

TR HUNTER REAL ESTATE

1749 HIGHWAY 101
541-997-1200

TSUNAMI AWARENESS WEEK

INSIDE — A8

Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 23
MARCH 20, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Rain showers with a high of 49 and a low of 38.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



WLCF gives grant for Food Share Gardens
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Sports teams meet goals
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

f /SIUSLAWNEWS

@SIUSLAWNEWS

THE SIUSLAW NEWS.COM

2 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES
Siuslaw News
0 88267 02345 1
COPYRIGHT 2021

Help wanted in Florence

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

Lane County's recent shift from "extreme risk" of the community spread of COVID-19 down to "moderate" in the span of two weeks has left the service industry in Florence scrambling to re-open. With increased maximum capacity and the resumption of indoor dining, many businesses are finding themselves short of staff.

"You've got everybody looking all at one time," said Pam Hickson, recruitment & compensation specialist at Three Rivers Casino Resort. "I have talked to a number of businesses here in town, and we're all hurting because the entire county opened up all at once. We're all competing for the same bodies that are out there looking for work."

Hickson is the organizer of Three



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

"Help wanted" signs are popping up all over town as business picks up, both due to the season and easing COVID-19 restrictions.

Rivers' annual Community Career Fair, which was not able to happen this spring due to COVID-19. She uses the event to not only connect people and jobs at the casino and hotel, but also to connect people

with other businesses and education opportunities.

This year, Hickson and her team decided to create smaller hiring events.

"It's just a mini version of what our

Area businesses struggle to bring back staff

career fair was," she said. "It gives us a chance to highlight some of our departments individually."

The first event was held Feb. 12 and featured the food and beverage career options at the casino. A second event will be held Thursday, March 25, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 5647 Highway 101 in Florence.

"That's going to feature our finance department, which includes our Players Club, where the cage is and our soft count folks. They are the ones who go in and pull the money out of the machines at the end of the night and take it back and get the count," Hickson said.

People will need to set up a reservation to attend the hiring event and must be 21 years or older to apply. Once there, they will submit their résumé and get an in-person interview.

See JOBS page 5A

Boardwalk to get improvements



Port of Siuslaw agrees to enter into IGA with Florence

STORY & PHOTOS
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk will receive \$44,361 in new seating and amenities thanks to a grant from Travel Oregon and an intergovernmental agreement between the port and the City of Florence.

The Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners met Wednesday, March 17, for its regularly scheduled monthly meeting after skipping its February meeting. All commissioners were in attendance either in person or virtually for the meeting, which was facilitated by Chairperson Terry Duman.

There were no public comments shared at the meeting and the most

significant action item on the agenda called for a discussion on entering into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Florence.

Florence Economic Development Catalyst Sarah Moehrke presented a proposal approved by the city council at its March 15 meeting. The proposal would authorize Florence City Manager Erin Reyn-

olds to enter into an IGA with the Port of Siuslaw for the limited purpose of accepting a grant designed to enhance access to the port property adjacent to the boardwalk along the Siuslaw River in Historic Old Town Florence.

The second part of that plan would require the commission to approve the partnership.

See PORT page 6A

EMAC reviews waste rates, sponsorships

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The City of Florence's Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) met Tuesday, March 16, with all members in virtual attendance with the exception of Michael Titmus. The meeting was facilitated by Florence Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell, who noted three additions to the agenda requested by members — the most notable, a suggestion from recent addition to EMAC, Lisa Walter Sedlacek, that the group discuss forming a subcommittee tasked specifically with addressing the issue of climate change.

The subject has been one of contention at Florence City Council meetings for the past three years, with Mayor Joe Henry contending that the subject under that moniker is one of a political nature and should be avoided in terms of taking an official stance or position.

In response, some members of the public have held protests in front of Florence City Hall for more than a year and have also spoken repeatedly at council meetings, providing numerous individual testimonies and statements on the subject.

