



MONDAY, MAY 25

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ELECTION RESULTS

May Primary Election Results for local, state levels

The following 2020 Primary Election results have been reported by the Oregon Secretary of State. The totals posted for most races are not final and will be updated later today by the Secretary of State. Results are current as of May 22 and compiled from Lane County Elections and the Oregon Secretary of State.

Lane County Results Measure 20-306

Lane Community College: Bonds to construct, improve facilities, address safety and technology needs

Yes — 58.45 percent (63,260)
No — 41.55 percent (44,978)

See RESULTS page 8A



Casino reopens with new safety measures

STORY & PHOTO BY JARED ANDERSON SIOUSLAW NEWS

Three Rivers Casino Resort opened its doors for the first time in months on Friday, with various social distancing measures enforced to ensure the safety of its guests, including temperature checks at the front door,

face covering requirements for all guests and limited seating.

“We are taking this seriously,” Three Rivers Director of Marketing Richard Colton said. “We’re hoping to set the example that everybody will follow, because it’s easier to manage if everybody applies the same rules.”

As for Friday at noon, Colton said

that a good number of guests had already come to the casino, but crowds had been manageable.

“We opened about 8:30 a.m., and it’s been a nice, slow and steady pace,” Colton said. “We have about 225 people right now in the building, staying safe, playing and having a good time.”

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Port of Siuslaw Campground set to reopen Tuesday, May 26

Guidelines in place to reduce visitors, maintain distancing

BY MARK BRENNAN SIOUSLAW NEWS

The Port of Siuslaw held its regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, May 20, via audio teleconference. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Bill Meyer, and all commissioners except Craig Brandt were in attendance.

The evening’s agenda primarily called for the commission to consider adopting a budget, in the form of Resolution 5-20-20, for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,262,770.

The second important decision facing the group was when and how to reopen the port’s campground facilities.

The meeting began with a public request from Amber Novelli,

who owns and runs a small seafood market and restaurant on the docks, that the port inspect the underwater area around her business for damage to her drainage and water systems.

As she sells live crab, Novelli said she needs a steady and reliable supply of water for her crab tank to ensure the creatures don’t die.

Novelli stated the recent dredging of the river bottom near her business, has somehow damaged this water system.

Commissioners were responsive to Novelli’s concerns and Port Manager David Huntington said he will follow-up on the situation and report to the commission.

During the meeting, the commission discussed with Huntington how the reopening of the Port of Siuslaw Boat Launch went on the preceding weekend.

“We had about 10 boats total and no issues whatsoever,” Huntington said.

See PORT page 6A

‘It’s about our seniors and our families – and honoring them’

Mapleton’s virtual graduation to include in-person ceremonies

BY JARED ANDERSON SIOUSLAW NEWS

The Mapleton School District will be going virtual with its graduation ceremony this year, but is also looking at ways to have a smaller, in-person ceremony just for seniors and close family.

“Between surveying our seniors, contacting our seniors and talking to other school districts about what they’re doing, we have decided to put together a virtual graduation,” Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O’Mara said. “We wanted every senior to be able to watch each other graduate, along with family members that don’t live in our community and state.”

The virtual ceremony will consist of the usual pomp and circumstance, including speeches by the valedictorian and salutatorian and the traditional handing out of diplomas.

Starting next week, seniors will be coming to school grounds in one-hour appointments to film individual graduation ceremonies.

“They get to choose who they bring in, and whoever they bring in has a role,” O’Mara said. “A role might be to hand the graduates their diploma.”

Speeches from a guest speaker and students will also be filmed, and then edited together to create a full ceremony for the seniors. The photography and editing is being done by Deadwood, Ore., photographer Kate Harnedey.

As Mapleton regularly has small graduating classes, this shouldn’t take too much time.

See MAPLETON page 8A

New OCHS Director begins among COVID-19

Self-quarantine just one challenge as Charles Brown joins humane society

BY MARK BRENNAN SIOUSLAW NEWS

The Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) is one of many organizations in Florence that has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. OCHS’s new executive director, Charles Brown, just finished a two-week self-quarantine period due to the virus.

OCHS Board President Shauna Robbers said she is excited to have Brown join the organization, believing his previous experience will prove to be a great asset for OCHS.

“We received more than

15 responses from qualified candidates for our executive director position,” said Robbers. “With his high energy level and enthusiasm, Charles immediately stood out. We wanted someone who saw the advantage of becoming a part of our coastal community as well as someone who our employees could trust.”

Robbers went on to say that the board wanted an executive director



COURTESY PHOTO

Oregon Coast Humane Society Executive Director Charles Brown

who brought an outstanding record of accomplishment and excellence in animal care, along with high integrity, community engagement and successful fundraising and who shares the board’s mission, vision and goals.

“Charles brings all of this to the table and so much more,” Robbers said. “We are extremely excited to welcome him to Florence and look forward to too many

years of great leadership.”

Brown had hoped to begin work at OCHS last month, but his concern for the staff and volunteers led him to postpone his start date at the organization, which has dealt with its share of challenges in recent months — including the unexpected resignation of its previous executive director Mark Curran in January.

Brown is just beginning the process of familiarizing himself with his staff and the facility but said he is confident in the new guidelines now in place for adoptions and volunteer safety.

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Siuslaw News NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY VOL. 130, NO. 41 FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER Partly sunny with a high of 61 and a low tonight of 47. Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY Oregon Air National Guard to flyover Florence INSIDE — A3

LIFESTYLE Waterfront Depot finishes remodel 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

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