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# THIRD TIME AROUND *'Circles in the Sand'* returns to Florence

STORY & PHOTOS  
BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS



This fall has proven to be as difficult as the unsettled spring and summer, caused by a combination of COVID-19, social and political unrest and the uncertainty of the upcoming U.S. Presidential Election.

However, there was a respite on Saturday as Denny Dyke and his team of sand artists from the Bandon-based non-profit group, Circles in the Sand, came to Florence to create one of their temporary sand and beach creations for residents and visitors to the area to enjoy.

Dyke is the originator and driving artistic force behind Circles in the Sand and approaches each proj-



People prepare to embark on a journey through Denny Dyke's Circles in the Sand labyrinth at Driftwood Shores on Saturday, Oct. 17.

ect, or drawing, as a different canvas to be imagined and executed at the time of the event.

He does not prepare the design of his "labyrinths," as he refers to his work, before arriving and counts on his intuition and the conditions of the sand and ocean to determine the design for that day.

Each labyrinth is unique and will disappear with the incoming tide. In Florence, Dyke selected a beach near Driftwood Shores.

The process begins with Dyke selecting a starting point, which will become the "Dedication Circle," from which the elaborately flowing See SAND page 9A

## Lane County named to Oregon's coronavirus watch list

Meanwhile, neighboring Douglas County calls on residents to curtail the spread

On Oct. 16, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown placed Lane County on the state's COVID-19 watch list for the first time following a two-week increase in confirmed or suspected cases in the county.

Benton, Clatsop, Malheur and Umatilla counties are also currently on the list.

According to the Brown, presence on the watch list does not indicate that the county is being moved back to Phase I and is only a precautionary measure intended to help policymakers and COVID-19 response teams to prioritize resources and assistance to counties that are seeing the broadest spread of COVID-19.

The assistance offered to a particular county depends on the assessment of its needs, often including epidemiological assistance and staffing support.

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD & MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Brown stated that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is working with Lane County Public Health to address the county's increase in community spread, which she attributed in part to social gatherings.

"There is no question that the spread of COVID-19 in Lane County is connected — to a degree — to student social activities," said Brown, referring to cases which originated from students attending the University of Oregon in Eugene. "Social gatherings, like off-campus parties, are incredibly dangerous and spread this disease. Let me be clear, though: it will take the entire county working together to bring these COVID-19 numbers under control. Once COVID-19 is spreading in the community, small family get-togethers can also lead to dozens of infections."

See COVID page 6A

## 'If we ever needed this, we need it now'

### Soroptimists plan ahead for the annual Christmas Food Basket Giveaway

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Soroptimist International of Florence members are a small but mighty group. At just 12 active members, they are wrapping up their annual rose sale this Friday and looking ahead to the winter months.

The group's largest event is the free Christmas Food Basket Giveaway, which will be held Saturday, Dec. 19, at Siuslaw Middle School, 2525 Oak St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

However, just like every other event in 2020, this year is going to look a little different.

"First of all, we're only going to do food there," said event coordinator Carol Bennett. "We are not doing any toys."

The event is normally accompanied by a toy giveaway, usually held at the Florence Church of the Nazarene.

"It's impossible to do toys under COVID," Bennett said, citing both the number of Soroptimists and the

current guidelines surrounding donations and sanitizing options.

She added that she knew of other groups in town who are still working on the toy side, but further details aren't yet available.

It also clears up the Soroptimists' schedules to focus on providing Christmas dinners to hundreds of families this December.

"We normally prepare for 400 to 425 households," Bennett said. "We're going to plan on buying food for 500 families this year."

Coupled with an increase in food costs, she estimated that the Soroptimists will need to spend an additional \$10,000 over previous years.

"I've talked to a lot of people about this, and they've all said, 'If we ever needed this, we need it now,'" Bennett said.

The Soroptimists are working on a letter of solicitation that will go out to people who have supported the Basket Giveaway in the past.

"We get a lot of support," Bennett said. "This is a generous community." See BASKETS page 6A

## Florence Council delays 35th and Rhododendron PUD decision

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence City Council Regular Session was brought to order remotely on Oct. 19 by Mayor Joe Henry at 5:30 p.m., joining councilors Joshua Greene, Ron Priesler and Woody Woodbury, who attended via teleconference.

One vacancy remains on the council and will be filled by the newly elected council in January.

Monday's meeting primarily focused on issues related to the Rhododendron Drive Planned Unit Development (PUD) but began with the Pledge of Allegiance and the issuance of a Proclamation recognizing October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

The Rhododendron PUD application process, and the decisions of the Planning Committee which reviewed the application, were re-capped by Senior Planner Roxanne

Johnston, with Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell providing additional details and observations to councilors.

The properties under discussion are located on 9.28 acres at the northeast corner of the intersection of Rhododendron Drive and 35th Street. The proposal includes plans to construct 31 detached single-family residences, 49 single-family attached residences and 46 multi-family units. Amenities

to support this PUD include a pavilion, picnic areas, seating, a children's play area, walking trails, dog park and pocket garden.

Access to the development is proposed via a private internal drive with two entrances from Rhododendron Drive alleyways providing rear access to single-family attached unit garages and lanes providing access to single-family detached units.

See DEVELOPMENT page 8A

Siuslaw News  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
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FLORENCE, OREGON

### WEATHER



Partly sunny with a high of 58 and a low tonight of 41.  
Full forecast on A3

### COMMUNITY



Knights of Columbus hands out boxes  
INSIDE — A3

### LIFESTYLE



Women's March makes statement  
INSIDE — B

### 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  
Inside — B6

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