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

WEATHER



Partly sunny
with a high of 59
and a low of 41.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Beach event works
to 'SOLVE' litter
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Vikings' soccer home
season ends
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries &
emergency
response logs
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SIDE SHOW

Activities and
comics every
Saturday
Inside — B4

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Listings and public
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Improving EMS response times at Siuslaw Valley

Fire department adds certified paramedic to Advanced Life Support team

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) has added a significant new level of service for district residents with the addition of medical equipment, and a certified paramedic, to the firefighters assigned to an Advanced Life Support Engine housed at Station 1, 2625 Highway 101.

Fire and EMS Chief Michael Schick announced the change, not-

ing that the certification of firefighter Colten Griswold as a paramedic will add a layer of medical expertise to SVFR first response teams.

The assignment and training of Griswold also furthers the integration of the Western Lane Ambulance District and SVFR, which began more than two years ago and continues under the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority (WLFEA).

The cross training of personnel from both organizations is a main

part of the ongoing merging of services provided by the two emergency response agencies.

Paramedics provide Advanced Life Support and, traditionally, this role has been provided by WLAD personnel. Now, SVFR's paramedic can initiate care and then prepare to turn over patient care to WLAD personnel.

"We hope that this will improve our EMS response times, which are already excellent and far better than

required for our ambulance district. That is why you may now see a fire engine responding to a medical call," said Schick. "With ambulance and fire crews spread out across the city, we can have a firefighter or paramedic at your door more quickly than ever before. Until recently, the firefighters were only trained to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level, which made them Basic Life Support medical providers."

See FIRE/EMS page 5A

CEDC finalizes workplan for submission to City Council

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

On March 18, the City of Florence Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) met with a brief agenda for the evening. There were only two action items considered and both had to do with the structure and work product of the committee.

The first was a review of the committee's workplan, which will be submitted to the Florence City Council at its April 15 meeting. The second was the appointment of ex-officio representatives from CEDC to other committees, which was tabled for further discussion at a later meeting.

In a memorandum forwarded to the city council, the CEDC offered its suggestions and goals to councilors.

"The CEDC understands the large scope of work that they have been tasked with by the city council and has many different ideas on how to focus on the committee's strengths and interests," the workplan stated.

The committee has identified several projects for inclusion in the upcoming City of Florence Workplan. The CEDC's proposed projects have been broken into four subsections including economic development, housing, community development and parks.

In economic development, the CEDC proposes working with Connected Lane County to recruit and manage businesses to participate in virtual business tours, informational interviews and career discovery programs. Committee members also wanted to work on a Business Retention & Expansion Program, including business outreach and action planning with Rural Development Initiatives.

See COMMITTEE page 5A

SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Officials urge caution as area's COVID-19 cases spike

By CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

On March 23, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued a statement commemorating one year after she signed Oregon's "Stay Home, Save Lives" executive order.

"One year ago, Oregonians stayed home and worked together to protect our loved ones from a disease we were just beginning to understand. Thanks to your smart choices over the last year, Oregon continues to have some of the lowest numbers for COVID-19 cases and deaths in the nation," she said.

The governor also released a new vaccination timeline, which could see more people eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine by April 5.

"Each day, we are steadily gaining ground, but we must continue to wear masks, maintain physical distance, and get vaccinated," Brown said.

See CASES page 6A

Planning Commission approves accessibility request for Harbor Vista Campground

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Planning Commission met March 23 for a regularly scheduled session with a short agenda of action items to consider.

To begin, Chairperson Phil Tarvin called the group to order, with all commissioners in virtual attendance, and turned the meeting over to Florence Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell for a review of the particulars of the first action item, PC 01 CUP 01.

The agenda item was a request for approval of a conditional use permit application submitted by Michelle Hunt on behalf of Lane County. The request was for authorization to construct three 16-by-12-foot cabins with attached 6-by-16-foot decks, one 4-foot concrete ramp to

allow for ADA accessibility, paved pathways and installation of five additional parking spaces at the Harbor Vista Campground off Rhododendron Drive.

The application for this construction was assessed by staff and a recommendation for approval. FarleyCampbell did have some conditions for the Planning Commission to consider in reviewing the specifics of the project and timeline.

Primarily these conditions had to do with parking spots, which would need to be repainted and presented in a way that meets applicable city code. There was also the need for the applicant to ensure the property met all ADA standards.

The discussion of the topic included the opportunity for public comments. One speaker, Michael Allen, shared his concerns that there

would be a loss of native vegetation in the construction and development process. He asked the commission to require the applicant to replace all vegetation removed during construction.

The commissioners had few questions regarding the application and the applicant's representative, with Hunt accepting the conditions suggested by staff.

There were no commissioners opposed to the final requirements attached to the request and the action was approved unanimously.

The second item tackled by commissioners was PC 21 02 VAC 01, which was a petition by Simone Calfee to vacate a 15-by-135.42 feet of public pedestrian walkway/right-of-way owned by the City of Florence, located

See PLANNING page 5A

During this turbulent and uncertain time, we are humbled by the compassion and generosity of our community. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, the steadfast support from you, our neighbors has lifted our spirits and buoyed our strength so we could keep going.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,
Kurt, Mercedes and Mike

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