



Siuslaw News

Siuslaw News

NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 131, NO. 60
JULY 28, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 71 and a low of 54.

Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Donation benefits food shares
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SPORTS



Just horsing around with C&M Stables
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RECORDS

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In the wake of the Olympics

On the road to surf inclusion for the Oregon Coast

BY REINA HARWOOD
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Saturday, July 26, the Tokyo Olympics opened with one of the newest additions to the Olympic line-up, which has drawn attention for its inclusion and centuries old traditions. Surfing was added to the medal docket in 2020, thanks in part

to the Tokyo Organizing Committee who pitched the idea. The International Olympic Committee authorized inclusion for the sport of surfing in the Olympic program in 2016. The first official international competition for the cultural cornerstone of Hawaii has brought the allure of victory presenting 40 surfers from around the world to discuss the history of the sport and its future.

Gold medalists will be announced today, July 28, according to the Tokyo Olympic day-to-day guide.

Each match is set to take place at the Tsurigasaki Surfing Beach along the Chiba shore, but the schedule is subject to change depending on when surfing conditions will be at their best.

Florence has a small community, but dedicated surfers often congregate at the South Jetty of the Siuslaw River when the tide, swell and crushing breaks allow.

Most have been surfing for decades. Meanwhile, young surfers are paddling to catch their first waves. With wetsuits zipped, Florence surf-

ers drop in midday or early mornings, depending on the surfing forecasts.

Historically, surfing has been recognized as a male-dominated sport, a trend that Lexi Hallahan, who runs the Northwest Women's Surf Camps (NWWSC) in Seaside, strives to change. With an appearance of 20 women surfers at this year's Olympic Games, the beauty and grace of the sport has soaked in the spotlight and further promoted

See SURF page 7A

Agencies swear in new directors to boards

Siuslaw Valley, Western Lane hold combined meeting

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) held a joint meeting of their respective boards of directors on July 22 at the SVFR Main Station, with some directors attending in person and some remotely.

The combined administration of the organizations is referred to as Western Lane Fire & EMS Authority (WLFEA), and this is the first joint meeting to include new SVFR directors Laurie Heppel and Tim Mendolia and new WLAD directors Vanessa Buss and Adam Holbrook, who were sworn in after the meeting was gavelled to order.

The meeting was facilitated by Fire/EMS Chief Michael Schick, who next asked the new boards to select officers for their respective organizations. Cindy Russell was chosen to serve as the WLAD president, with Buss as vice president and Holbrook as the secretary/treasurer.

Newly elected officers for SVFR include Alan Burns as president, Jim Palisi as vice president, and Heppel as secretary/treasurer.

Also appointed by both boards were representatives to WLFEA. Murphey and Webb were selected by WLAD, along with Palisi and Sam Spayd from SVFR. For WLFEA, Palisi was selected as president, Webb as vice president, and Spayd as secretary/treasurer.

See WLFEA page 8A

Florence has real heart for art



Local galleries and businesses are participating in PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Foundation's Art From the Heart Walk, which kicked off last Friday.

STORY & PHOTOS
BY REINA HARWOOD
SIUSLAW NEWS

On July 23, the PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center Foundation hosted its Art From the Heart Walk featuring local artists and galleries. Proceeds from the art walk through Florence will go to the Cardiac Program Support Fund at Peace Harbor, and will be applied within the local community.

The kick-off event took place that evening, beginning in front of the "Low-Poly Open Heart" sculpture at the intersection of Maple and Bay streets. The heart was sculpted by artist Matthew Duffy and is part of the Florence Public Art Committee's "Art Exposed" Rotating Art Gallery.

The walk and auction portion of the Art From the Heart lasts until Sunday, Aug. 1, and the event will carry through Tuesday, Aug. 3.

About 150 people participated in the Friday event. They were

See HEART page 7A

Summer in the city *Siuslaw concludes summer school*



Siuslaw Elementary School concluded its "We Built This City on Heart and Soul" summer program on July 22. Read more on A8.

CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



"Help Lovejoy's Paint Some Old Town Charm!"

Lovejoy's is moving forward with their beautiful mural of Big Ben from across the River Thames, an English icon.

We are asking for donations in order to have this beautiful mural painted by Florence's own, Michael Wood! Thank you, in advance, for all your help and generosity! Without you, there would be no us!

Follow this link and let's get painting!

www.givesendgo.com/lovejoysmural