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**FLAG DAY**  
**JUNE 14**

INSIDE — A11



## Community members rally in support of law enforcement

**STORY & PHOTO**  
**BY MARK BRENNAN**  
**SIUSLAW NEWS**

A group of 50 or so individuals gathered Wednesday at the corner of Highways 101 and 126 with signs and flags display-

ing their support for law enforcement officers in Florence and across the country.

The Florence rally took place in the wake of worldwide protests against police brutality targeting people of color, inspiring similar marches last week in support of

law enforcement across the nation.

In some instances, protests in many major cities over the past two weeks that began as peaceful evolved into violent clashes between law enforcement and protestors. These confronta-

tional and, in some instances, violent interactions that included widespread looting overnight, have sparked a national debate over distinguishing the difference between enforcing the law and inciting violence  
*See RALLY page 6A*

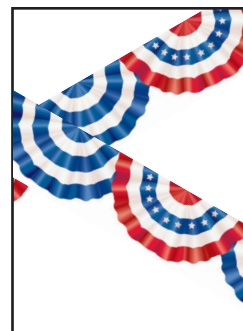
**Siuslaw News**  
**NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY**  
 VOL. 130, NO. 47  
 FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**



Light rain with a high of 57 and a low tonight of 47.  
*Full forecast on A3*

**COMMUNITY**



Decorate for 4th of July Porch Parade  
*INSIDE — A3*

**LIFESTYLE**



Girl Scouts prepare for virtual summer  
*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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## Banner Bank works with Florence Chamber as 2020-21 membership dues relief sponsor

**BY SCOTT M. STEWARD**  
**CREATIVE WAVE MARKETING**

Banner Bank in Florence has joined the exclusive rank of corporate underwriter in the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce with a contribution of \$10,000. Banner Bank joins fellow corporate underwriters Driftwood Shores Resort and Conference Center, Three Rivers Casino Resort and TR Hunter Real Estate.

The funds are designated to help other member businesses pay their annual dues that renew in July.

Tess Yahyazadeh, AVP/Branch Manager at Banner Bank in Florence, jointly announced the program with Bettina Hannigan, executive director of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce.

“Watching our business community struggle through COVID-19 restrictions, I wanted to find a way to help our local business owners and the Chamber,” said Yahyazadeh. “Being involved with the Cares



**Florence Area Chamber of Commerce board members Tom Bassett, Shauna Robbers, Rich Colton and Bonnie Stone and Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan receive a check contribution from Banner Bank's AVP/branch manager Tess Yahyazadeh and Banner Bank staff.**

CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Act Payroll Protection Program and hearing the stories of how this crisis has affected our local business community really motivated me to find a way for Banner Bank to help.”

At-risk members at the Business Partner level can pay the first \$125 toward their dues for the 2020-21 fiscal year and leverage \$100 from

Banner Bank's membership match contribution. The program is available for member renewals due July 1 on a first-come-first-served process until funds run out.

People can access this by contacting Hannigan at [bettina@florence-chamber.com](mailto:bettina@florence-chamber.com).

*See PARTNERS page 5A*

## Mapleton School District names Milbrett to board

**BY JARED ANDERSON**  
**SIUSLAW NEWS**

This week, The Mapleton School District Board of Directors chose Andrea Milbrett to replace outgoing board member John Simington.

Milbrett had worked for the Mapleton district for years, and is currently working at a charter school in Veneta as a student services director. This role includes keeping track of attendance, schedules, transcripts “and a gamut of additional things that are needed,” she told the school board during her interview.

“I have worked in the school district for years so I have seen the positives and negatives inside the school that come from decisions made outside of the school,” Milbrett wrote in her application. “I have coached in the school district and see how sports have been affected in different ways. I also have had one child finish school there and one child in the middle of finishing school there, and the differences between both of their times at Mapleton. I also now work in a different school district so I have had and continue to have the opportunity as to how other districts have done and/or handled things.”

Milbrett will be replacing Simington, who left the board due to scheduling issues.

“John has been a valued member of the school board,” said Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O’Mara. “His knowledge of our community from an alumni

*See MAPLETON page 5A*

## WLFEA approves budget after extensive discussions

*Board members discuss wages, benefits and contracts*

**BY JARED ANDERSON**  
**SIUSLAW NEWS**

The Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority (WLFEA), which consists of members of Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR), held a budget meeting this week to try to address concerns regarding budget discrepancies between the two districts.

WLFEA and WLAD board member Larry Farnsworth stated, “While the board did not unanimously agree to pass the WLFEA budget, I appreciate the candid conversation that we have, and that reasonable people can disagree. I

wish we were not in this situation. It’s very difficult, it’s very awkward.”

SVFR and WLFEA board member Ron Green started the meeting by stating the issue at hand for WLFEA.

“SVFR approved a budget for the authority, and it’s different from the one approved by WLAD,” he said. “So, we’re hoping that the WLFEA board can resolve those differences, and can we come up with a budget that is acceptable to both boards.”

WLFEA, which employs administrators from both districts, does not have its own tax base. Instead, it is funded by WLAD (51 percent of costs) and SVFR

(49 percent of costs).

Both districts are in the process of union labor negotiations, but the financial outlook is different — with SVFR being relatively stable and WLAD in danger of being underfunded in the next few years. To help stave off financial hardships, some WLAD budget committee and board members have suggested making cuts to what has been viewed as overgenerous compensation for employees in comparison to other comparable employers.

In the WLFEA meeting, Fire and EMS Chief Michael Schick proposed some cuts to WLFEA, most notably in eliminating the position

*See BUDGET page 8A*

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Questions?  
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