



2020 SIUSLAW NEWS PHOTOS



LAST YEAR from page 6A

- City of Florence committees work on city workplan
- Veterans Memorial Park complete final section of wall plaques honoring veterans
- ReVision Florence Gateway Monuments installed on Maple Street and Highway 101

OCTOBER

Lane County's COVID-19 cases continue to rise

Lane County led the state in confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 53 of the 305 new cases in Oregon. The County reported another 90 on Thursday and Friday, lead-

ing to a total of 1,723 cases. Lane County Public Health monitored 617 people who were in contact with people contagious with COVID-19 — “an all-time record.”

No tricks or treats

Halloween was scaled back this year, but people were still able to trick or treat. Neighborhoods created their own plans and upped the ante on decorations. In addition, Coast Radio's Great Pumpkin Giveaway was a drive-in event.

Limited in-person option supports virtual learning at Boys and Girls Club

Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Lane County's

learning hub allows local students to get out of the house and utilize the resources available at the club to learn.

Lane County named to state's coronavirus watch list

Gov. Brown placed Lane County on the state's COVID-19 watch list following a two-week increase in confirmed cases in the county. This was intended to help prioritize resources and assistance to counties that are seeing the broadest spread of COVID-19.

Governor extends 19 State of Emergency

Gov. Brown extended her declaration of a COVID-19 state of emergency for an additional 60 days, until Jan. 2, 2021.

“The second wave of COVID-19 has arrived in the U.S., and this time it is hitting all of our communities,” Brown said.

Notable Mentions:

- ‘Circles in the Sand’ returns to Florence
- Siuslaw Outreach Services honors Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a march
- Siuslaw News continues its investigation into the impacts of partisanship on local government
- Port of Siuslaw appoints Rob Ward to Commissioner Position 2 after a three-month vacancy
- Mapleton resident Elias Newton Pendergrass, 44, pleads guilty to Sweet Creek Fire
- Lane County adds deputy sheriffs to enhance rural patrols

NOVEMBER

Latest state metrics offer students way forward

Changes to Oregon's school reopening metrics will allow more students to return to classroom instruction while maintaining health and safety measures. These come as a result of the latest CDC guidance along

with lessons learned from school districts in order to determine the best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in public schools.

November General Election

Florence voters chose Joe Henry for another term as mayor, with the incumbent defeating Jo Beaudreau by a narrow margin. When the new city council is sworn in this January, Henry will be joined by new councilors Sally Wantz and Bill Meyer.

In Dunes City, Robert Forsythe will continue as mayor. Tom Mallen, Rory Hammond and Robert Orr will each return as city councilors.

In the district races, former teacher and Mapleton School District Superintendent Boomer Wright became the District 9 state representative and Dick Anderson became District 5 state senator.

Florence Kiwanis prepares Thanksgiving take-away meals

The Kiwanis Club of Florence's Community Thanksgiving Dinner took place on Thanksgiving Day. To accommodate the health and safety of participants, volunteers prepared to-go meals which were distributed via a drive-through at Florence Elks Lodge #1858.

Governor calls 'pause' due to spike in COVID-19

Gov. Brown announced a two-week freeze on social activities in Oregon as part of a renewed push to slow record-breaking coronavirus spread. The directive prohibited indoor visits at long-term care facilities; encouraged working from home; set capacity limits at restaurants; limited capacity at gyms; and limited gatherings.

Lane to be among 21 'extreme risk' counties after freeze ends

The governor's office released a new chart identifying 21 counties currently

identified as “extreme risk,” with Lane County joining Portland metro counties due to a continued spike in coronavirus spread.

Notable Mentions:

- The 20th annual Pounding for Florence Food Share raises 18,796 pounds of food and an additional \$12,623, as well as a corporate match of \$20,000 from Top Hydraulics
- Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter gains use of 20 Pallet-brand shelters from Lane County for use at a temporary shelter site
- Florence Police Department began the use of body cams by all on-duty, uniformed officers
- City of Florence committees present info for workplan
- Florence community celebrates 50th anniversary of the Exploding Whale
- Both Mapleton and Siuslaw school districts begin offering limited in-person instruction

DECEMBER

City spreads holiday cheer

Florence worked on three main components to bring the holidays into Old Town, city facilities, businesses and homes. These activities were for people to do while socially distancing, including the traditional holiday decorations and lights put up by Florence Public Works staff, the Holiday LED Light Contest and the North Pole Express Mail Drop Box for Letters to Santa. The events were cosponsored by Florence Habitat for Humanity.

Florence City Councilors end term

Florence City Council met for the last time in 2020 as the terms of councilors Ron Preisler and Joshua Greene expired. Both will officially leave their positions in January and will be replaced by Sally Wantz and Bill Meyer. A fifth council seat will be filled by appointment in 2021.

OSAA announces sports calendar for 2020-21

OSAA revised its calendar, moving the start of school activities to late February. The new plan encompasses three seasons, each of which will last six weeks and include a culminating week. Fall sports are scheduled to begin in February (without football) with multiple activities permitted by state guidance.

Florence Elks serve up drive-through Christmas Dinner

Florence Elks Lodge #1858 offered a free Christmas Day Community Appreciation Dinner on Dec. 25. The Florence Elks prepared food for 800 people. Special guest Santa Claus handed out candy canes and every child received a stuffed animal.

Oregon receives COVID-19 vaccines

Gov. Brown announced the arrival of the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines to the state, including vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. The state received more than 124,750 doses of Pfizer in December, with priority going to healthcare workers.

Notable Mentions:

- Lane remains among 21 'extreme risk' counties after two-week freeze ends
- Hundreds of people sign petition from Waterfront Depot owner to the governor
- FEC Director Kevin Rhodes retires after serving since 1996
- Governor Brown proposes 2021-23 budget, calling for increased federal assistance
- Peace Harbor gives its first COVID-19 caregiver vaccinations on Dec. 24
- Mapleton Water District lifts water boil notice
- Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter uses the Pallet-brand shelters for the first time

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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH SIUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Bryan Melihoff attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

Contact Bob for more information:
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