

SN

Siuslaw News



FIRST STEP FLORENCE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS

is searching for two places to park a 30' RV to house a currently unhoused family (program support provided).

If you have or are aware of a space to donate - please contact **Greg Wood at 541.991.8208** (1st Step will pay water, sewer, electric and wifi costs)

Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
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FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Rain throughout with a high of 57 and a low of 51.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Chamber Appreciation Day
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SPORTS



Looking back at Mapleton football
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RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
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SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
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Listings and public notices
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Great Pumpkin Giveaway 2021

The 33rd annual Coast Radio Great Pumpkin Giveaway took place on Thursday with a drive-through event. Stormy weather didn't prevent hundreds of people from driving by Old School Furniture to receive pumpkins for area children. The event is sponsored by KCST/KCFM Coast Radio and True Value Hardware, with help each year from Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District.



Barbershop builds bridges

Old Town Barbershop, Camp Florence team up to help incarcerated youth transition to professional careers

If someone walks into Old Town Barbershop, 1341 Bay St., on any given day, they may get more than they bargained for. Besides a modern haircut, they may meet a young man making his first steps into a lifelong career. These young men aren't here, learning to be barbers, because they grew up always wanting to cut hair. Theirs is a different path.

Jess, Kincaide and Tyler are all graduates of MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility's barbering program. All three, as part of their progression through the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA),

See BARBER page 6A



BY ZAC BURTT
SIUSLAW NEWS
&
SARA EVANS
OREGON YOUTH
AUTHORITY

ZAC BURTT/SIUSLAW NEWS

The barbers of Old Town Barbershop, (from left) Jess, Kincaide, Tyler and Melissa. Not pictured is shop owner Geraldine Prociw, who originally connected the barbershop with Camp Florence.

Lane County rated 2nd for mushrooms

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

One of the more surprising beneficiaries of the COVID pandemic is fungi, more specifically, mushrooms. The collecting and eating of the many different types and forms of mushrooms has been a human activity for thousands of years, but there has rarely been a time when the public has been more interested in the unusual umami flavored food.

Since the onset of COVID and its mandated social restrictions, many people have taken a more active and outdoor oriented approach to their physical fitness regimens and hiking in the forest and hills are part of that change.

An increased interest in nature has brought renewed attention to the mushrooms which are abundant throughout the Northwest.

A recent article rated Lane County as the Second Best County in the country to forage for mushrooms. Travel Lane County has included mushroom foraging as one of its highlighted family activities and Lane Community College has offered mushroom identification classes and field trips.

One of the nation's premier locations to view and learn about mushrooms is the Mount Pisgah Arboretum, just south of Eugene.

See SHROOMS page 7A

ODOT nears completion on bridge upgrade

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The ongoing repairs and upgrades to the Siuslaw River Bridge have snarled traffic headed both north and south, occasionally causing long delays for area residents as well as visitors to Historic Old Town, Honeyman Park and Lake Woahink.

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) began the project on Sept. 20, with crews installing scaffolding. During that time, crews restricted traffic to one lane from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., controlled by flaggers.

"We recognize the project has impacted travelers and appreciate everyone's patience and support

to keep this historic structure safe and functioning for the future," said Tom Strandberg, ODOT Region 5 public information officer.

ODOT crews followed that initial work with replacement of the bridge's timber deck and the installation of counterweights is scheduled to be the last portion of the project tackled.

See ODOT page 6A

Food Backpacks fill the gaps in local hunger

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The idea that a child in the Florence area would go to bed hungry is unsettling to most who live here. There are some local children that have to face that prospect on a regular basis.

Fortunately, for the last decade, a small group of dedicated members of Cross Road Assembly of God have been delivering easy to prepare foods to many students at the Siuslaw and Mapleton School Districts through the Food Backpacks for Kids program. The successful

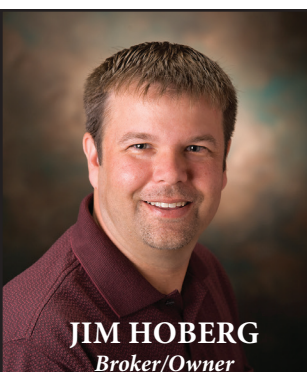


(From left) Some of Cross Road Assembly of God's Food Backpacks for Kids program's volunteers include Rhonda Dow, Nona Homenyk, Walt Homenyk, Debbie White and Jane Alsop.

effort to distribute food to hungry students has fed hundreds of young people since its inception in 2012, allowing them to concentrate on the information shared in their classrooms and not on the empty space in their bellies.

Food Backpacks for Kids' mission is simple: "Together, no child will go hungry."

As the holidays draw closer, the need for donations and volunteers to assist with the distribution of the Food Backpack for Kids becomes more pressing. One of the main issues are holiday breaks, See HUNGER page 7A



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