



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

**Youth from Camp Florence got to test heavy equipment as they practiced at the City of Florence's Quince Street site last week. Instructors were able to offer advice as they monitored the youth at work.**

**TRAINING from page 1A**

using state-of-the-art CAT simulators. Upon successful completion of the simulation tests, the students moved to the field instructors for actual hands-on machine operation. For another week they practiced their skills in pre operation inspections, counterweight and positioning, trenching, loading, grading and more.”

The need for construction equipment operators has seen an increase in recent years. Locally, it has

been seen as an obstacle for those wishing to build housing in the area.

Funding for the instruction of Camp Florence residents has been split among a number of different entities, all involved in educating Oregon's youth.

“A huge thank you to the City of Florence, for allowing the use of the land, to BTI for their professional instruction, to Oregon Youth Authority and Oregon Department of Education for their vision and support,” English stated. “And especially to

Multnomah Educational Service District for the financial support. It is funded through a grant made possible by the CTE Revitalization Grant from ODE through grant funding.”

Dawson Vanderwiele, Dave Frazey, Tres Tucker and Heath Paxton are instructors for the training sessions, and all have worked closely with the Camp Florence Youth.

During the training, the instructors monitored the youth and communicated about a number of different pieces of equipment.

They all believe the skills learned will be a benefit not only to those they teach but the larger community as well.

“The young men gained valuable skills and certifications that will last a lifetime,” Tucker said. “This will provide real living-wage career opportunities and will help with construction in housing and commercial buildings, which will benefit everyone.”

For more information on Camp Florence, go to Oregon.gov.

# Chamber, city initiate banner program

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the City of Florence, Central Lincoln PUD and Three Rivers Casino Resort, is preparing to hang festive, colorful banners on power poles along the Highway 101 corridor and at the casino.

But first, they need some design ideas. The person submitting the winning design suite could win \$1000.

“The chamber is pleased to launch this program to catch drivers’ attention at the casino and through our Highway 101 corridor, get them to slow down a little, and help direct visitors to stop, shop, eat, play, and stay here in Oregon’s Coastal Playground,” explained Chamber President/CEO Bettina Hannigan. “Four million cars pass through Florence on Highway 101 every year. We want to capture some of

those visitor dollars for our economy. When we do, everyone benefits.”

The chamber’s call-to-artists to submit design ideas closes June 14. To learn more and submit designs, entrants are directed to FlorenceChamber.com/FlorenceBannerArtistCall.

“This will be in harmony with our installation of those 120 magnificent flower baskets that adorn Old Town and Highway 101 from the bridge to Highway 126; but the banner project goes farther, all the way up to Fred Meyer,” Hannigan said. “It’s also part of the new streetscape improvements on Highway 101, and a way to bring a little joy, celebrate optimism and good will and mark our cautious steps toward the restoration of tourism.”

Under normal circumstances, tourism employs

approximately 1,900 of the 4,600 people working in Florence and pumps about \$147 million into the Florence area economy. The average tourist spends about \$175 per day when they stay in town overnight.

“By hanging these banners along the new 101 streetscape, at the casino, and uptown, we will give all drivers and pedestrians a positive impression of our community, and that helps commerce in our area,” Hannigan added.

Jo Beaudreau, of Beaux-Arts Fine Art Materials & Gallery at 2285 Highway 101, is helping drive the initiative.

She said the program will include six primary themes and three sizes to hang in different locations. Banners will rotate seasonally and feature the themes “Shop, Eat, Stay, Play,” “Oregon’s Coastal Playground” and

“Florence,” to coincide with the Chamber’s other tourism marketing messages.

The program is possible through a partnership between community stakeholders — the chamber, the city, Central Lincoln, businesses, civic clubs and individuals — that will invest in this program.

Those interested in sponsoring banners can visit the Events tab at FlorenceChamber.com.

“This is also an exciting way to showcase local public art and design talent,” Beaudreau added. “We hope to receive the best designs from right here in Florence. We also want to show that art and the public display of art, even when functional in nature as these banners are, is worth compensating.”

For more information on the banner project, contact Hannigan at 541-997-3128.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**  
**BRODY TERRY JUNIOR**  
**BASKETBALL**

**HIGHLIGHT:**  
 The Sports Club, the Siuslaw News and Coast Radio Sports congratulate junior Siuslaw basketball player Brody Terry. Brody has been a consistent contributor to the Viking’s wins and on Saturday led the team with 22 points, knocking down 6 3-pointers in the win against Elmira.

**Honorable Mention: A.J. Moso-Mapleton Basketball**

Honorable Mention goes to senior Mapleton Basketball player A.J. Moso. A.J. led the Mapleton Sailors to a victory over Crow last week, scoring 21 points in the 62-9 rout.

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