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Siuslaw News

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Rotary Club of Florence, Oregon

INVITES YOU TO OUR VIRTUAL AUCTION 2021 To be held over (4) weekends starting on Thursday June 24th and running through Sunday July 18th

AUCTION #1 NOON THURS JUNE 24– 7 PM SUNDAY JUNE 27
AUCTION #2 NOON THURS JULY 1 - 7 PM SUNDAY JULY 4
AUCTION #3 NOON THURS JULY 8 - 7 PM SUNDAY JULY 11
AUCTION #4 NOON THURS JULY 15 - 7 PM SUNDAY JULY 18
SPECIAL WINE AUCTION SATURDAY JULY 17 ; 7AM – 7PM

For More Details and to Register for the Auction, Please go to Our Website www.theflorencerotary.org

Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 52
JUNE 30, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

'Oregon is 100 percent open for business'

Governor signs order to lift all remaining COVID-19 restrictions issued under emergency statutes

By Chantelle Meyer
Siuslaw News

On Friday, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed an executive order that lifts Oregon's risk level framework and all remaining COVID-19 health and safety restrictions that have been issued under Oregon's emergency statutes. This will be effective starting today, June 30.

"We will lift the safety protocols we have relied on and reopen our economy," Brown said. "That means no more statewide mask mandates in most settings, no required capacity limits and no required physical distancing. It means, effectively, Oregon is 100 percent open for business."

The governor signed the recovery-focused executive order as the state neared its a 70 percent first dose adult vaccination rate. More than 2.3 million Oregonians have been vaccinated, and Brown said she was proud of the effort.

"It is because of this success that we can move Oregon forward, and into the next chapter of this pandemic. We are ready," Brown said.

As of Monday, the number of adult Oregonians needing vaccinations to reach the 70 percent threshold was 19,147, Oregon Health Authority reported. The seven-day running average is 7,352 doses per day.

"We should all take pride in the work we have done to bring us to this moment. The efforts underway to close our vaccine equity gap and reach every Oregonian with information and a vaccine have definitely helped bring us this far. Thank you to all who are going the extra mile to vaccinate Oregonians," Brown said.

To help improve the vaccination rate, Oregon joined other states in creating an incentive campaign to encourage people to "Take Your Shot, Oregon." The campaign sought to promote COVID-19 vaccinations and ended on June 27.

Everyone who received at least one vaccination shot in Oregon was automatically entered, with the exception of some state government employees and their families.

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WEATHER

Sunny afternoon with a high of 66 and a low of 57.
Full forecast on A3

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WLAD, SVFR boards review phone poll

Four board members depart Western Lane Fire & EMS Authority

By Mark Brennan
Siuslaw News

Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority (WLFEA), the administrative branch of the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD), held a combined board of directors meeting on June 24.

The meeting began with all members of both boards in virtual attendance and a single public speaker on the agenda.

During the public comments portion of the meeting, area resident R.J. Pilcher questioned the ability of WLFEA board members to remain objective in their decisions, as they have close contact and are personally familiar with the employees that would be under their supervision.

As the agenda progressed, Administrative Manager Dina McClure gave a brief financial update before asking directors to authorize her to have access to account information for both organizations.

See **WLFEA** *page 7A*

City honors legacy of committee member

Story & Photos
By Mark Brennan
Siuslaw News

Members of the Florence City Council and city staff met at Miller Park on Saturday morning to honor and recognize the work done by longtime committee volunteer Michael Titmus.

This included (lower photo, from left) Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller, City Councilor Margaret Wisniewski, City Manager Erin Reynolds, community members Jeff Ashmead and Sherry Harvey, Mayor Joe Henry and City Councilor Sally Wantz. Titmus' mother Beverly and his brother Chris were also in attendance at the event.

Titmus, who passed away in April, served on the Florence Planning Commission for a number of years prior to his most recent role as vice chair of Florence's Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC).

As a prominent member of EMAC, Titmus was instrumental

See **TREE** *page 5A*

Mapleton schools put a cap on 2021, look forward to fall

Board of Directors approves budget, contracts & summer schedule

By Zeahna Young
Siuslaw News

On June 16, Mapleton School District Board of Directors met for its final board meeting of the 2020-21 school year.

The evening began with a minor change to the agenda before the directors proceeded with the meeting.

Soon after, Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara presented a slide show of Mapleton's end of the year activities, because, as she said, "pictures are worth 1,000 words."

The slideshow included the high school Senior Walk through the courtyard of Mapleton Elementary, Graduation on June 12 and the elementary school field day.

The two days of activities included a special appearance from Salty the Sailor, the school's mascot, who drove an ice cream truck with treats for the kids, volleyball, ultimate dodgeball, an obstacle course, a sponge race, a water balloon toss and a parachute.

"It was a good time had by all, with a lot of laughs and a lot of smiles," O'Mara said. "It was great way to end the school year, especially such a crazy school year. There were some tears as the kids left, but we're all really hoping for a normal school year next year."

After the slideshow, O'Mara gave an update on Transportation and Maintenance Director Randy Duval's behalf for summer projects. The list of work includes: asbestos abatement, new flooring installed, bathroom fixtures, custodial and IT closets, a new access road from the football field up to the track and more.

O'Mara also talked about important dates for the summer, including summer school and the release of guidelines from the Oregon Department of Education on next school year.

In addition, Mapleton will hold both the Kindergarten Kickoff and the August school board meeting on Aug. 18. Typically, the board does not hold a meeting in July.

At that point, Director Michelle Holman proposed that the board consider in-person school board meetings starting in August.

"I think it's probably advisable that we start preparing ourselves to enter the world again," she said.

The remainder of the board was open to the idea as well, and O'Mara explained that provided COVID protocols were still in place and the meeting was still broadcast via the live stream, that was a possibility.

Other important dates include registration for all students, pre-K-12, on site from Aug. 23 to 25.

See **MAPLETON** *page 6A*