

# SN

## Siuslaw News

**Community Shred Day!**

Oregon Pacific Bank

**Protect your personal information and destroy your confidential documents!**

Saturday, October 23 | 10am to 1pm  
Florence Financial Center 1365 HWY 101

Business owners are asked to please wait to bring materials for shredding until the last hour of the event. Once the shred truck is full, Oregon Pacific Bank will be unable to accept any more documents.

*We will also be accepting donations for Florence Food Share!*

**Siuslaw News**  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
VOL. 131, NO. 83  
Oct. 16, 2021  
FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**

Partly sunny with a high of 64 and a low of 51.  
Full forecast on A3

**COMMUNITY**

Viewfinders explore landscapes  
INSIDE — A3

**SPORTS**

Mapleton Volleyball earns two wins  
INSIDE — B

**RECORDS**  
Obituaries & emergency response logs  
Inside — A2

**SIDE SHOW**  
Activities and comics every Saturday  
Inside — B5

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
Listings and public notices  
Inside — B6

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2 SECTIONS | 20 PAGES

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### Florence issues proclamations, makes purchases

*Soroptimists celebrate 100th anniversary during National Arts & Humanities Month*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence City Council met virtually for three meetings on Oct. 11 — a work session in the morning, an executive session in the afternoon and the regularly scheduled council meeting in the evening.

The morning work session was primarily a human resource related presentation given by HR Compensation Consultants regarding the establishment of criteria for salaries and raises for city staff and employees. The afternoon executive session was closed to the public.

The evening council regular meeting began with the presentation of two proclamations from Florence Mayor Joe Henry.

See COUNCIL page 7A

### RED RIBBON WEEK

*Florence Police and Siuslaw schools team up to draw attention to drinking, drugs*



BY CHANTELE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

This week, Florence Police Department School Resource Officer Hailey Coons setup an educational display that includes a previously crashed vehicle at the entrance of the Siuslaw High School. The purpose of the vehicle is to educate students on the dangers of driving under the influence and distracted driving.

“The location of the crashed vehicle is of high visibility in the hopes that it will deter and educate students and community members on the potential ramifications of distracted driving,” said Florence Police Commander John Pitcher.

The vehicle was involved in a crash in which distracted driving was a contributing factor. The vehicle did not belong to anyone local and was donated

by Mast Bros. Towing and Recovery. The crashed SUV will be on display for three weeks, along with an educational banner.

The Florence Police Department and the Siuslaw School District Administration approved the placing of the vehicle.

In addition, Siuslaw School District is using the crashed vehicle to honor the drug-use prevention campaign Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 23 to 31.

According to a proclamation read by Siuslaw School Board Chair Bob Sneddon, “The National Red Ribbon Campaign offers citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles.”

People can learn more at [www.redribbon.org](http://www.redribbon.org).

### Some ‘what to do’s’ for all during Digital Citizenship Week

BY JENNIFER MCKENZIE  
SIUSLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TEACHER LIBRARIAN  
SPECIAL TO THE  
SIUSLAW NEWS

National Digital Citizenship Week takes place in schools every year in the month of October, and it’s a chance for students, staff and families to reflect on their digital lives as well as the power they have at their fingertips to be a good “Digital Citizen” and make the world a better place.

Per ISTE (the International Society for Technology in Education), digital citizenship “shouldn’t be a long list of don’ts. It should be about the do’s that help create thoughtful, empathetic digital citizens who can wrestle with the important ethical questions at the intersection of technology and humanity.”

Those do’s include:

- Using technology to make your community better.
- Engaging respectfully online with people who have different beliefs than you.
- Using technology to make your voice heard by public leaders and shape public policy.
- Determining the validity of online sources of information.

Our Oregon K-12 Library Media Science Standards include Reading Advocacy, Information & Media Literacy, Digital Citizenship and Technology Integration.

Last year, Siuslaw School District began aligning K-12 Digital Citizenship standards and lessons using a nationally recognized resource, Common Sense Media ([www.common SenseMedia.org](http://www.common SenseMedia.org)). All grade-band lessons are broken down into the subcategories: Media Balance and Well-Being, Privacy and Security, Digital Footprint and Identity, Relationships and Communication, Cyberbullying and Hate Speech, and News and Media Literacy.

Students are receiving frequent mini-lessons throughout the year, and our goal is to not just teach our Siuslaw learning community to be good digital citizens, but we want to empower all to be digital leaders!

In addition to K-12 aligned curricular content, Common Sense Media also offers a plethora of super useful research based resources for families.

