



RESTOBAR
PIZZA PASTA SEAFOOD

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

Where good friends & great food come together!

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

WEATHER



Cloudy with a high of 57 and a low of 43.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Child Abuse Prevention Month
INSIDE — A3

LIFESTYLE



Winning week for Siuslaw Sports
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

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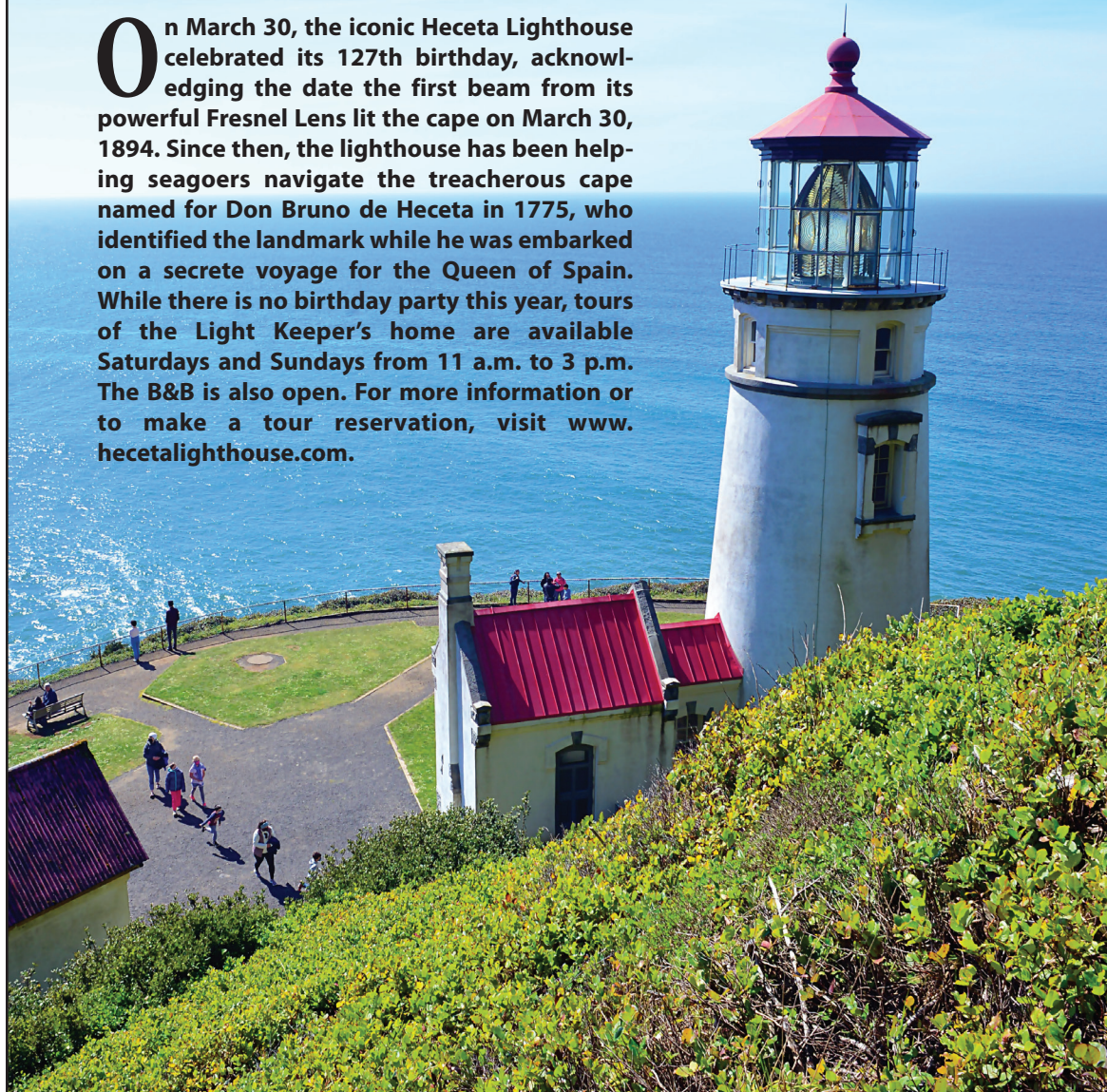
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Shining for 127 years

