

NEW MEMBERS
1/2 PRICE ENROLLMENT FEES FOR JUNE



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CLASS OF 2020
 Congratulations Graduates

INSIDE — C

Vigil recognizes national anguish

Peaceful protest of George Floyd's death draws committed group



STORY & PHOTO
BY MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

The COVID-19 pandemic has been pushed to the back burner of American politics, at least for a short period of

time, by the videotaped death of 46-year-old George Perry Floyd on May 25.

The death has resonated with Americans of all ethnicities and age groups, from major urban centers to smaller rural communities, and even to the intersections

of Highways 126 and 101 in Florence, Ore. Community members from the area began gathering this week to acknowledge — with signs and banners — the racial animus which, for many, is still a part of the American experience.

Floyd, an African American,

was killed at the hands of a white police officer from Minneapolis, Minn., while being detained on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill in a neighborhood market. The interaction between Floyd and Minneapolis Police

See FLOYD page 6A

Lane County approved to enter Phase 2 of governor's re-opening plan

On June 4, Lane County was approved to begin Phase Two of Gov. Kate Brown's reopening plan for Oregon. Phase Two includes opening pools, zoos, museums, venues such as movie theaters, bowling alleys and arcades; some additional office work; allowing recreational sports; loosening current restaurant and bar curfew restrictions and expanding outdoor gatherings to 100 people.

The Phase Two reopening for Lane County officially began yesterday, June 5. The types of restrictions being relaxed in Phase Two — and by how much — are determined by the state. Counties are responsible for demonstrating that local systems, both private and public, are in place to continue providing a public health response to COVID-19.

"We are confident with our ability to meet or exceed the state's requirements for entering Phase Two and their assessment of the way and rate at which

See PHASE 2 page 6A

Graduates on parade

The community gathered all across Florence Friday around noon to witness the Siuslaw High School Senior Class Car Parade. The parade began at Siuslaw Middle School and wound its way through area streets, including through Historic Old Town Florence. Horns honked, people cheered and banners waved for the Class of 2020. The seniors then were able to go home to prepare for Friday night's graduation ceremony. A similar parade was held in Mapleton last night after press time. Look for more information in Wednesday's edition of the Siuslaw News. See more photos on A7.



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Western Lane Ambulance hears testimony on quality of employees, importance of funding

BY JARED ANDERSON
 SIUSLAW NEWS

"You say we're overpaid to comparable agencies. There are no comparable agencies. Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) is in a league of their own and we have worked tirelessly to get there," said 14-year WLAD veteran Danielle

Holmes during a joint board meeting of WLAD and Siuslaw Fire Valley and Rescue (SVFR) on May 28.

The comments come after a WLAD budget meeting where cuts to employee benefits were discussed in an effort to balance the district's budget. While negotiations between union employees and the district are ongoing, in the meeting, WLAD/

SFVR Chief Michael Schick proposed cuts that included decreases in health benefits and PERS payments.

Some members of the budget committee suggested the district entertain even deeper cuts, including an overhaul on overtime scheduling and possible salary cuts.

See WESTERN LANE page 8A

REMEMBERING D-DAY 76 YEARS LATER

D-Day marked start of the end for Hitler as combined allied forces invade France

BY MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

"Operation Overlord" began on June 6, 1944, although planning and preparation for what became the most important mission of WWII began years earlier. The planned invasion of France by Allied troops was a closely guarded secret and the long-awaited implementation of a multi-pronged attack to free Europe

from Nazi Germany was initiated on that day.

The beaches of France were the primary staging ground for the most intense conflicts of the day, with Allied advances limited and less successful than military leaders had previously hoped.

The associated land and air operations were critical components of the mission to free occupied France and were codenamed "Operation

Neptune" — more generally known as the Battle of Normandy — which later came to be known as D-Day.

Operation Neptune comprised the largest seaborne invasion in history. It was also the first step in a journey that culminated in the freeing of Europe from beneath the boot heel of Adolf Hitler.

The battles that occurred on D-Day were numerous and took place at different points on the

French coast, at approximately the same time.

See D-DAY page 5A




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Siuslaw News
 NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
 VOL. 130, NO. 45
 FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Thunderstorms with a high of 55 and a low tonight of 46.
 Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Backstreet prepares to reopen
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CROW looks at the challenges of COVID-19
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