

CASE from page 1A

not requiring use of a ventilator. The other four cases are reported to be individuals in their 20s, 30s, 50s and 70s.

It's important to note that OHA reporting protocols don't include individual zip code reporting for communities with populations of less than 1,000. That means confirmation of COVID-19 cases in Dunes City, Mapleton and upriver communities such as Swiss Home and Deadwood are instead aggregated into a single zip code.

Statewide, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases stands at 4,302 as of 10 a.m. on June 2, with 131,508 tests having been conducted throughout Oregon.

While Tuesday's report by the OHA officially confirmed Florence's first case of the virus, as far back as April *Siuslaw News* had reported on information provided by a local healthcare worker, who asked to remain anonymous, that a Florence resident in their 50s had been confirmed as having COVID-19 following testing at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart

Medical Center at RiverBend in Eugene. The resident had returned home after being hospitalized with the illness, with symptoms dating back to late February.

Though LCPH Public Information Officer Jason Davis confirmed the case to *Siuslaw News* on April 2, protocols at the time did not allow geographical confirmation other than as "living in rural Lane County."

The OHA's new protocol of reporting cases by zip code underscores the need to continue following health guidelines and

practices aimed at slowing the spread of the virus, particularly as Phase One of Gov. Kate Brown's reopening plan brings more people to the Siuslaw region despite strong recommendations for individuals to remain within 50 miles of their primary residence.

In an interview May 1 with *Siuslaw News*, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Emergency Department Medical Director William Foster emphasized, "We don't really know how much COVID is here in the community. But I'm confident there's more than 50 cases."

Days later at the May 4 meeting of the Florence City Council, Councilor Ron Preisler implored residents to wear a mask in public places, and to follow social distancing recommendations.

"The health of others in the community is dependent on maintaining safe social interactions," he said.

As Oregon State Health Officer Dr. Dean Sidelinger said at a recent press conference, "We won't eliminate the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon with people being able to infect others before they have symptoms

— or even those who never have symptoms. But we hope to slow it as much as we can."

With Florence's first confirmed case of the virus, the rate of spread will depend on community members' willingness to continue practicing social distancing measures, wear masks and sanitize hands and contact surfaces as the Phase One reopening continues.

Editor's Note: Siuslaw News is confirming further information with Lane County Public Health. Look for an update online and in Saturday's edition.

SUPPORT from page 1A

In the past months, SOS has continued to provide motel vouchers for the most vulnerable in the unhoused population, and provided rent

assistance so those who lost income did not get behind on payments

"Then, through grants provided by Lane County, Oregon Department of Justice, The Ford Family Foundation,

Allstate Foundation, United Way, FEMA, and donations from local businesses, groups and individuals, SOS has raised over \$120,000 to help toward rent and utilities," Teter said.

To access this COVID-19 Assistance Fund, people need to contact SOS staff by calling 541-997-2816 and setting up an appointment. Applicants may also stop by the SOS office on 12th Street between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Applicants will be required to provide documentation that their loss of income occurred after March 1, 2020, and it was directly related to the current pandemic, as well as supporting documents related to their specific need. Other eligibility requirements stipulate household income, after March 1, must be not greater than 50 percent of the Area Mean Income and applicants must work and or reside in western Lane County. Also, bills have to be in a

past due status.

Another area that concerns Teter is related to housing and the number of local residents who might not be able to pay rent in the near future.

Executive orders from Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has put in place a number of restrictions on property owners and housing rental agencies which limit evictions and foreclosures during these initial stages of the pandemic — but many of those protections are limited.

"Although the governor has put a moratorium on evictions until the end of June and Lane County Courts will not allow eviction hearing until late July, this does not mean people can live rent free," Teter noted. "They have until the end of the calendar year to pay back any arrears so long as they stay current beginning July 1. For many, their rent is 80 to 90 percent of their regular take home pay. Those individuals cannot afford to

pay above their normal rent rate.

"Also, landlords and utility companies have bills of their own to pay. It is important for the economy to keep bills paid up. We hope to help with that as best we can."

In addition, SOS has additional support resources available to assist those in need of support.

"SOS has other funds to assist those in need. In addition to rent and utility assistance, SOS provides advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking, a 24/7 crisis line, peer support group meetings, self-sufficiency classes and basic need vouchers," Teter said. "In the past three months, SOS has received a significant increase of requests for advocacy services. Nearly triple for this same time last year."

He acknowledged and wanted to reach out to both women and men who might

find themselves in emotionally charged situations, which may lead to instances of increased domestic violence.