On March 30, the iconic Heceta Lighthouse celebrated its 127th birthday, acknowledging the date the first beam from its powerful Fresnel Lens lit the cape on March 30, 1894. Since then, the lighthouse has been helping seagoers navigate the treacherous cape named for Don Bruno de Heceta in 1775, who identified the landmark while he was embarked on a secrete voyage for the Queen of Spain. While there is no birthday party this year, tours of the Light Keeper's home are available Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The B&B is also open. For more information or to make a tour reservation, visit www.hecetalighthouse.com.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

EMAC meeting cancelled after failing to reach quorum

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The City of Florence has for years worked to establish overall service levels and additional lifestyle amenities which are then detailed in an official workplan for the city. The city workplan is a template used to formalize the goals, expectations and aspirations of area residents as it relates to municipal services, expenditures and staffing.

The City Council, elected to represent the voters in those efforts, is heavily involved in the creation and implementation of the workplan. City staff then utilize the plan for direction in their department's responsibilities and performance expectations.

See EMAC page 5A

Governor expands COVID-19 vaccine eligibility

SALEM—In a Friday press briefing with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Gov. Kate Brown announced Oregon is expanding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to include not only Group 7, frontline workers, but all family members of frontline workers. She also announced that Oregon is expanding its criteria of underlying health conditions to match the CDC's extended list.

"As we move into the days and weeks ahead, we will continue to deploy a vaccine strategy that is centered on prioritizing our most vulnerable, and ensuring access to the vaccine for everyone. To do this, we need to move in a manner that is both fast and fair," said Brown.

See VACCINE page 7A

FEMA housing arrives in Gardiner

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The 2020 Oregon wildfire season was one of the most destructive and disruptive on record. Fifteen counties in Oregon had wildfires which destroyed more than 1,000 homes or sustained loss of life. Lane County, along with Linn County, was the site of the Holiday Fire which destroyed 173,393 acres and 768 structures.

Overall, there were 11 deaths attributed to last year's wild-



MARK BRENNAN LAST/SIUSLAW NEWS

Over the past weeks, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has brought portable housing units to the former International Paper site in Gardiner to house families displaced by the 2020 wildfires.

fires, which burned more than stroyed thousands of homes. a million acres of land and de-

See FEMA page 7A

Siuslaw School District responds to death of student

District Care Team shows 'we're here, we're available and we're ready to help'

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

This week, *Siuslaw News* was notified about a student's death by suicide at Siuslaw School District. Further details regarding the death and student's identity are not being made public at this time.

On Thursday, 10 members of the school district's Care Team gathered to talk about the schools' response to tragedy and what resources are available.

"There are a bunch of things that we set up and look out for with students with the immediate and long-term ripple effects from something like this," said Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak. "We know our roles, we know them very well, and we all do what we

need to do."

The district has processes in place in its crisis handbook to address the death of a student or faculty member, as well as other communi-

It's really important to note, especially going through this year of COVID, there are a lot of people hurting out there. It's important — for students, parents or anyone with concerns — to bring them to someone that can act on it. The more we talk about those things, we don't let them go unnoticed or unidentified. It is critical that we're talking to them that we're helping to support people in our community across the board.

— Siuslaw High School Principal Garth Gerot

ty tragedies. It also has many steps before an incident occurs to address mental health and other factors. The Care Team addressed both of those this week.

"Each person plays a unique role

in the process," Grzeskowiak said. "And since we are so small, the preparations are district wide."

Once an incident occurs, Grzeskowiak is the point person for all

members.

"It's a carefully worded email to all staff to let them know what is officially known and stay away from the speculation. We then call their attention to it over the PA system," Harklerode said. "The primary reason for that, especially in distance learning, is we didn't want kids coming on to the computer who had information informing classmates and informing teachers; we wanted them to be ready to steer a conversation should it need to happen."

The administrators then begin to consider who might be affected by the tragic incident. "We look through and see how this impacts not just the building, but across all grade levels," Grzeskowiak said.

According to Siuslaw Elementary Principal Mike Harklerode, Grzeskowiak sends an alert to all staff

See RESPONSE page 6A

SIUSLAW PUBLIC LIBRARY

BROWSING IS BACK!

STARTING THURSDAY, APRIL 1

- No appointment needed.
- Patrons of all ages welcome.
- Masks required.

Florence: Monday-Thursday 11 AM - 2 PM
Friday 11 AM - 6 PM
Mapleton: Thursdays 12-5 PM.
Walk-ins with limited capacity; no public computers.

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