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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON & MARK BRENNIA/SIUSLAW NEWS

FESTIVE FLORENCE FIREWORKS



Hundreds of area residents and visitors celebrated an "Old-Fashioned Fourth of July" in Florence on Wednesday.

"The Fourth of July is a big deal in town. It feels very Americana and small town," said Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Assistant Director Terry Abeyta. "It's a very special feeling when you're walking down Bay Street and around the area."

Groups held events all over town to celebrate Independence Day, including barbecues, pie and watermelon-eating contests, snow cones and more — with fireworks over the Siuslaw River providing a "big bang" conclusion. The

Chamber hosted the fireworks, with additional sponsorship by Banner Bank, City of Florence, Florence Dental Clinic, Great Western Corporation, Hop Valley Brewing, Lofy Construction, Port of Siuslaw, Shorewood Senior Living, American Legion Post 59, Kitchen Klutter, Duman Inc. Florence and the Florence Saw Shop.

"The old-fashioned Fourth of July is one of the nicer family-oriented events we do here," said Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan. "It's a wonderful family event with a lot of people coming in and hanging out around the Port of Siuslaw."

See more photos on 8A

Summer Brain Gain boosts area youth

Boys & Girls Club institutes new learning program to combat summer scholastic loss

In some ways, it's all about the slime. "One of the things we're doing with teens is learning about molecular structure by making slime," Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County (BGC) Executive Director Chuck Trent said. "By adding various different components to the slime, it affects the viscosity."

Generally speaking, when introducing these concepts to teenagers, "they run out the door," Trent said. "But when you change that, and you use these kinds of things that are hands-on and you make slime by adding different components, affecting viscosity is fun."

At first, it is just a stringy slime. Add different components, and the product gets firmer. "You keep adding until you can actually bounce it like 'flubber,'" he said.

Trent, along with Elementary Program Director Samantha Gauderman and other BGC staff, use slime, along with Tootsie Rolls and superhero powers, to help children learn scholastics through a new program called Summer Brain Gain.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Lane County is participating in a new program to keep brains healthy and kids thriving all summer. Here, elementary program students demonstrate that they are "Superheroes of Kindness."

"This is an eight-week program that is very specific to math, science and English, but it's all done with a lot of activities that are real fun," Trent said.

Summer Brain Gain, a national program produced by the national BGC program, is eight weeks of theme-based activities designed to mitigate summer learning loss.

See BRAINS page 7A

Getting to 1 great idea

Oregon coast gets first entrepreneur Startup Weekend July 13-14

"The hardest part of starting up is starting out," says the official StartupWeekend.org.

BY CHANTELE MEYER SIUSLAW NEWS
For entrepreneurs and new businesses, finding and connecting to resources can be especially hard in rural areas, such as Florence and the Oregon coast. Now, community partners are bringing together a weekend catered specifically to startups to pick the right idea and potentially pitch a winning product.

Florence will host the region's first-ever Startup Weekend Oregon Coast on Friday evening, July 13, and all day on Saturday, July 14, at Lane Community College Florence Center, 3149 Oak St.

See STARTUP page 8A

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY 66 52	SUNDAY 69 52	MONDAY 67 54	TUESDAY 69 54
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July 7, 2017

Trent and Jenna Petersen,
May today be filled with happy memories
of the past year and bright hopes for the future.

Happy 1st Anniversary!

Love you both,
Mom, Dad, Bryce and Carly
Petersen


