



**SIUSLAW NEWS:  
A LOOK BACK AT 130 YEARS**  
INSIDE — A8

# Faces of the Fourth in Florence

Unofficial holiday festivities accompany political, patriotic demonstrations



STORIES BY  
SIUSLAW NEWS  
STAFF



MORE  
4TH OF JULY  
PHOTOS ON A7

PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN AND NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

## FIREWORKS ALIGHT

After the cancellation of many official fireworks celebrations across the state, Florence residents took it upon themselves to provide colorful light shows for their friends and neighbors on the Fourth of July. Starting at dusk on Saturday, the sound of Whistling Pets and larger eruptions pierced the night as people celebrated Independence Day with their own “rockets’ red glare.” See FIREWORKS page 6A

## Demonstration in Deadwood



PHOTO BY KATE HARNEDY

People in the upriver Siuslaw Region community of Deadwood gathered on July 4 for a peaceful protest in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter social movement. Approximately 60 people attended.

“We want our children to understand that they too, have a responsibility to work for justice, to stand with our communities of color, and that rural community members, of all ages, must be part of the solution to this national problem,” said Shoshanna Holman-Gross, who organized the event.

See DEADWOOD page 6A

## Patriotic Flag Wave reaches Old Town



COURTESY PHOTO

Approximately 100 Florence residents gathered at all four corners of the Highways 126 and 101 intersection at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 4, to cheer, sing and peacefully celebrate Independence Day.

According to the Patriotic Flag Wave and Rally organizer Sherry Harvey, “There were loud and long supportive honks from passing trucks and cars that joined in with waves and thumbs up — including a woman who tearfully mouthed, ‘Thank You’ as her car idled at the light.”

See FLAGS page 6A

## More than a ‘black & white’ issue



PHOTO BY KATE HARNEDY

From 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, area residents again stood at the corners of Highways 101 and 126 to protest for Black Lives Matter.

Signs included calls for kindness, colorful depictions of “Less hate, more love” and declarations that “When Black lives matter, then all lives will matter.”

These local protestors are carrying on a new tradition of gathering to protest each Saturday since the death of George Floyd at the end of May. While some Saturdays have featured incidents

See PROTEST page 6A

## Emergency response fields 100 calls over July 4 holiday weekend

The Fourth of July weekend proved to be a busy one for local first responders as the Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District answered dozens of calls over the weekend.

The recent guidance from Oregon Gov. Kate Brown regarding the mandate to wear masks in public, particularly when in crowds where

See RESPONSE page 6A

## New program seeks to provide ‘Safe Shelter’ to students, families

*Safe Shelter for Siuslaw Students partners with local, county groups on community initiative*

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

“There are currently 50 to 75 students in our Florence schools who are ‘insufficiently housed,’” said Safe Shelter for Siuslaw Students (SSSS) Executive Director Suzanne Mann-Heintz. “Some students are wandering alone and others are in a homeless family with one or both

parents and one or more siblings.” Some students are couch surfing, while others are camping or living in cars.

“Their living circumstances can mean they don’t get breakfast, have clean clothes or come to school with supplies they need to be ready to learn,” Mann-Heintz said. “After school, they may not have a home to go to where they can do homework, take a bath or get a safe night’s sleep.”

To help these students, Mann-Heintz, who also serves on the Siuslaw School Board, partnered with other local residents to create SSSS. The mission is to provide emergency temporary housing for K-12 students currently enrolled in

the Siuslaw School District, and for their families as needed. The program will also help families move into transitional housing programs available throughout community partners.

SSSS has four strategies to help fulfill the mission, which includes arranging emergency housing for students in need; hosting short-term host homes where students can stay when parents are having temporary difficulties; a “Mommy Mentor” program to help new parents through the first year of raising a child; and a network to help get resources from locals who want to give to those who need help.

See SHELTER page 5A

Siuslaw News  
NEWS &  
VIEWS THAT  
DEFINE OUR  
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### WEATHER



Partly sunny with a high of 66 and a low tonight of 54.

Full forecast on A3

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