



Daylight Saving Time Begins

SUNDAY, MARCH 8



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The 23rd annual Florence Home & Garden Show, presented by Coast Radio and Siuslaw News, is continuing today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show features a wide variety of home related products and services just in time for spring. More than 40 vendors will be available during the show to answer questions and offer suggestions for all of your home and garden needs. This year's centerpiece "Growing Green" design is by returning vendor Laurel Bay Gardens.

Growing Green

SVFR, WLAD discuss future as operations continue to grow close

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD), Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority (WLFEA) held a joint board of directors meeting on Feb. 27, where a long discussion was held regarding the direction of the agencies moving forward.

At issue was how to replace former SVFR Operations Chief Jim Dickerson, who recently left his position to work in another city. The solution presented by Fire/EMS Chief Michael Schick was to have WLAD Operations Chief

Matt House take over Dickerson's position on a temporary basis, with the opportunity to make the move permanent.

That solution led to a wide-ranging discussion between the boards on how much work employees are expected to do, the strategic plans of both SVFR and WLAD, and the responsibilities the districts have to the public. In the background of the discussion were upcoming labor negotiations, finalizing the district's budgets, and the still unresolved question of how much responsibility the two entities will ultimately end up sharing.

"You won't ever hear me say the 'M' word," Schick said after

the meeting to the Siuslaw News. "There is no plan for a merger. We haven't talked about a day, we haven't talked about how we would do it and we haven't talked about what it would look like. Really, I would say there are no plans, and we're not discussing a merger at this time."

House working in both operation chief positions "is just working more closely together, and everybody agrees that that's a good thing," Schick said.

However, the question of merger remains as the two entities share more and more responsibilities

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Reuse • Reduce • Recycle

Coalition showcases waste reduction organizations

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Area Community Coalition met on March 4 in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library to discuss recycling and upcycling options currently available for local residents. Two organizations committed to the principles behind recycling movement, Florence Habitat for Humanity and Florence Master Recyclers, gave presentations that reviewed ways for consumers to significantly reduce household waste.

The two-part presentation began with Florence Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Janelle Morgan giving the attendees an overview of the many ways that materials used in and around the home can be repurposed and reused.

Habitat's ReStore, 2016 Highway 101, has a continually changing inventory that includes construction materials, lighting and plumbing fixtures and assorted tools and electrical items that can be purchased at reduced prices.

An added benefit is that as a non-profit, ReStore and Habitat use all of the revenue generated through sales to finance new or remodeled homes for participants in the Habitat Homeowners Program.

"Habitat's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live and our mission is to bring people together to build homes, humanity and hope," Morgan said.

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Siuslaw News
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WEATHER



Cloudy with a chance of rain. High of 47 and a low of 33.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



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SPORTS



Gymnasts rise to Rose City Challenge
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SIDE SHOW

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BIRTHING A COMMUNITY

March 17 Reproductive Health Fair unites local pregnancy and parenting resources

By CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

"I firmly believe that our birth experience influences how we parent and our relationship with our child. It affects bonding and attachment. It's the first step of parenting the child in our arms. The more we can support parents with that, help them find the education, advocate for them and their needs, know what their comfort levels are, then it's the beginning of the seed in the community. It just grows from there," said Jen Nelson, a birth doula, traditional health worker, advocate, volunteer, mother and soon to be grandmother.

She is organizing the free Florence Reproductive Health Fair on Tuesday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bromley Room of Siuslaw Public Library,

1460 Ninth St.

"It will focus on what we have readily accessible to our community," Nelson said. "A lot of resources are newer in our community, or

wearing, traditional health workers, and birth doulas and what they provide.

"Parenting Now! will be there talking about car seat safety, and they'll be out in

Nelson's main employment is with Healthy Families Lane County and Parenting Now!. Healthy Families is a national program that provides home

"My other passion is I have my own business as a birth doula and a postpartum doula called Birthing Mamas," Nelson said. "To be a doula means to serve. We're serving the transition of birth. ... I've been doing that for over 20 years. I started out as a homebirth midwifery assistant, and I still do that with my midwife, and I still support her when she has births on the coast."

She is also a registered traditional health worker with Oregon Health Plan.

Get Nelson talking about reproductive health in the Siuslaw region, and she will easily list all the groups she is involved with and supports. It is all part of a network of connections, a community that is being built around birthing families and new parents.

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"I had this passion for birth and changing the culture around birth in our community, and that's happening now. It's through changes at PeaceHealth, birth and postpartum doulas being more common, and WellMama and Daisy Chain coming to the region. ... It all encompasses so much now, and I feel so blessed to be a part of it all."

— Jen Nelson, organizer of the Florence Reproductive Health Fair

have been more focused on the county. It's exciting that they will all be here."

Around 10 reproductive health providers or resources — including Healthy Families Lane County, Parenting Now!, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor, Pregnancy and Parenting Center in Florence and WellMama — will participate. There will also be informal talks throughout the fair on baby

the parking lot to help make sure that car seats are installed properly," Nelson.

Children are welcome to attend the event, and there will be room set aside for youth activities.

People will learn about resources in the area, sign up for classes or volunteer opportunities and discover the culture springing up around reproductive health in the area.

visits for families from pregnancy until a child is three years old. It provides parenting support and education, information on child development, connection with resources and tools to address and reduce stress.

Parenting Now! is a non-profit agency based in Eugene. Nelson works as a home visitor and does screening and outreach to the community.



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