



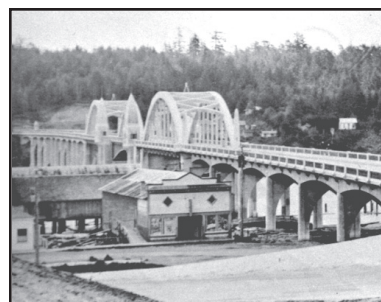
"Your goals are my top priority. Let's get together!"

COLDWELL BANKER
COAST REAL ESTATE

541-505-1180 Text or Call
541-997-7777 Office
800-999-5343 Toll Free

Alva@CBCoast.com
100 Hwy. 101
Florence, OR 97439
http://www.cbcoast.com/alva-bracey

Alva Bracey, Broker



SIUSLAW NEWS:
A LOOK BACK AT
130 YEARS
INSIDE — A7

Oregonians could start to receive unemployment benefits while they wait

SALEM—The Oregon Employment Department today announced that it has found a way to pay benefits to thousands of Oregonians who are out of work due to COVID-19 while they wait for their claim, or "Benefits While You Wait."

This applies to Oregonians who are waiting for their claim to be reviewed by an adjudicator to determine whether they are eligible for regular unemployment or the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program.

"We are confident this group of Oregonians are eligible for benefits because they lost their job due to COVID-19, we just don't know which program they are eligible for yet," said Employment Department Acting Director David Gerstenfeld. "We have found a workaround that will allow us to pay benefits while their claims are being reviewed by an adjudicator. We are grateful we have figured out a way to do this because Oregonians have been waiting too long."

The Employment Department is proactively notifying claimants who have been identified to fall into this group via email and robo calls.

Strict laws governing unemployment insurance to prevent fraud and provide people due process require that each claim be reviewed. The Employment Department estimates that tens of thousands of Oregonians whose claims are in adjudication may be eligible for PUA if they are not eligible for regular unemployment. This pool of Oregonians could begin receiving "Benefits While You Wait."

The department will contact people who may be able to receive "Benefits While You Wait" over the next several weeks.

See **BENEFITS** page 6A



Rich Hopkins, PADI Master Instructor at Eugene Skin Divers Supply, works to certify dive students at Woahink Lake on Saturday. (Photo by Mark Brennan/Siuslaw News)

Diving for debris

Divers clean up Woahink, learn underwater conservation

BY LENA FELT
SIUSLAW NEWS

Five years ago, while scuba diving in one of his favorite lakes, diving instructor Rich Hopkins was bothered by an unsightly object that didn't belong among the aquatic plants and animals — an old reclining chair.

This wasn't the first time he had seen such debris laying at the bottom of Woahink Lake near Florence, but Hopkins didn't know how to remove and dispose of it at the time.

That was until he found out about Project AWARE, a non-profit organization committed to cleaning up the world's oceans and waterways using a citizen-science program called Dive Against Debris. The program empowers scuba divers to remove marine debris from the ocean and waterways and report data on the types, quantities and locations of materials collected.

While training a group of student Dive Master Candidates in Woahink Lake in 2016, Hopkins had his students map out any debris

they came across while doing an underwater dive site mapping project that documented the lake landscape and underwater features.

Hopkins then organized a community event in partnership with Dive Against Debris to remove 16 of the most challenging marine debris items in the lake. With the help of his colleagues at Eugene Skin Divers Supply and community volunteers, 637 pieces of debris, weighing a total of 3,195 pounds, were removed from the lake.

See **DIVE** page 8A

Multiple vehicles struck in hit & run rampage

Reckless driver sends at least one person to hospital

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

A Californian man with a stolen pickup reportedly engaged in multiple hit-and-runs on Saturday as he drove recklessly up Highway 101, according to Oregon State Police (OSP).

Kevin Simpson, 47, of Eureka, was charged in the incident and

told OSP that he believed he had struck 26 different vehicles. No motive has been released.

OSP is requesting information from witnesses to the reckless driving, as well as from those who were struck. People are encouraged to contact the OSP Southern Command Center at 541-269-5000 and leave information for Trooper Douglas Laird.

The incident began the morning of Aug. 1 as the Coos Bay Police Department received the first calls about a Dodge 1500 pickup striking multiple vehicles throughout the city as it traveled recklessly north on Highway 101.

At 10:37 a.m., OSP received a call from a driver who was waiting

See **HIT-&RUN** page 6A

Sami the Sea Lion returns for summer fun

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and its members welcome shoppers to come find the socially-distanced, properly-masked, Sami the Sea Lion in businesses all over town.

July 31 marked the return of the fuzzy pinniped, this time with a COVID-19 mask and a summertime bow in her fur. The six-inch plush sea lions are provided by the event's main sponsor, Sea Lion Caves.

Based on last winter's successful Sea Lion on A Shelf trail, shoppers can venture to any of nearly 30 participating Chamber member's businesses and get their passports stamped when they spot Sami. A minimum of 15 stamps are necessary to enter for a chance to win valuable prizes.



Sami the Sea Lion is again on display at local businesses — this time wearing a mask but still ready to be spotted by the community.

"Sami is back in time to have some summer fun," says Bettina Hannigan, president and CEO of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. "This summer we're calling it 'The Social Distancing Search for Sami' and it is sponsored by Sea Lion Caves."

All participating businesses are following social distancing and masking guidelines. Some businesses, due to reduced hours, will post a code word in their shop window, in lieu of a stamp, when they are closed.

"From July 31 to Labor Day, we will have nearly 30 Chamber members with a plush little Sami the Sea Lion hidden within in plain sight for customers to find," says Hannigan.

See **SEA LION** page 6A

Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 130, NO. 62
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 65 and a low tonight of 55.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Coast Guard reaches 230th birthday
INSIDE — A3

LIFESTYLE



Blueberry season begins
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries & response logs
Inside — A2

NEW: TV GUIDE

Inside — B3-B4

KIDS CORNER

Activities for kids
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and notices
Inside — B6

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:



THE SIUSLAWNEWS.COM

2 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES
COPYRIGHT 2020

SIUSLAW NEWS

0 88267 02345 1

Understanding Medicare

Learn how to find the best Medicare plan for you.

- Gain an understanding of how Medicare works.
- Learn the difference between Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement plans.
- Discover how Medicare Prescription Drug Plans work.



Dana Dane Insurance

Helping Oregonians Since 1996
1932 Pine St Suite B-6
Florence, OR. 97439

541-997-1410

Dana Dane Insurance is not connected with or endorsed by the United States government or the federal Medicare program.