

SN

Siuslaw News



nova health
PRIMARY CARE

Now accepting new patients!

Call today to schedule your appointment.

4480 Hwy 101, Suite G • Florence
(541) 997-1251 • NovaHealth.com



Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 63
AUGUST 7, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 67 and a low of 51.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Cat Rapper appears at OCHS today
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Kayak down the river
INSIDE — B

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW
Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:
f /SIUSLAWNEWS
@SIUSLAWNEWS
THE SIUSLAWNEWS.COM

2 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES
COPYRIGHT 2021
Siuslaw News
0 88267 02345 1

Governor to require health care employees to verify vaccination status or submit to weekly COVID testing

New health & safety rule intended to help prevent Delta variant spread

SALEM—Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced Aug. 4 that she has directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to issue a rule outlining new, required health and safety measures for personnel in health care settings. The rule requires weekly COVID-19 testing for personnel in health care settings to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in health care settings, which can be waived with a proof of vaccination.

The new rule will be issued this week and the requirement to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing will apply starting Sept. 30. This will give employers time to prepare for implementation, and will give

“The more contagious Delta variant has changed everything. This new safety measure is necessary to

“This new safety measure is necessary to stop Delta from causing severe illness among our first line of defense: our doctors, nurses, medical students and frontline health care workers.”

— Oregon Gov. Kate Brown

currently unvaccinated health care workers time to become fully vaccinated.

stop Delta from causing severe illness among our first line of defense: our doctors, nurses, medical students

and frontline health care workers. Protecting our frontline health care workers through vaccination will also enhance the safety of the patients in their care,” said Brown. “Severe illness from COVID-19 is now largely preventable, and vaccination is clearly our best defense. Vaccination and weekly testing ensure Oregonians can safely access health care and employees can go to work in an environment that maximizes health and safety measures for COVID-19.”

See COVID page 5A



PHOTOS BY
MARK BRENNAN,
REINA HARWOOD &
CHANTELLE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS



Together, again

National Night Out brings together first responders, community

On Aug. 3, Florence Police Department hosted its third National Night Out at Miller Park, following two successful events in 2018 and 2019.

National Night Out is a country-wide community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. It is organized by the National Association of Town Watch.

“It turned out great. We were pretty happy with it,” said Florence Police Commander John Pitcher.

More than 1,500 people attended, with the event serving more than 1,000 hamburgers and hot dogs, along with chips, beverages, popcorn, cotton candy and BJ’s Ice Cream.

The local event is planned each year by Florence Police Department Executive Administrative Assistant Jamie Gorder, who works with more than a dozen partner agencies to bring together the large-scale event.

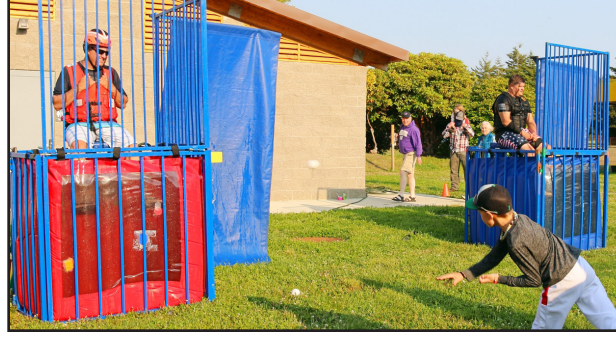
“Our community, city council and city

management — everyone was waiting for the chance to come together, to be together again after the year that we’ve all had,” Gorder said. “To have the first opportunity to bring that to the community was the big driving force for me. People wanted to do it. Once those mandates were lifted, our city council and city management, made it a big priority. ‘What can we do? What does the community want? How can we make this happen? What can we do to support the police department to make this happen?’ It would not have happened without that support.”

This year, the event came together in the six weeks since Oregon lifted many of the pandemic’s restrictions.

“We didn’t have time to plan it the way that we have in the past,” Gorder said. “The city got behind it and people reached out to us. This was the first year that the Oregon Department of Forestry have reached out to us as first responders that wanted to be involved, so that was really neat.”

See NIGHT OUT page 7A



Council approves more annexations near Heceta Beach

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence City Council met on Aug. 7, with much of the session dedicated to planning related issues. In addition, the council bid farewell to departing City Recorder Kelli Weese.

Weese’s service to the city was recognized at the beginning of the evening, with City Manager Erin Reynolds and Mayor Joe Henry presenting her a plaque

and bouquet.

Weese has been an employee of the City of Florence since 2008, when she started in the Planning Department. She has held various positions since, most recently as city recorder and economic development coordinator.

Henry and Reynolds have both worked closely with Weese and spoke of her professionalism and dedication in their comments.

“Personally, I’ve gotten to work with Kelli going on 10 years now,

and she has always been a great example of the type of employee we want to represent our city,” Henry said. “She does a lot of things behind the scenes that she never gets any credit for, but it makes our city operate much more smoothly. She’s done a great job. ... In terms of economic development, she has been very helpful in that area. I just want to say thank you very much.”

Weese’s family members were in attendance and joined her at the dais as she thanked her colleagues

and spoke of the opportunities afforded her by the city.

“I want to thank everyone. This is a wonderful place to grow and learn. I’ve worked at other communities where you are kind of pigeon-holed, but in Florence you really get to try and learn everything. That has been a wonderful experience for me,” she said. “To my co-workers, I just want to share a shout-out. I know how much you work and what sacrifices you make,

See COUNCIL page 6A



Atiyeh Bros.
SINCE 1900

Save the heavy lifting for us!
Atiyeh Bros. area rug cleaning and repair service to the Florence area will be August 25th, with return service September 8th and September 22nd for repair orders. We will pick up your rugs, deep clean them in our state of the art facility, repair if needed, and deliver to your home. Please call us at 541-342-3678 to schedule your pickup!