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Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 104
DEC. 29, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly sunny with a high of 41 and a low of 22.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Campaign shows 'Care'
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Yachats plans annual First Day Peace Hike
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Snow creates hazards in the Siuslaw



Cold weather prompts opening of shelter, city preparedness, state of emergency



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN & CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

(Clockwise from top) Snow sparkles on the Siuslaw River and the Oregon Dunes Recreational Area on Monday. The Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk receives several inches of snow, as shown in the early morning light. Later on Monday, walkers on the boardwalk bundle up with a smile as more snow begins to fall. On Sunday, Badger Pass on Highway 126 is covered in ice and snow.

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

It was a day late, but local residents did have a chance to experience a white Christmas in the Florence area. There was minimal accumulation on Saturday, but as the day progressed on Sunday, there were some areas located in higher elevations which experienced traffic delays due to hazardous conditions.

By Monday morning, Historic Old Town had a couple of inches of snow and ice on Bay Street and more snow than expected on the Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk. Most of the snow melted by noon. Meanwhile, snow stacked up across Lane County, affecting road conditions, causing downed trees and making emergency responders stand by. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has re-

sponded to the inclement weather in the state by declaring a State of Emergency in the form of Executive Order 21-37. Brown stated, "I find a potential threat to life, safety, property and significant damage to infrastructure exists due to severe winter weather across Oregon." The National Weather Service has issued multiple winter storm watches, warnings and winter weather ad-

visories throughout the state. "This severe weather is expected to bring heavy snow and sustained temperatures below freezing, resulting in critical transportation failures and disruptions to power and communications infrastructure," Brown continued. The state of emergency will exist until Jan. 3, 2022, unless extended or cancelled by Brown. See COLD page 7A

Ambulance hits tree on Hwy 126

A tree fell onto Highway 126 early Tuesday morning directly in front of a Western Lane Ambulance District ambulance, resulting in considerable damage to the vehicle.

The only occupants in the ambulance at the time were two WLAD employees with no injuries were reported after the collision with the tree, which happened at approximately 2:32 a.m. The ambulance was westbound on Highway 126 and returning from PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in the Eugene area when a 16-inch diameter tree fell onto the road at milepost 21 directly in front of the ambulance.

Light snow was reported to be falling in the area at the time of the incident. The driver reported that he had no time to swerve to miss the falling tree prior to the collision.

See AMBULANCE page 6A

Food delivery on Christmas Day

Florence Elks prepare festive feast for community pick up

Florence Elks Lodge #1858 served hundreds of meals on Christmas Day. The Ladies of the Elks, supported by volunteers and other Elks members, were involved in the preparation of the complete holiday dinners provided to all, free of charge. The distribution of meals followed current best practices by having a drive-through format. The meals went to neighbors, friends and family, as the Elks continue a long tradition of sharing this Christmas meal. See MORE PICTURES on page 6A



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

OHA to hold daily COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at FEC

Thanks to a partnership between Lane County Public Health, the Oregon Health Authority and the City of Florence, COVID-19 booster shots, 1st and 2nd doses, and pediatric doses will be much more available in west Lane County. Oregon Health Authority

(OHA) will be hosting daily walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., from Friday, Dec. 31, through Friday, Jan. 21, with the exception of Jan. 18. The Florence Events Center clinic will serve any and all community members needing any

one of the above vaccinations. The clinics will be from noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays at the Florence Events Center. These clinics will be walk-in, no appointment necessary. See VACCINE page 6A

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