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Siuslaw News will join other businesses in honoring Memorial Day on Monday, May 31, by closing its offices at 148 Maple St. The classified deadline for the Wednesday, June 2, edition is Friday, May 28, by 5 p.m.

Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 42
MAY 26, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly sunny with a high of 59 and a low of 48.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Council to discuss coastal fires
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Sailors place at state track meet
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RECORDS
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Activities for kids
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CLASSIFIEDS
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BOTTLE, CAN REDEMPTIONS TO INCREASE ON THE CENTRAL OREGON COAST



(From left) Fred Meyer Store Manager Angela Nelson and State Rep. Boomer Wright cut a ribbon to open Florence's first bulk bottle and can redemption center. Also in attendance were representatives from Florence VFW Post 3232, Camp Baker Boy Scouts and Oregon Coast Humane Society.

BottleDrop, Fred Meyer open Green Bag location in Florence

Oregon BottleDrop and Fred Meyer announce the grand opening of the first bulk bottle and can redemption location in Florence, which opened Friday.

This BottleDrop network drop location at the Florence Fred Meyer, 4701 Highway 101, will allow area residents to participate in the Green Bag program and will open up new fundraising opportunities for local non-

profits through the Blue Bag program.

The BottleDrop network drop location will make it fast and easy for Central Coast residents to return, redeem and recycle redeemable beverage containers in special 20-gallon BottleDrop Green Bags, which can be purchased at the Florence Fred Meyer store.

"At Fred Meyer, we are excited to be able to offer new options for

our customers and also help contribute to the reduction of waste in our community, which aligns with our Zero Hunger/Zero Waste social impact plan. This new facility will make redeeming beverage containers faster and easier for our Florence area customers," said Jeffery Temple, Director of Corporate Affairs for Fred Meyer.

See BOTTLES page 5A

Mapleton considers budget at school board meeting

Mapleton School District met for a combined Budget Committee and Board of Directors meeting on May 19. The board also met in executive session at the close of the regular meeting.

In Mapleton, the Budget Committee is composed of the elected school board and an equal number of appointed citizens. After approving the agenda for the night, the Budget Commit-

tee elected Connie Walton as the committee chair. She then led the next portion of the meeting. This included the presentation of the proposed 2021-22 FY budget for the Mapleton School District.

In Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara's Budget Message, she gave information on the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, State School Fund, Student Success Act, enrollment and plans for the future.

"Our budget recommendation represents a deficit budget for the first year of this biennium with the understanding we could face cuts during the following school year if enrollment does not recover," O'Mara stated.

COVID-19 and the shutdown of in-person instruction at Mapleton School District "has had a negative impact on our enrollment," O'Mara continued. "It is our hope that in the fall of 2021, schools will reopen to full onsite instruction"

See MAPLETON page 7A

Oregon lifts some restrictions on masks, distancing for vaccinated

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

On May 18, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released updated guidance about mask and physical distancing requirements for individuals fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This update comes after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announcement that individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 could stop wearing masks and physical distancing in most public spaces.

According to OHA, people in Oregon who are fully vaccinated will no longer be required to wear a mask indoors in most public settings where vaccination status is checked. In public settings where vaccination status is not checked, masks will still be required. Businesses and venue operators remain free to establish their own, more restrictive policies regarding mask usage.

"Recent news about the change in mask requirements for those who are vaccinated has left consumers, employees and businesses equally confused," announced the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce in a newsletter sent last week. "OHA business guidelines are now available, however, it adds additional responsibilities on businesses to check vaccine cards if they want to allow customers to go mask-free. We are looking at sending out the PSA that we used last year, which encourages patience, thoughtfulness and showing respect."

The new guidance applies to people who are fully vaccinated. OHA's COVID-19 Dashboard shows that vaccinations are continuing to increase across the state.

See UPDATE page 5A



(Above) The winning team "The I Don't Cares," consisting of Justin Mans, AJ Davidson, Jake Wells and Jeff Noonan, took home the trophy (left) for Siuslaw Outreach Services' 11th annual Siuslaw Open, held at Florence Golf Links on May 22. See SIUSLAW OPEN page 6A



COURTESY PHOTOS

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