

# On The Record

## AMBULANCE/FIRE

**HOUSTON**—William Joseph Houston, Jr., 82, passed away peacefully Monday, Feb. 24, 2020 at the age of 82 at the VA Community Living Center in Spokane, Wash.

He lost his battle with esophageal and brain cancer. He was born in Providence, RI, to William and Catherine Houston.

Bill had two siblings, George and Catherine. He attended St. Mary's school in Providence and graduated in 1951.

Upon joining the Air Force, he demonstrated his gift for comedy by winning the Tops in Blue competition. He met and

married Ann Sargent in the Air Force. They moved to Spokane, Wash., where they had their daughter, LouAnn.

After working some years as an Inhalation Therapist, Bill enrolled in Sacred Heart Nursing School. He graduated with his nursing degree in March of 1969 and, in 1971, he became certified as a Nurse Anesthetist.

In 1973, he married Patricia Ronan who had five children. They moved to Idaho and eventually settled in Florence, Ore. They had two children, Catherine and Bevin.

Bill loved barbershop music, joining the Spokane Pages of Harmony in 1957. Bill performed in the chorus and in several quartets. Always quick with a joke, pantomime or funny story, he delighted everyone he

met. He was a faithful member of St. Mary's Parish in Florence and participated in the Knights of Columbus. He also enjoyed his involvement in Beginning Experience.

He was an avid fisherman and owned the phrase, "people love him... fish fear him." After many wonderful years in Florence, Bill moved back to Spokane in August 2018.

He had great care from the staff at Emilie Court and at the VA Community Living Center.

Bill is survived by his sister Catherine (Richard) DeLuca of Providence, RI; daughters LouAnn Hommel of Spokane, Wash.; Catherine (Patrick) Jackson of Columbus, Ga., and Bevin Houston (Josh Linden-Levy) of Portland, Ore.; his step-children:

Mark Ronan of Everett, Wash., Michelle (Chris) Church of Leavenworth, Wash., Monique (Don) Judkins of Orfino, ID; Colleen (Jeff) Geise of Central Point, Ore., and Christie (Dan) Schlesinger of Eugene, Ore.; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

There will be two services: a Mass and reception at Assumption Parish today, March 14, beginning at 11 a.m., 3624 W Indian Trail Rd. in Spokane, Wash. The service will be led by Father Tim Hays.

Another Mass and reception will be held Saturday, May 16, beginning at 11 a.m., at St. Marys Our Lady of the Dunes Catholic Church, 85060 S Highway 101 in Florence, Ore., led by Father Panneer Selvam.

## Lane County Parks to host community discussion on future of N. Jetty

Should Lane County Parks acquire the North Jetty Park?

North Jetty Park is a 250-acre park that includes: beach access, a trail system, a dive dock, portable restrooms, ponds and stands of shore pine.

Lane County Parks has been maintaining North Jetty, located off Rhododendron Drive in Florence, since July 2019.

The county will be holding a community meeting to discuss the progress it has made since it began managing the park. A short survey around the progress of the park is available at [www.lanecounty.org/parks](http://www.lanecounty.org/parks).

Lane County Parks hopes to hear from the community around North Jetty regarding the recent maintenance of the park, as well as whether Lane County

should enter into a long-term lease to manage and maintain the park.

North Jetty has received various improvements since July, including safer beach access and a better-maintained parking lot.

For the past few months, the county has been hosting an online survey to garner responses from community members and visitors to the park.

Lane County is eager to hear what it can do better to maintain the park and whether continued County maintenance is supported.

The community meeting is set to take place on Wednesday, March 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, 2625 Highway 101.

## Library announces temporary closure

For the safety of our patrons, volunteers, and staff, Siuslaw Public Library has made the difficult decision to close temporarily.

This applies to both our Florence and Mapleton locations.

This closure is effective immediately, and will continue through at

least Friday, March 20, at 6 p.m. We will monitor public health guidelines regarding coronavirus and COVID-19 for future decisions about reopening.

All meetings and events scheduled during the closure are cancelled, including AARP Tax-Aide.

Patrons can still return

items to the outside book drop off Maple Street in Florence or outside the building in Mapleton.

As a reminder, our library does not have overdue fines, so please do not be concerned about returning items by their due date while we are closed.

## FPD to conduct extra DUII enforcement patrols March 17

The Florence Police Department will be conducting extra DUII Enforcement patrols for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17.

Florence Police have received additional DUII enforcement funds to help seek out impaired drivers and to deter people from

driving while they are impaired.

The department, along with law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon and the rest of the United States, are continually making efforts to get impaired drivers off the street.

These funds are made

available to the City of Florence from Oregon Impact, which administers DUII grant funding in Oregon.

For more information, contact the Florence Police Department at 541-997-3515.



# The Chamber is connection.

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Area Chamber of Commerce  
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**SIUSLAW NEWS**

## Give a Hand to Food Share

### March 10-March 31st.



**Accepting Jewelry donations**  
**NOW at these Locations:**

- Oregon Pacific Bank
- Banner Bank
- Green Trees
- Senior Center
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*All proceeds go to benefit Florence Food Share*

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Jim Hoberg is a Florence native and has been working in Real Estate since 1989. He has served as a Realtor for over 30 years. He has obtained several designations that require continuing education, which keeps him on the cutting edge of the industry and he is constantly looking for ways to expand his areas of expertise. Jim and his experienced real estate team

are available to help you find your forever home or vacation dream home. Each team member at West Coast Real Estate is very knowledgeable about the real estate market in Florence and the surrounding areas. Over the years Jim has enjoyed helping people and solutions to their real estate needs and discovering why Florence is such a great place to live!



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**At This FREE Seminar, You'll Find Out...**

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- ✓ How to prep & stage your home, to *get a faster offer*.

- ✓ How to sell "*as-is*," whether it's a "fixer" or not.
- ✓ How to qualify a buyer *before* accepting an offer.
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- ✓ How to select the *right* agent, so you can *relax* in good hands.

**Recent Results From Seminar Attendees**

| Florence                           | Florence                     | Florence                       | Florence                     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
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