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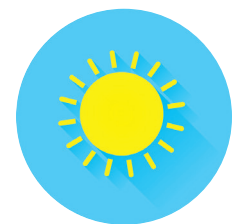


Siuslaw News

NEWS &
VIEWS THAT
DEFINE OUR
COMMUNITY

VOL. 131, NO. 58
JULY 21, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Sunshine with a
high of 65 and a low
of 49.

Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Adopt a Highway
unites people
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Going off the
sandrails
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries &
response logs
Inside — A2

TV GUIDE

Inside — B4-B5

KIDS CORNER

Activities for kids
Inside — B3

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings & notices
Inside — B6

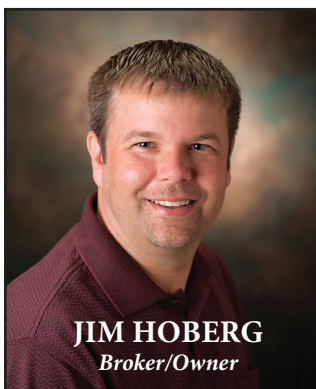
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POWER OF FLORENCE MAKES COMEBACK

11th annual event continues tradition of ‘making a difference — together’

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The 11th annual Power of Florence took place on July 17, with hundreds of volunteers and members of local organizations taking part in various activities to improve and enhance the quality of life in this area. The motto for the day is “Each one. One day. Making a Difference Together,” and that goal was reached on Saturday.

Projects undertaken included clean-ups of local parks and recreational areas, food collection for Florence Food Share and a free book distribution for students, among others.

One of the larger events this year was a combined effort or-



Groups from all across the area joined in making a difference on July 17 for Power of Florence, a tradition started and continued by Florence youth.

ganized by Western Lane Ambulance District, Safe Shelter for Siuslaw Students and a new organization in town, Sea Scouts, which is working towards obtaining a charter to operate in Florence.

WLAD provided dozens of bike helmets to many of the youth who received 35 free bikes from Sea Scout alumni Dean Lundie, who is working to establish a local branch of the Sea Scouts.

“These kids are great!” Lundie said during the event. “After being locked down for the last year and a half, I really wanted to do something for the kids, so I bought a bunch of bikes up and down the coast, and we are going to give them all away today.”

See POWER page 7A

2021 wildfires pose threat

Legislators push for preparedness

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Oregon’s Congressional delegation, including U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio — who serves as the Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) — and U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley are leading U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and U.S. representatives Earl Blumenauer, Kurt Schrader, Suzanne Bonamici and Cliff Bentz in pushing FEMA for maximum readiness for Oregon’s 2021 wildfire season, See FIRE page 8A

Fuller Center Bike Adventure ‘builds community’

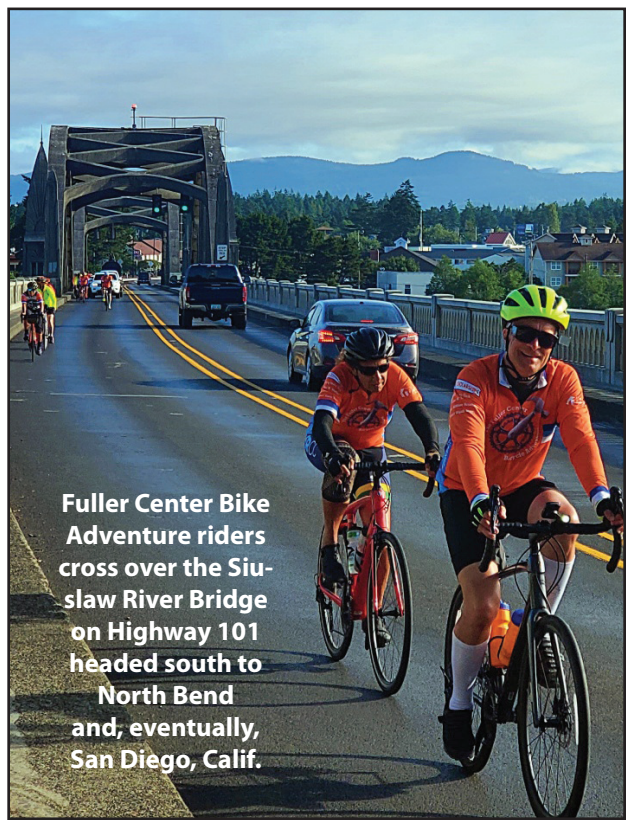
18 cyclists pass thru Florence on 1,600-mile journey

BY ZEAHNA YOUNG
SIUSLAW NEWS

On July 16, the West Coast riders for the Fuller Center Bike Adventure gathered just outside the front doors of the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw for their morning circle-up. Having just finished preparing breakfast and cleaning up the kitchen in the church together, riders congregated in the church parking lot to receive updates and participate in a morning devotional led by Bike Adventure Founder Ryan Iafigliola.

“I founded the event 14 years ago,” said Iafigliola. “I plan the routes, and we set the structure with the tour teams. Everyone is pitching in, but you can see we’ve got a great group of people. Everyone helps out, we support each other, and we build a community.”

The Bike Adventure’s West Coast ride takes 18 cyclists from Seattle, Wash., where they left See BIKE page 6A



Fuller Center Bike Adventure riders cross over the Siuslaw River Bridge on Highway 101 headed south to North Bend and, eventually, San Diego, Calif.

BACK IN SESSION



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

On Monday morning, members of the Florence City Council prepared to return to in-person meetings later that evening with a tour of recent improvements to the technological platforms and physical layout of Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101. The improvements have been put in place since the council last met in early 2020 and will allow for better video and audio of public meetings. Since that time councilors Bill Meyer, Sally Wantz and Margaret Wisniewski have joined the council. This will be the first time these councilors have met at city hall. During the tour, City Manager Erin Reynolds coordinated with staff to provide the facility update. (From left) Councilor Wisniewski, Mayor Joe Henry and councilors Sally Wantz and Bill Meyer attended the first Florence City Council in-person meeting that night. Councilor Woody Woodbury was absent.

Spruce Point takes precautions after COVID-19 detected in staff, residents

Spruce Point Assisted Living and Memory Care, a premiere assisted living community situated within the town of Florence, Oregon, experienced positive COVID-19 cases on July 15, 2021, within its Memory Care community. In a response to the reported outbreak, Spruce Point provided the following news release.

Spruce Point administrators are working collaboratively with Lane County Public Health during this time to ensure all public health safety measures are being met.

“Our team is providing excellent care to all of our residents,” stated Billie Wingfield, Senior Executive Director at Spruce Point. “We are working in close collaboration with Lane County Public Health and following all state and county guidelines for protocols, procedures, and counter-measures.”

See SPRUCE page 7A

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