

On The Record

FOLLOW-UP TO ILLEGAL DUMPING INTO SEWER SYSTEM

Follow-up to illegal dumping into sewer system

During the last week in May, the Florence Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) experienced an upset when an unknown chemical was introduced into the waste stream. Through a lot of hard work by wastewater treatment staff, along with outreach to other communities, the City of Florence Public Works Department determined that the unknown chemical created false positive results in its enterococcus bacteria tests.

This was also confirmed by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Technicians from DEQ processed a split sample from the treated sewer effluent. A split sample is one in which the same water sample is divided into two samples and DEQ conducts water quality testing on one of the samples in their laboratory and the other sample is analyzed at the Florence WWTP laboratory. The test results conducted by DEQ and the Florence WWTP lab were the same, with the same observations. The contaminate that entered the wastewater treatment plant was indeed interfering with the enterococcus bacteria tests, which produced false positives.

Outside of the enterococcus bacteria false positives, the wastewater treatment plant did meet all of its permit requirements for discharges to the Siuslaw River.

Additionally, all of the river samples (upstream from the WWTP, downstream of the WWTP, and in the area of our discharge point into the river) were representative of background bacteria levels of the river. At no time was the community at risk from enterococcus bacteria exposure.

It was out of an abundance of caution that the City of Florence posted signage at location upstream and downstream of the WWTP to advise community members of a possible contamination issue.

Once we were able to confirm that the sample results were actually false positives, City staff removed the signs. This took place Thursday afternoon, May 27.

Public Works Director Mike Miller stated, "We have taken this incident and will be implementing new actions to ensure a quicker response to these types of episodes and improve lab methodologies. Our Standard Operating Procedures for enterococcus bacteria testing will be

modified to include using dilutions, which will aid in dealing with any possible interferences causing false positives. In addition, we will have sample bottles on hand at the wastewater treatment plant for collecting volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile compounds (SVOCs) in order to help determine the contaminate that may enter the wastewater stream in the future."

Miller continued "I am proud of our wastewater treatment plant operators and their diligent and professional work in maintaining a healthy treatment process to the community's wastewater system. Again, we believe that the chemical agent that created issue with our testing was an accidental release, however we encourage any community member that has witnessed someone dumping chemicals, paints, her-

bicides or pesticides down the sewer to call Florence

Public Works at 541-997-4106 or Florence Police Department at 541-997-3515."

BIRTH

CHAMBERS—Timber Elijah Chambers, a boy weighing 7 lbs. 14.8 oz. and measuring 21.25 inches, was born May 7, 2021, to Brooklyn L. Morris and Jordan B. Chambers at Peace Harbor Medical Center.

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- **Hanging Banner Contest – 4th of July Decision – Bettina Hannigan**
- **Construction Updates – Mike Miller – Public Works Director**

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Florence City Council to hold meeting June 7

On Monday June 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. the Florence City Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting via videoconference. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, citizens will not be able to attend City meetings in person. Interested citizens may listen and view the meeting through the 'GoToWebinar' platform. For access to a link to the meeting, visit the City of Florence website at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/city-council-meeting-202>. Meetings are also shown live on Ca-

ble Channel 191 and online at www.ci.florence.or.us/citymanager/public-meetings-live. Those without access to the internet or Charter Cable may listen to the meeting live via phone conference line. To do so, contact City Recorder Kelli Weese at 541-997-3437.

The Florence City Council meeting agenda and meeting materials are published now. People subscribe to the City Council meeting email distribution list at www.ci.florence.or.us/newsletter/subscriptions.

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
May 25	56	48	0.55
May 26	59	44	0.00
May 27	57	48	0.30
May 28	61	48	0.00
May 29	64	39	0.00
May 30	63	45	0.00
May 31	70	44	0.00

Rainfall Week: 0.85"
Month: 2.46" Year: 30.33"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham

Siuslaw News Garage Sale Guide

Greentrees Village Community Wide Yard Sale
Fri.-Sat. 6/11-6/12
9am-3pm
1600/1601 Rhododendron Drive
Gates Open to Public

Large Inside & Outside Sale
Fri.-Sun. 6/4-6/6
9am-3pm

4843 Darlings Loop
Toys, Tools for Boating, Hauling, Logging, Welding & Woodworking, Clothes, Knickknacks, New twin mattress/box spring, plants, flowers & lots of new and used. No Early Birds Please!

FEATURED PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



4621 JOSHUA LANE
THIS BEACH COTTAGE IS PERFECT! Priced to sell! Short walk to beach, wind protected and tucked off the street for privacy, this cute "tiny home design" cottage has been fully remodeled with explosions of beach colors, on demand hot water, new septic system being installed, fully furnished, pellet stove, quartz countertops and wrap around deck that is perfect for entertaining. The ocean, singing birds and evening frogs truly make this cottage a magical little sanctuary. **\$297,000 #12178 MLS#21472496**

"We're next to the Bridge"
100 Hwy. 101
See all Florence Listings at cbcoast.com

COLDWELL BANKER COAST REAL ESTATE
541-997-7777

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

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.**



SIUSLAW NEWS
UNITY WITH OUR COMMUNITY