

Summer Home Improvement
INSIDE — B3-B4

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Florence celebrates Juneteenth

STORY & PHOTOS
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Emancipation Proclamation, also known as Proclamation 95, was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on Jan. 1, 1863. Lincoln's presidential proclamation, and corresponding executive order, changed forever the legal status of 3.5 million enslaved African Americans in the Confederate states from slavery to freedom.

Unfortunately, the proclamation was initially ignored by many geographically isolated farms and plantations in the Southern states, with the tacit approval of state officials. Remote towns and recalcitrant local law enforcement officers throughout the Confederacy ignored Proclamation 95 and simply did not inform enslaved people in Texas and other Confederate-controlled locations they had been freed.

By the time Confederate Commanding General Robert E. Lee signed the surrender document officially ending



"Freedom Day" event honors unofficial national holiday

On Friday, June 19, approximately 60 people gathered at Florence United Methodist Church in recognition of Juneteenth as the day celebrated as the end of slavery for many black Americans.

hostilities between the Union and Confederacy, most slaves in Texas and Oklahoma were still unaware they were free persons.

The liberation of former slaves, freed for nearly two years, required an armed force of 2,000 soldiers under the command of Union army General Gordon Granger to enforce the actual procla-

mation. Federal estimates released in 1895 stated that more than 250,000 individuals were still being held in bondage some two years after their emancipation.

The order mandating the State of Texas to free its remaining slaves was read by Granger on June 19, 1865, See **FREEDOM** page 5A



Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
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WEATHER

Clouds and wind with a high of 45 and a low tonight of 36.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Florence Police honored with sign
INSIDE — A3

Port of Siuslaw gives update on reopening

The Port of Siuslaw Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on June 15, via teleconference, with Port Manager Dave Huntington, Administrative Assistant Kelly Stewart and Commissioners Craig Brandt and Mike Buckwald attending in person.

Commissioner Bill Meyer was not in attendance. After approving the evening's agenda, commissioners were given a financial update by Stewart. Her presentation reviewed the financial repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the port to close its campground and the marina for three months this spring.

As expected, revenues from those sources dropped precipitously during the time; the revenue loss during that closure was approximately \$80,000, according to the board.

See **PORT** page 6A

Mapleton releases draft of school reopening plan

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Mapleton School District, in conjunction with Oregon Department of Education (ODE), has released a draft plan for reopening the school in the fall, covering a host of preventative measures that ODE and state agencies will be requiring of districts across the state.

Mapleton is planning to transition to full onsite learning for fall; however there will be differences. Students will be required to remain six feet apart at all times and will be sent home for extended periods if they are ill. Classrooms will change, as will interactions between different grades of students, and the question of sports program requirements are still up in the air.

The plans are fluid, with requirements changing sometimes daily. "The expectations for school reopening are going to change," said Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara. "We just have to enjoy the time we have with our families and when school starts in the fall, we'll know what it's going to look like."

O'Mara sits on a small advisory committee with several other superintendents that meets with, and

advises, ODE. "There's about 10-12 of us that meet to help advise what this might look like," O'Mara said. "I obviously represent smaller school districts."

When the ODE, along with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), came out with guidelines on reopening, it gave three options for districts to open.

"There's onsite, a hybrid which combines onsite and distance learning, and the third being strictly distance learning," O'Mara said.

She was asked to create a sample plan, or template, for what reopening under the OHA guidelines look like. These templates could then be shared with other districts to help them plan for the future.

Two superintendents chose the hybrid model, where students would spend a few days at home, a few days in school. But O'Mara decided to go for the first choice, onsite.

"My thought was, the best case scenario for our students and our families and community is onsite learning," she said. "Best case, that's what our kids need, and that's what our community overwhelmingly wants."

She pointed out that in an on-

going survey of families in the district, 96 percent of respondents thus far have requested students go to school.

"Our community and students want it, but so does our staff," O'Mara said. "That's why we're here. We went into education to be around the kids and staff and the community and to support them. It's been a rough end to the school year."

While onsite is logistically difficult, Mapleton has an advantage over most other districts — large remodels to the school and a small class size.

"I think small schools are going to be able to implement the plan, and the expectations for onsite learning, much easier than larger districts," O'Mara said. "It's just the nature of the numbers."

But onsite doesn't mean that everything will be onsite. Certain regulations require some students to stay home for extended periods of time, which means that the school will have to do distance learning.

And for those families who feel uncomfortable with sending children to school, there will also be options.

See **PLAN** page 6A

OCHS ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2020

The Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) has announced the results of its 2020 board election.

Laurie Arms and Michael Kello, both of Florence, will join the board as new members. Board treasurer Sandy Davidson was elected to a second term.

"The membership just added some great talent to our board," said OCHS Board President Shauna Robbers. "There was excellent experience and

commitment among all who ran for office and we thank each candidate for their interest. We all look forward to working together in the coming year so that our organization continues to grow and prosper for the benefit of our residents."

Davidson, a pet parent to three dogs, two of which were adopted from OCHS, said, "I am honored to have been re-elected to the board. I consider my re-election as an affir-

mation of all that the board has accomplished this past year, including helping 108 dogs to be adopted, 96 to be returned to their owners, find new homes for 399 cats, and starting our Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return program, which neutered 21 cats and helped two Florence neighborhoods solve part of their community cat problem. We also provided lower cost clinic services to 253 animals."

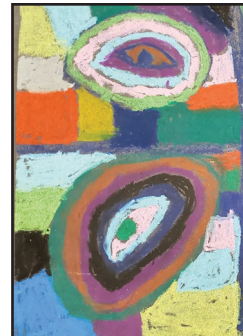
Arms is a retired registered nurse

with more than 35 years in the medical field, including time as a hospice director. She is a pet parent and volunteers at the Humane Society Thrift Store on the corner of Bay and Kingwood streets in Historic Old Town.

In her application to the board, she wrote, "I truly love animals. They can bring such joy and love and companionship, and they need a voice and a helping hand."

See **BOARD** page 5A

LIFESTYLE



Students display phenomenal talent
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — A7

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

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