"The stress the pandemic has placed on households has resulted in instances of domestic violence for some. Although statistics show women are predominately victimized by abusive acts, domestic violence does not discriminate. For many, the pandemic has created a sense of doubt and uncertainty and a feeling the world is out of control," Teter said. "In some cases, individuals have committed acts of domestic violence in an attempt to gain control. Thankfully, SOS has the resources to provide advocacy and connection to other resources to help those abused reach a point of safety."

For more information on the services offered by SOS or to volunteer or provide financial support, call 541-997-2816 or visit SOS at 1576 West 12th St. in Florence. Visit online at florencesos.org.



LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTERS
Tires • Brakes
Shocks • Alignment
4325 Highway 101, Florence
541-997-7178

HOME OF THE BEST TIRE VALUE PROMISE



Florence Heating & SHEET METAL, INC

Heating Systems • Heat Pumps
Sales / Service
Steve Wolford • CCB#64
P.O. Box 148 • 1645 Kingwood St.
Hours: M-F, 8am-3pm
541-997-2422

SCHOLARSHIPS from page 1A

career aspirations," said Siuslaw School Counselor Steve Moser, who co-hosted the event with Bob Orr, Dunes City Councilor and volunteer for the schools Aspire program.

Moser stated that although this year presented unique challenges for seniors, it also

created areas of positivity to highlight.

"This was the first year for the Siuslaw Regional Application, a system created to simplify and streamline the ways students can consolidate information to submit to local providers," he said. "Instead of filling out 50 individual applications, students this year had the opportunity to use the new, one stop, all inclusive application that, once

submitted, applied to all local scholarships. This is the key to opening the door to more than 120 individual scholarships."

Moser also pointed out this year would have a focus on regional scholarships.

"This would include students graduating at Mapleton High School as well," he said. "Tonight we will be honoring Mapleton seniors who are excellent candidates in their

own right, and deserving of recognition."

Moser stated that seniors will be remembered this year for more than just being the "Class of COVID."

"It may sound cliché, but this is one of the most dedicated, most dynamic, and easily one of the most determined groups of young people to ever grace the halls of Siuslaw High School," Moser said. "Not the largest group out there, although they may be one of the highest achieving. Graduation rates and test scores aside, this class will have the number of students receiving an honors diploma ever."

He also pointed out that students have turned in more work and volunteer hours than classes from the past, which is why so many different students are being honored.

"Each honored student has plans for the future, and tonight those plans take a step closer to becoming a reality," Moser said. "The costs associated with their future goals and career aspirations will be challenging. The sacrifice of time, energy, freedom and money will become well known to these students."

After thanking scholarship providers, donors and organization for giving to students. As much of the world changes, he said, there will always be expenses for continuing education. Only with the support of generous donors could those challenges be met.

The video link is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT-v2Gq6LxG4&feature=youtu.be.

"Without further ado, let's get to the fun," Moser said.

The recipients include:

See AWARDS page 6A

Summer Fun complete in this package!
On sale this week, come in and take a look.




SunChaser Geneva
Pontoon boat powered by Honda 100.
Regular price \$36,000.
NOW \$31,500



YMARINA
Florence, OR
New and Used Boats and Engines

Duckworth • North River • Hewescraft • Stabicraft
Arima • Smoker Craft • Yamaha

For more great boat deals...
541-590-3313
2520 Highway 101, Florence OR (Next to Taco Bell)

16 NEW LUXURY TOWNHOMES




32ND & OAK STREET
OAK STREET COMMONS - New TownhomeS! Great-room open floor plan, quartz kitchen counter tops, Medallion Cabinets, all kitchen appliances included. Ductless heat pump, waterproof laminate + carpeting. Covered balcony. Attached finished garage. Interior Laundry Closet. Two have sold. Two units completed and ready to purchase. OPB Special Financing Offer! Showings by appointment ONLY. \$279,000 each #11959 MLS#20407030

"We're next to the Bridge"
100 Hwy. 101
See all Florence Listings at cbcoast.com

COLDWELL BANKER
COAST REAL ESTATE
541-997-7777

Hoberg's
Complete Auto Repair
www.hobergsautorepair.com

NEW Service Offered **FREE Taxi Ride**
via: River Cities Taxis
Florence City Limits Only
From our shop to your home or work

345 Hwy. 101 • P.O. Box 357
Florence, OR 97439-0012 • 541-997-2413
Serving Your Auto Needs Since 1945

Kevin McMullen
3rd Generation Owner, hobergsautorepair@gmail.com

Celebrating 70+ Years!

Siuslaw News
Garage Sale
GUIDE

Estate/Moving Sale
Thurs-Sat
9am-4pm
Greentrees Village West
Space #661
Tools, furniture
& household goods.

