



SIOUSLAW NEWS: A LOOK BACK AT 130 YEARS — A7

Official updates provided by county, state and national health organizations
TheSiuslawNews.com/Coronavirus

Council considers full docket of discussion items

FPD and Tribal contract, Public Works projects, proclamation on climate change among discussion items.

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIOUSLAW NEWS

The Florence City Council met on Monday, July 20, for both a 10:30 a.m. work session and a scheduled evening meeting at 5:30 p.m. There were a number of substantive issues discussed and decided upon, including infrastructure improvements, sign-code amendments, the future relationship between the Florence Police Department (FPD) and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, and an update to the city's fee structure.

Both meetings were held via teleconference and new upgrades to the city's technological platform — made to allow for more inclusive public input at publicly mandated meetings — were used for the first time to receive live comments from the public since the pandemic struck.

Councilors first heard from Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Chairman of the Board, Neil Ecker, for the organization's annual recap of the work it has done for the city.

"I want to talk a little about the history of these proclamations and the authority that lies behind them..."

— Florence Mayor Joe Henry

Ecker shared data which showed a marked increase in digital traffic to the Chamber's website, hosting more than 64,600 new users and 158,000-page views in the past 12 months. Ecker's report also stated that there were more than 10,000

visitors to the Visitor Center in 2018-19, which was reopened to limited walk-in service on July 7.

The "positive working relationship" between Travel Lane County and the Chamber was extolled by Ecker, as was the job being done by newly designated Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber, Bettina Hannigan.

Ecker pointed to what he called

See COUNCIL 6A

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NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
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WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 60 and a low tonight of 51.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



The latest news from your library
INSIDE — A3

OUTDOORS



Local 13-year-old competes in OJGA
INSIDE — B1

RECORDS

Obituaries & response logs
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NEW: TV GUIDE

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KIDS CORNER

Activities for kids
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Listings and notices
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KXCR adds new VP, production studio

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIOUSLAW NEWS

Local community radio station KXCR recently announced the station has added Michael J. Kello to the organization's management team as its new vice president.

Kello has been a Board Member of the nonprofit radio station since last year and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Coast Humane Society.

"I'm humbled by the board's approval and absolutely excited by the opportunity to continue the great work of KXCR, increasing its presence on the Oregon coast and online, while providing our listeners with thought-provoking and entertaining programming for decades to come," Kello said. "We have an incredibly engaged group of volunteers and Board of Directors. Florence is very lucky to have KXCR and the station and I am blessed to call Florence home."

The ongoing changes at KXCR consist of more than just the addition of Kello they extend to the production capacity of the station and also to its future plans for expansion of a more varied selection of programming offerings.

Recent technical upgrades to the station's equipment and computers have allowed them to stream programs and to have a more interactive website for potential listeners to view.

See KXCR 7A

'Reading' the community's need



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIOUSLAW NEWS

This past Saturday, the Power of Florence celebrated its 10th anniversary by collecting children's books to be distributed to area students this summer. This year's event was coordinated by (top left) Shannon McCormick-Graham, with the help from daughter Kaylee and husband Tod Graham, Tami Worley, and Leah and Melody Lumadue.

With the uncertainty of what school will look like this fall, the 10th annual Power of Florence focused on assuring area kids have access to books at home.

"At school, they have access to hundreds of book titles in their reading level to help them learn to read and learn to love reading," said Shannon McCormick-Graham, a teacher in the

Siuslaw School District and organizer of this year's Power of Florence event. "However, even if they are at home doing distance learning part of the time, many will lose access to children's books because they have few or none in their home."

To help remedy that, this year's event collected gently used children's books along with selling blueberries — with

the money raised being used to purchase new children's books from First Book, a nonprofit organization that sells books to Title I schools.

Helping with Saturday's event were daughter Kaylee, husband Tod, along with Tami Worley and Leah and Melody Lumadue.

See BOOKS 5A

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