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### Remembering 9-11

September 11, 2021  
Siuslaw News

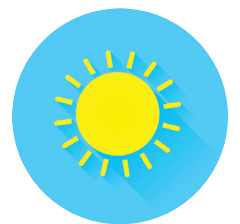
A Timeline of Terror  
How events unfolded on the morning of September 11, 2001

Remember Together  
How communities can commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11

**SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE**

Siuslaw News  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
VOL. 131, NO. 73  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2021  
FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**



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

**COMMUNITY**



Spanish student comes to Florence  
INSIDE — A3

**SPORTS**



Local golfers take titles  
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2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES  
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# IN MEMORIAM: SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

## A STATE OF SHOCK

Originally published Sept. 12, 2001



*Florence reacts with the rest of the country to the tragic acts of terrorism on the East Coast*

The scene in Florence, Oregon, yesterday morning must have been similar to other small-town scenes playing out all over the country, as the news of hijacked passenger planes crashing into commercial and government

centers started to sink in. Workers on Maple Street were loading planks onto a truck. One of them said he'd visited New York two months ago, where he'd seen the World Trade Center.

"You can't believe how tall it is," he said. At a bar on Bay Street, four patrons and the bartender were turned to the TV on the far wall. Rumors of other aircraft unaccounted for, one of them being tailed by fighter planes, circulated around the bar area.

See 9/11/2001 page 10A

Derek Wells and Tricia Wells (left) closed their custom furniture business Tuesday morning after hearing of the attacks. At Florence Municipal Airport, a group of local residents watched the news unfold.



## Realities of Siuslaw's new school year

*First week back, concerns and preparation*

STAFF REPORT  
SIUSLAW NEWS

"The mood was good," Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andrew Grzeskowiak said about the first day of school. "That's usually what happens every year. There's kind of a nervous energy, but once kids get in the building, and everyone gets back into the classroom, it's positive across the board."

In some respects, the school opening was similar to that last spring, when classes were opened for the first time since being shut down in 2020.

"There was a lot of nervous energy in that transition in early February. When the kids hit the buses and the hallway, all of that went away. Kids were happy, teachers were happy. People adapted," Grzeskowiak said.

See BACK page 6A

## School board hears comments, complaints, commendations

BY CHANTELLE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Members of the Siuslaw community attended a special meeting of the Siuslaw School District Board of Directors on Wednesday, which was able to be held live at the Siuslaw High School football field grandstands. The meeting was simultaneously broadcast on the district's YouTube page.

The meeting was planned by the school board to gather public comment from the district.

Nine speakers addressed the board during the in-person meeting. Many people wore masks and kept a six-foot distance between groups. In addition, the district received 39 written comments. These are included in the meeting materials and can be read at [www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/page/school-board](http://www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/page/school-board). The 40-minute meeting can be viewed in its entirety at <https://bit.ly/97JYouTubeChannel>.

School Board Chair Sneddon opened the meeting, saying, "The main object we're here for tonight is public input, and to allow folks an opportunity to address the school board."

Speakers were allowed three minutes per person. They spoke



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw School Board held a special, in-person session at the Hans Petersen Memorial Field grandstands on Wednesday, specifically to hear public comment from district families and area voters, like parent Jennifer Waggoner (left).

from a microphone and were able to directly look at the six members of the Siuslaw School Board. One director, Guy Rosinbaum, announced his resignation prior to the meeting and was not in attendance.

"I'd like to welcome you and thank you all for being here," Sneddon continued.

He encouraged the attendees to behave courteously.

As the speakers began, they brought up a variety of issues, including masks — both for and

against — school standards, teaching curriculum and other district decisions. Some people wanted to express frustrations, and others offered words of support.

Several speakers wished the district would do more to establish local control.

"I realize it was difficult for all of us during COVID, but from the view of a citizen in Florence, it appears that your actions are 95 percent for the state and 5 percent for the district," one speaker said.

See COMMENTS page 10A

## 20th anniversary of Sept. 11 commemorated nationally

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the most destructive attacks ever perpetrated on American soil will be recognized locally and across the nation. Events on that day will be held nationwide and will commemorate the unprecedented attacks which took place on September 11, 2001. The repercussions

from the attacks continue to reverberate throughout American culture on many levels, changing the way the country views itself and its role in the world.

The day of the attack — which many Americans strongly remember — refocused attention on global terrorism as this country's primary enemy. This led to the changing of decades-old policies which were designed to thwart major powers

like the Soviet Union and China. The pursuit of those involved in the attacks became a 20-year battle to identify, locate and neutralize those responsible. That effort continues, as American troops were completely withdrawn from posts in the Afghanistan only last week.

Locally, there will be a Sept. 11 recognition ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, at the corner of Maple

and Bay Streets in Historic Old Town at the start of the 10th annual Rods N Rhodies Car Show. The commemorative service will include representation from the Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River, Western Lane Ambulance District and local veteran and patriotic groups.

See ANNIVERSARY page 5A

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