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Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 68
AUGUST 25, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER

Partly cloudy with a high of 62 and a low of 53.
Full forecast on A3

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Protesters rally for 'Medical Freedom'



Approximately 35 people gathered at the corners of Highway 101 and Highway 126 in Florence on Saturday to rally against new Oregon vaccine mandates for health care workers. Signs included "My Body, My Choice," "Medical Freedom," "Freedom to Choose" and more.

STORY & PHOTOS
BY REINA HARWOOD
SIUSLAW NEWS

Earlier in August, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced a ruling that mandated COVID-19 vaccinations or a weekly required test amongst all

Oregon health care workers starting Sept. 30. Following this ruling, on Thursday, Aug. 19, Brown added to her statement.

"Oregon's vaccination requirement for health care workers will no longer have a testing alternative. Health care workers will be required

to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18 or six weeks after full FDA approval," Brown said in a press release.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the official approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine on Aug. 23.

In response to the governor's

announcement, Oregon activists rallied against COVID-19 vaccine mandates for health care workers, including Florence community members.

On Saturday, Aug. 21, around 35 people gathered to rally against

See RALLY page 5A

Bronco Roundup roars to coast

Annual gathering brings hundreds of Ford Broncos to Florence

STORY & PHOTO
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The 2021 Northwest Bronco Roundup came to town last weekend, with hundreds of the popular Ford Broncos on view on Bay Street and other local gathering spots.

The vehicles, often 20+ years old, had a variety of unusual body styles and off-road modifications. Some of these were purely cosmetic, but others allowed the classic off-road vehicles to race, climb and speed across miles of open sand in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

The vehicles started arriving on Thursday as their owners rented dozens of campground sites and motel rooms for the weekend. The visitors then spent much of the weekend driving and climbing along the long stretch of coastal



Nearly 240 Ford Broncos came to the coast for the 2021 Northwest Bronco Roundup this past weekend.

dunes that lie directly south of Florence.

The annual Northwest Bronco Roundup is a family-friendly event, with visitors of all ages attending the nightly group dinners. One of those

dinners featured boiled shrimp, baked potatoes and corn on the cob.

Tom Dummer, who coordinates the event, said he was pleased with this year's turnout.

See BRONCO page 6A

FEC cancels 25th anniversary planned for today

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the area and the Lane County advisory on events issued Aug. 21, the City of Florence announced that the Florence Events Center 25 Year Celebration has been canceled.

According to a post about the canceled event on Facebook, event center staff wrote, "We will find ways throughout the year to celebrate the FEC and our community. We greatly appreciate the sponsors who provided support for this event. Thank you for your understanding and support."

The announcement came Monday, just two days before the event had been planned for Aug. 25.

The event would have been held

See EVENT page 5A

Siuslaw plans special meeting for public comment

The Siuslaw School District 97J Board of Directors will be holding a special meeting Wednesday, Sept. 1, for the exclusive purpose of hearing public comment.

"A lot of community conversation in the past 10 days has focused on the recent mandate by the State of Oregon requiring students and staff to wear masks upon return to the classroom this fall," said Board Chair Bob Sneddon. "Needless to say, emotions surrounding the issue run high."

The next regular meeting of the board would not be until Sept. 15, which is after the school start date of Sept. 6.

See MEETING page 5A

'Mini' golf Florence Golf Links holds free two-week Junior Golf Camp

STORY & PHOTO
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

One of the sports that has remained available to all ages throughout the pandemic is golf. The sport is played outdoors and easily allows for social distancing. Golf is physical and provides the chance for exercise while focusing on a long term, multi-faceted approach to succeed.

Florence has two golf courses, and both will hold important events sponsored by the Oregon Golf Association (OGA) this week,



Golf pro Nik Remmer planned the Junior Golf Camp at Florence Golf Links in order to get more kids involved in golf locally.

drawing dozens of top-level youth golfers from around the state to this area for the competition.

Nik Remmer, the PGA Pro at Florence Golf Links, coordinated a unique effort to not only encourage healthy outdoor alternatives for

youth but that hopes to re-energize a once successful community of young golfers in the Florence area.

"What we hope to achieve long term is more young golfers," he said. "We want to give kids a sport

See GOLF page 7A

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