



**SIUSLAW NEWS:
A LOOK BACK AT 130 YEARS**

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**POWER OF FLORENCE
COMMEMORATIVE PHOTOS**

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THE REAL 'POWER' OF FLORENCE



Celebrating 10 years of the Power of Florence

Take a 10-year-old's dream, add in community support and watch the Power of Florence unfold. That's what happened in the City of Florence 10 years ago as Kaylee Graham realized her vision of an annual day of service.

"My goal with starting the Power of Florence originally blossomed from wanting to have a volunteer camp where we could teach kids my age and younger

that it's cool to volunteer," Kaylee, now 20, said. "We live in a retirement community, so a lot of the people who volunteer are older. My goal was to get kids involved."

With tutelage from her volunteer-minded parents Shannon and Todd Graham, as well as her brother Taylor, who was also a student leader, Kaylee planned the first Power of Florence in 2011.

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(Clockwise from top left) One photo for each year from 2011 to 2019 shows the Power of Florence and many of the people who made it possible, including a 2015 photo of organizers Kaylee Graham and Ava Glowacki.



Health officials urge people to 'stay home'

Florence COVID spike raises concern

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

"The best thing to do is try and stay home as much as you can," said Lane County Public Health (LCPH) Public Information Officer Jason Davis when asked what Florence residents should do to combat the rapidly growing spread of COVID-19 in Oregon.

"This virus, for it to succeed, has to have close contact between people," Davis continued. "We are directly contributable to its success. If we take close contact out of the equation, and essentially cut the gas lines for the disease, we make it so it can't do its job. Stay home. Don't be the person that contracts it."

The advice comes just days after Florence recorded a spike in COVID-19 cases, which now sits at 12. Along with the cases came the first known cluster in the Siuslaw Region.

The cluster began after a resident traveled to Marion County, caught the virus, brought it back and infected five people.

"Good news is that we believe that the transmission really stayed between social contacts," Davis said. "These are cases that are transmitting between relatives or acquaintances."

The cases did not come through community spread.

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Former mayor passes in Portland

Remembering Nola Xavier, Florence mayor from 2012 to 2014

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Past Florence mayor Nola Xavier passed away on June 28, in Portland, Ore.

Many individuals over the last decades have contributed to the development of Florence area, and Xavier was certainly one of those people. She left a legacy of good wishes and thoughtful contributions to her adopted coastal home.

Xavier and her husband, Joe, moved to "The City of Roses" in 2016, after spending the previous decade in Florence, "The City of Rhododendrons." Health issues had forced the move in order to

be closer to family.

The two were married for 55 years before Joe passed away in January of this year; less than six months later, Xavier followed him, passing in her sleep.

During the decade they spent living in Florence, Xavier served as chairperson of the Florence Urban Renewal Agency, Florence City Councilor and as mayor from 2012-14.

She was also an integral member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Rotary Club of Florence, Welcome Wagon and the Florence Community PTA.

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SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO
Nola Xavier

Local mask 'crusaders' deliver to first responders

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

One of the most vexing problems posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic has been ensuring the safety of medical personnel and first responders from becoming infected while treating others. One of the best ways to keep these essential workers healthy is with the use of personnel protection equipment (PPE), which includes gloves, gowns and masks.

Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) names mask wearing as the single most effective way to deter continued spread of the virus from person to person, along with face shields and other facial coverings.

In addition, this past Monday,

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced a change to the state's mask policy, mandating them to be worn in all outdoor situations where physical distancing is not possible.

"We delivered patriotic masks to all of the employees of the Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire Department, first responders and all of U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River."

— Carol Slaugh, Minutes of Gold founder

In the months since the beginning of the pandemic here in the U.S., guidance from the Oregon Health Authority and the CDC regarding mask usage has evolved, shifting from being described as primarily protection for others, to

being considered the safest way to protect oneself.

This, along with a growing acceptance among the public that the wearing of a face mask is a matter of personnel safety rather than a political statement, has added to the demand for what is already an overburdened supply system.

One of the ways in which communities like Florence have been dealing with the limited availability of PPE is through sewing them by hand or on sewing machines.

Locally, a number of different groups and people are currently engaged in the production of masks. But one of them, Minutes of Gold, has turned its prodigious sewing skills to the challenge.

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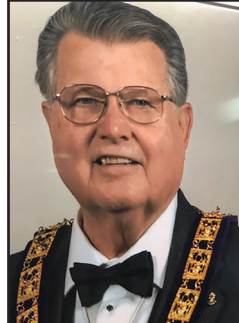
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FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Sunny with a high of 72 and a low tonight of 54.
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