



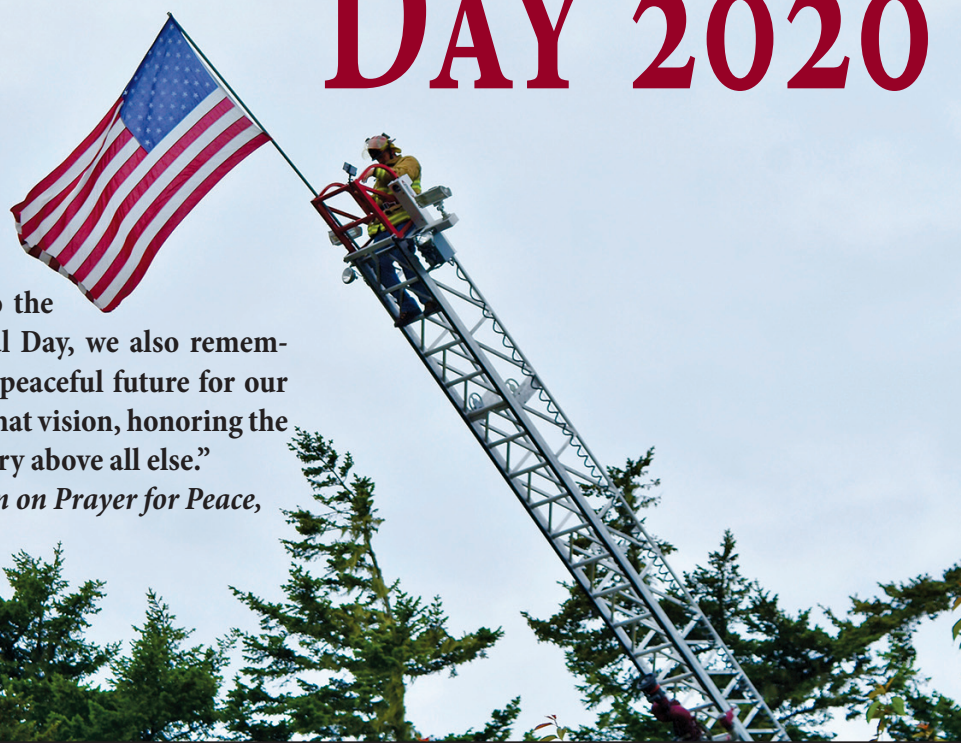
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MEMORIAL DAY 2020

“Since the first shots fired in the Revolutionary War, Americans have answered the call to duty and given their lives in service to our Nation and its sacred founding ideals. As we pay tribute to the lives and legacies of these patriots on Memorial Day, we also remember that they sacrificed to create a better, more peaceful future for our nation and the world. We recommit to realizing that vision, honoring the service of so many who have placed love of country above all else.”

— U.S. President Donald Trump, “Proclamation on Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 2020”



On Monday, Memorial Day was celebrated in and around Florence in a more subdued manner than usual as COVID-19 related restrictions limited gatherings. However, that didn't stop the community, including Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Western Lane Ambulance District, Kiwanis Club of Florence and local veteran groups, from honoring America's fallen heroes. Nationally, U.S. President Donald Trump proclaimed it as “a day of prayer for permanent peace.” Oregon Gov. Kate Brown began the holiday weekend by directing that flags be flown at half-staff.

PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

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WEATHER



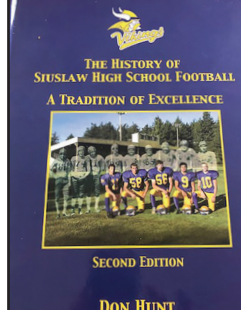
Partly sunny with a high of 68 and a low tonight of 51.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



United Way again gives to area nonprofits
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LIFESTYLE



A second edition of Viking tradition
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Siuslaw seeks ‘mosaic’ of solutions to student internet access

The Siuslaw School District held a special work session last week to discuss the schools' role in providing internet access to students as the district prepares for possible restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the school board did not

take a vote during the meeting, the board made it clear that a “mosaic” of solutions needed to be looked at, both short and long term, in an issue that goes beyond the effects of COVID-19.

Discussions surrounding student internet access began weeks ago after the district approached local fiber optic internet provider Hyak to help find internet solutions for

students at home during the shutdown.

What was initially proposed was a \$1.4 million, five-year deal that would task Hyak with finding solutions to providing free or reduced access to students across the district. One aspect of the proposed deal would have been the installation of fiber in specific areas where student need had been identified.

But since the discussion began, the economic outlook has changed drastically. Just hours before the district meeting, state economists warned that Oregon's corporate activities tax, which is meant to pay for education, would be down \$414 million in the current budget cycle, and \$600 million less from 2021 to 2023.

See ACCESS page 6A

Thinking beyond the present

‘Christmas in June’ community grant program will assist local residents

Unusual times often call for an unusual approach to solutions. That is the thinking behind a new effort created to alleviate some of the financial challenges local residents may be experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program, called “Christmas in June,” is being initiated with funds from retired military pilot Sam Spayd, who has deep ties to the community. He hopes others will also contribute to the project.

“I saw a need in our community to help our friends and neighbors who have been financially impact-

ed by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Spayd said.

Spayd is an active supporter of many community initiatives, including financial and equipment support for summer school training for local students who are interested in flying. As a pilot, volunteer and supporter, he has also taken the lead in promoting and coordinating the design and construction of the recently approved new gateway to the Florence Municipal Airport and an adjoining park.

Spayd, who regularly donates hanger space for public events, military presentations and meetings,

See PROGRAM page 7A

‘A strong history of patriotism’

Deadwood Pioneer Cemetery installs veteran memorial

“There are a lot of families who have veterans and who are relatives of veterans. We want to support that long heritage of supporting their country,” said Megan Gerber, special projects coordinator for the Deadwood Pioneer Cemetery. “This area has a strong history of patriotism.”

The cemetery is celebrating that patriotism with the installation of the new Veterans Memorial Rock,

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COURTESY PHOTO

Deadwood Pioneer Cemetery's new 11-foot rock monument was donated by Don Wilbur, set up by Gerry Burnett and Duane Wills, and is being carved by Mic Johnson of Mapleton (above).

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