Still, Henry has remained opposed to issuing any official statement regarding the topic despite citizen initiatives to have the city

formally adopt and promote an official policy regarding climate change.

At the March 15 city council meeting, Henry was joined by councilors Bill Meyer, Maggie Wisniewski and Woody Woodbury in opposition to a suggestion from Councilor Sally Wantz to agree to have the council discuss the issue of climate change — in some manner — as a response to some growing community criticism and concern.

Wantz, who serves as the council's ex-officio representative to EMAC, was unable to receive any support from fellow council members to discuss the issue.

See EMAC page 6A

Camping at Carl G. Washburne State Park reopens April 5

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) announced this week that the popular campground at Carl G. Washburne State Park will reopen April 5 after being closed for more than a year due to revenue shortfalls and reduced staffing associated with COVID-19.

Located north of Florence in the Siuslaw National Forest, Washburne has 55 spacious, shaded campsites with electrical and water hookups, as well as two yurts and seven secluded tent sites. All site types will be on the reservation system. The campground's hiker/biker camp is closed until further notice, due to the pandemic.

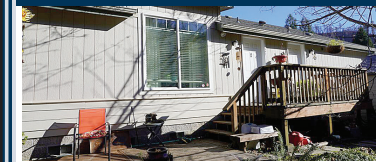
Visitors will be able to reserve campsites and yurts up to six months in advance starting March 22 at 6 a.m. for all stays from April 5 and beyond. Reservations can be made for one day or up to six months.

Washburne campground has long been first-come, first-served, meaning sites could not be reserved due to lack of high-speed connectivity. This created inefficiencies and inconsistencies to the process of administering campground stays, said Coastal Region Manager Dennis Comfort.

"Adding the park to the reservation system has been a long-term goal for OPRD," Comfort said. "It brings consistency to agency processes and to the visitor experience. Now anyone can enjoy this beautiful campground, with the peace of mind that you'll arrive and a campsite will be available."

See PARK page 6A

A SAMPLING OF OUR HOMES FOR SALE...WATER VIEW, OLD TOWN AND MORE.



87856 RIVERVIEW AVE

A big open room concept and bright space in the heart of Mapleton. The public dock is right near your back door. Enjoy beautiful views of the Siuslaw River and Forest. Conveniently located right next to the store, restaurant, and local businesses. The house has been beautifully maintained with a recently upgraded kitchen. Master bedroom/Private En Suite bathroom is on the opposite side of the other bedrooms. \$340,000 #12130 MLS#21269558



88505 3RD AVE

Newly remodeled throughout, this fabulous beach house is perfect for full-time living or would make an ideal vacation rental. No HOAs. Ocean views & a short walk to beach access. This spacious home w/ oversized double garage offers lots of room for family, friends & toys. Large fully fenced yard & room for RV parking. Open concept, all new interior paint, LVP flooring, quartz counters, 2 ensuites-1 upstairs, 1 down w/ new walk-in shower. Huge bedroom/bonus room w/ wave-breaking views. Must see! \$695,000 #12140 MLS#21049463



1613 1ST ST.

Vintage Charmer. Charming 1907 home located in the heart of Old Town District. Beautiful views of the Siuslaw River, boardwalk and bridge. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths in 2487 SF of living. Bay windows, landscaped yard, deck, carport and storage garage. Built-in wall clock and Barber pole included. All appliances stay. Come see this one before it's gone. \$539,000 #12126 MLS#21666570



4854 SEAPINE DRIVE

Beautiful home with established landscaping. This 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home features a large kitchen with island, large living room with built-in book shelves. Home has sunroom and two out buildings. Roof replaced in 2008. Septic pumped in 2020. \$325,900 #12148 MLS#21653389



COLDWELL BANKER
COAST REAL ESTATE
541-997-7777

"We're next to the Bridge"

100 Hwy. 101

See all Florence Listings at

cbcoast.com