See DIGITAL page 8A

### November levy draws attention, criticism to WLAD

*Only item in Nov. 2 Special Election is to renew an ambulance levy*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The need for competent, dedicated first responders such as firefighters, emergency medical technicians and police officers has been reinforced and never been more necessary than since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last year.

In Florence, locally funded first responders currently belong to three separate entities, the Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD).

The police department is financed through the city budgetary process and both SVFR and WLAD are funded through revenue streams, primarily derived from taxes paid by residents in the form of a levy connected to the value of property owned.

In an effort to consolidate the efforts of the two departments, and to save money spent duplicating

work, previous boards decided to enact a process which could culminate in the complete merger of the two entities. Although the merger is not on the November ballot, the possibility of a future merger has become part of the discussion regarding the levy request.

**“The WLAD levy question on the November ballot is only for a renewal of the current levy, which has been in place since 2012. We feel the levy is necessary for us to maintain the level of service we currently provide to our citizens and renewing this levy.”**

— *Western Lane Fire/EMS Authority Chief Michael Schick*

One of the stated objectives for the merger was a potential improvement in personnel skillsets for firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). This issue has also been a subject of discussion by former WLAD board member Larry Farnsworth and others who are opposed to the levy.

WLAD and SVFR entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for administrative services

in October 2019, which began the process of what had been envisioned by many as an eventual complete merger. The IGA created the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority (WLFEA).

Current Fire/EMS Chief Michael Schick has offered support for the merger process, citing potential

Schick has stated that the boards of directors have the responsibility to finalize and implement any future changes in the official arrangement between the two districts. It will also require a public vote.

In addition, Schick said he has no personal position on the merger other than as a potential tool for improving service for clientele.

The upcoming November vote requesting a continuation of the current rate of taxation for WLAD has generated heated discussions at recent WLFEA Board meetings, in the press and on social media platforms.

Measure #20-322 will ask voters to “Renew Five-Year Option Levy for Emergency Medical/Ambulance Services.” It is the only item included in the Tuesday, Nov. 2, Special Election in Lane County.

Ballots have officially been mailed as of Thursday, and will be due Nov. 2 by 8 p.m.

See LEVY page 8A

**RIVERFRONT CUSTOM**

16 SEA WATCH CT  
AMAZING VIEWS! New roof 2021. Heat pump 2021. Exterior painted in 2020. New water heater 2020. Siuslaw riverfront (Permitted & Engineered Bank) with breathtaking sunset & ocean views. Engineered riverbank. Deck for outside living. Large paver patio with a gas fire pit. Main floor has great room, dining, master, guest room & office. Kitchen & guest bath with granite tile, solid wood cabinets & stainless appliances. Spacious rooms, workout area & toy room on upper level. Trailer parking behind gate. \$839,000 #12266 MLS#21629741

**RIVERFRONT HOME**

11381 E MAPLETON RD  
This retro inspired manufactured home is perfectly situated on 1.5 acres of quiet, riverfront property. Structurally sound, cleaned and move-in ready. Plenty of space to add a shop, garden or just enjoy the serene country surroundings. Small shed, a covered patio and 15'x15' shop off the carport round out this must see property. \$389,000 #12254 MLS#21239691

**7 ACRES SOUTH OF TOWN**

85180 SOUTH SLOUGH RD  
Great opportunity to have almost 7 acres up the South Slough. Serenity abounds with panoramic valley views and frontage on a small creek. This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home and detached guest house/single-wide each on its own septic. Large detached garage and oversized carport. Large covered front porch and rear deck with canning kitchen. The home has had some updating but is a blank canvas for your imagination. Great setting just 10-12 minutes to Old Town. Great Opportunity! \$399,900 #12204 MLS#21334260

**RIVER VIEW CONDO**

75 HARBOR ST #204  
Upscale river view condo w/ panoramic views of the bay and marina. High end finishes include wood floors & granite counters. Main living area has a gas fireplace, southeast facing balcony with propane hookup. Kitchen features SS appliances, pantry & breakfast bar. Excellent primary suite w/ jetted tub, large closet w/organizer. Secure parking & storage available. Check out the virtual tours. These units don't come up for sale often. Don't let this pass you by. \$579,900 #12226/MLS#21620413

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
**COAST REAL ESTATE**  
**541-997-7777**

“We’re next to the Bridge”  
100 Hwy. 101  
See all Florence Listings at [cbcoast.com](http://cbcoast.com)