

OSHA from 1A

measures, adding that such behavior “puts employees at risk and enables the employer to achieve a competitive advantage over businesses that choose to comply with workplace health and safety standards.”

The following day, citations for three violations were issued to The Firehouse Restaurant in Historic Old Town. As with the Brown Hen, fines were similarly high, due in part to the unwillingness of business owners and management to acknowledge the legal restrictions in place. Adding to the violation was the restaurant’s decision to continue its disregard of the state-mandated restrictions.

Wood, who issued both citations in Florence, was adamant that the safety of the employees was his department’s paramount concern.

“Most employers are choosing to do the right thing, even as they face very real economic hardships,” Wood said. “As for those relative few employers who are working against our shared project to defeat this disease, we will continue our enforcement work in the interest of accountability.”

Another factor that added to such high citations was what OSHA cited as the potential for violence during its late December and early Jan-

uary visits. It was a concern that Wood said proved valid as inspectors were met at the door by armed individuals during their Jan. 4 inspection of the Brown Hen.

“Because of safety concerns, two compliance officers were assigned to open the inspection. When they arrived at the restaurant, they were met by several people standing outside the entrance of the business — one of whom carried a firearm,” Corvin said. “The compliance offi-

cers identified themselves and asked to speak with the business owner. They were threatened and told to leave. The officers politely left. As the officers walked to their cars, the people outside the entrance followed them and shouted at the officers as they left the parking lot.”

Corvin added that, because of the potential for an escalation of conflict, the inspection of the Firehouse was handled with extra caution.

“Oregon OSHA decided to conduct the inspection [of The Firehouse] by phone after researching social media and web content of certain groups, such as People’s

Rights, and determining there was a potential for armed people to block the entrance,” said Corvin. “Our research showed there was encouragement of people to be violent toward any compliance officer who visited the site. If the potential for armed people to confront our compliance officers and the potential for violence cannot be considered extreme, then I’m not sure what can.”

One example involved a social media post made Jan. 4

said she originally closed the business to the public, but later decided to re-open it even though she was aware the decision went against measures to prevent the spread of the disease in an “extreme-risk” county.

Despite repeated attempts by Siuslaw News for comment regarding the citations, or the circumstances of the interactions between business owners and OSHA, neither restaurant responded to inquiries.

- The restaurant failed to develop and implement an infection control plan. Such a plan could include redesigning the workspace to enable physical distancing and reducing the use of shared surfaces and tools. It was a serious violation, carrying a proposed penalty of \$175.

- The restaurant did not conduct any COVID-19 risk assessment to identify potential employee exposure to the virus and to address how to reduce such exposure. It was a serious violation, carrying a penalty of \$175.

Despite yesterday’s change in risk level for Lane County, Oregon OSHA inspection violations remain in effect; the change in risk levels may affect how the violation needs to be corrected, but not whether the fines related to the original citations will be adjusted.

Both restaurants have 30 days to appeal.

“We have not yet received a response from the employer(s) and would not have expected to receive one prior to an appeal, a verification that the violations have been corrected, or both,” Corvin said. “During the inspection, the employer acknowledged the public health rules and indicated the business would remain open despite those rules. If an appeal is filed — and depending on its outcome — a fine can be reduced. But it can also be upheld.”

“If the potential for armed people to confront our compliance officers and the potential for violence cannot be considered extreme, then I’m not sure what can.”
 — OSHA Public Information Officer Aaron Corvin

SIUSLAW
 Glass & Mirror
 Glass for Every Purpose
 1780 Kingwood St. / P.O. Box 144
 Florence, OR 97439
 ccb#55030
 541-997-8526 Fax 541-997-9132

JERRY'S PLACE
 Bar & Grill
 VOTE US BEST OF FLORENCE
VOTE FOR US BEST OF 2020
 541-997-3815
 88274 Rhododendron Dr.
 “Keep Calm and Jerry On”

Get Results...List With Amy.

Amy Johnson
 Broker, CSA
 541 999-7875

TR HUNTER
 REAL ESTATE
 541-997-1200

New Listing
 1752 Tamarack St – Adorable 2 bed, 1 bath with 798 sq ft. Fully remodeled with features like a farmhouse sink, granite counters, cherry cabinets, tile and beautiful real wood floors. Master bdrm features new custom sliding barn doors on the closet. \$319,000. #3178-21627440

1749 Highway 101 • 541-997-1200

NOTICE

We're buying used cars, trucks and SUV's. Any make or model, paid for or not.

Please call today for quote. All quotes by appointment only.

Johnston Motor Company
 Since 1939

 2150 Hwy. 101 • Florence
 (541) 997-3475 • 1-800-348-3475

To our valued readers: Help small businesses affected by coronavirus right now, including ours.

Businesses of all sizes have been hit hard in this challenging new age of social distancing and self-isolation, but the blow has been catastrophic for small operations that rely on in-person transactions. There are many ways to help this holiday season, like purchasing gift certificates or memberships, and yet there are many service-type businesses that don't have that option.

As we look to a new year, we're celebrating what connects us as a community, and what we can do to support our local businesses!

THAT'S WHY WE CREATED THE SUPPORT LOCAL TOGETHER CAMPAIGN. The Support Local Together campaign will help local businesses who have to choose between promoting their business and paying the electric bill. It will also help support the *Siuslaw News*, who has seen a strong decrease in advertising revenue, but an increase in readership.

IT DOES TWO THINGS.

- 1. Funds advertising dollars for local businesses**
 Your financial support will go directly to fund advertising that our local businesses need to stay top of mind.
- 2. Supports local journalism**
 By becoming a supporting member, you are helping to replace some of the advertising revenue the *Siuslaw News* has lost over the past ten months, due to the pandemic.

HERE IS HOW TO SUPPORT:

- Call 541-902-3524
- Make a donation of your choosing.
- Choose a specific local business that you would like the advertising credit to go to, or leave that blank and we will designate it to a business we know needs help.

Our community is small but generous and we recognize there are many great organizations, like ours, that could use your help.

We believe the vast majority of our readers have always shared our view of the value and necessity of a strong local media and are willing to provide support equal to two or three cups of coffee a month to secure its future.

Thank you in advance for doing your share to secure a strong local economy in the community we are proud to serve.

Jenna Bartlett
 Publisher
 jbartlett@thesiuslawnews.com
 541-902-3524

SIUSLAW NEWS
UNITY WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Yes, I would like to become a 2020/21 Support Local Together Sponsor
Call 541-902-3524
 Mail sponsorship form to: **Siuslaw News Supporter**
 PO Box 10 Florence Oregon 97439

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other Amount _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check **Credit Card**

Name on Card: _____ Expiration date: _____

Number: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ 3 Digit Security Code: _____

Do you have a specific business you would like to sponsor:
 List here: _____

We will send a gift card to the business(es) of your choice with your name. If would like to remain anonymous please check here.
**This sponsorship is not tax deductible.*

