78%	1.78%
Lloyd Little	1.76%	1.76%
Jose Martinez	1.67%	1.67%
Ed Wasco	0.48%	0.48%
Kristopher Keppol	-0.90%	-0.90%
Tom Kramp		
Skye McCloud		

OVER $1,000 IN PRIZES & GIFTS

14-WEEK CONTEST

February 1 – May 9, 2020

•Weigh in each week at Coastal Fitness & Aquatics
•2285 Hwy. 101, Florence, each Wednesday,
7:30a.m.-9:00a.m. -or- 4:30p.m.-6:00p.m.
•Weekly leaders in each category (male & female) will be pictured in the Saturday edition of the Siuslaw News.
•Look Good - Feel Good!

Contestants understand that participation in the contest may involve inherent risks, dangers and hazards, which many occur without warning, or be due to lack of conditioning, carelessness, and other unforeseen, unidentified, or unexpected perils inherent in physical activities or weight loss programs. Contestants understand that oversight of the contest by the Siuslaw News or any other sponsors does not and cannot, guarantee their safety. Contestants understand that they should not participate in the contest if they have any health conditions affecting their ability to participate. Contestants have signed release forms to certify they are fully aware of, and expressly assume these and all other risks involved in participating in the contest, and to grant to the Siuslaw News and all contest sponsors and their respective assignees, the absolute right and permission to use their name, address, photograph and/or likeness in any and all advertising, trade, or promotion. Contestants have weighed in at the first contest weigh-in on January 29 and will weigh-in every Wednesday through May 6, 2020 at the Florence location at Coastal Fitness and Aquatics, 2285 Hwy. 101, Florence.

Diet Tip #1

Find a friend. Getting support is a huge part of successfully losing weight. A weight loss buddy will help you stay motivated and give you company along the way.

weigh2live.safefood.eu/gethelp/

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