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Veterans Day
 Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021

Siuslaw News
 NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
 VOL. 131, NO. 90
 Nov. 10, 2021
 FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Rain with a high of 53 and a low of 52.
 Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



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FEMA Mobile Vaccination Unit provides a boost to Florence vaccinations this week

By CHANTELE MEYER
 SIUSLAW NEWS

A unique partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has brought a FEMA Mobile Vaccination Unit to Florence this week. The drive-through vaccination clinic will be at Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day through Sunday, Nov. 14, to provide COVID-19 testing and initial and booster doses of the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. The clinic is for ages 12 and up and is provided at no cost.

The site director is Kevin McVeigh, with OHA, who is working with a team of clinical and non-clinical personnel provided through FEMA.

“This is a FEMA mission assignment. The State of Oregon requested FEMA to provide a mobile vaccination unit (MVU), and we’ve been working with FEMA since March in Oregon,” he said.

The first MVU arrived right after Labor Day in September, with the next two arriving Oct. 18.

“All three were soon operational, and this particular unit started working in Curry County,” McVeigh said.

The three buses are provided by Yankee Line, based in Boston, Mass., to operate as a mobile pharmacy. Yankee is providing buses throughout the country, including in Colorado, where MVUs are administered 3,000 shots a day.



FEMA and Oregon Health Authority worked with the City of Florence to bring a Mobile Vaccination Unit to Florence this week. The agencies are offering a free drive-through clinic at the Florence Events Center for people seeking initial and booster doses of the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

“Since September in Oregon, we’ve surpassed 10,000 total doses. This unit alone has done 2,500 in three weeks,” McVeigh said. “The bus allows us to move from one place to another within a day.

FEMA provides the bus and most of the personnel from all around the country.

This MVU had stops in Brookings and Port Orford before some of the booster shots were approved for the public. By Oct. 22, “we got extreme-

ly busy,” McVeigh said. “First of all, our numbers jumped from about 10 a day up to about 150 a day. We’ve been about there or higher ever since. Our average daily has been about 150 to 200.”

See FEMA page 6A

Florence woman dies in fire Nov. 7

At approximately 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6, responders from Western Lane Ambulance District, Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue and Florence Police Department were notified of smoke in a residence in the 1900 block of 23rd Street, along with a report of a possible victim.

Emergency personnel located an 80-year-old female who was found deceased in a bedroom. Fire and smoke damage was isolated to the bedroom and the deceased was the only occupant of the home.

The identity of the victim has not been released and circumstances surrounding this incident are undetermined at this time.

Investigation of the fire and fatality will be handled by Siuslaw Valley, Florence Police and the Lane County Medical Examiner’s Office.

Central coast sees first king tides of season

By ZAC BURTT
 SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence area saw a late season influx of tourists last weekend as people came from all around to see the first king tides of fall/winter 2021-22. The beach parking lots and turn-offs on Highway 101 from Brookings to Astoria were filled with people hoping to catch a glimpse of the extra-large waves that these higher than normal tides bring. The tide reached a remarkable 9.3 feet at Alsea Bay in Waldport on Nov. 7, though Heceta Head State Park and Devils Elbow State Park still showed a slice of beach.



Market event fills people’s pantries

By MARK BRENNAN
 SIUSLAW NEWS

The second annual “Fill your Pantry” event sponsored by the Florence Farmers Market took place on Sunday, Nov. 7, despite the stormy conditions.


Upon arrival, shoppers made their way to the covered area beneath the Siuslaw Middle School to collect their pre-paid order from the market vol-

unteers.

Mary Shaw, one of the founding members of the market, said, “The weather did not dampen the spirits of the dozen volunteers who worked for four hours setting up, delivering orders and cleaning up at the end of the event. Volunteers delivered food to shoppers, directed traffic, answered questions, helped vendors set up, and provided lunch and hot beverages for the volunteer team and vendors.”

The farmers market’s Fill your Pantry event is intended to give the community a final opportunity to stock up on locally grown and produced foods now that the seasonal market has concluded.

The variety of food offered at the event included storage produce — such as potatoes, onions, winter squash, turnips and parsnips — eggs, poultry, fish, beef, pork, lamb, beans, See MARKET page 5A



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