

Siuslaw News

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WEDNESDAY

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Siuslaw High School scores above state averages

Students show improved proficiencies in math, science and reading.

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Students at Siuslaw High School exceeded statewide averages in every category of the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) evaluations for the 2013-14 school year.

"We are extremely proud of our OAKS results," Siuslaw High School Principal Kerri Tatum said. "We are above the state average in every category and improved in three of our four content areas from last year. Our teachers and students are working hard and these results show that."

OAKS is a standards-based test designed to show how well students are performing against Oregon's Academic Content Standards (ACS).

ACS identifies proficiency levels in English language arts, mathematics, health, physical education, science, second language, social sciences and the arts.

OAKS evaluates student performances in math, science, reading and writing. Siuslaw students scored higher in every category but writing, over the previous year's scores and scored higher than the state averages in all four categories. Oregon has been conducting OAKS evaluations of ACS for more than 10 years.

The percentages indicate the number of students that either met or exceeded the OAKS proficiency standards. Siuslaw students scored 74 percent in math, compared to the state average of 69.8 percent. In science, the students scored 81.1 percent compared to the state average 62.4 percent. Reading proficiency was 92 percent while the state average was 84.5 percent. Writing dropped from 70 percent the previous year to 62.6 percent last year; it was still higher than the state average of 59.2 percent.

Tatum said the improving numbers might be attributed to the growing number of college-level courses now being offered at the high school.

"We have added several college courses to our master schedule over the last few years," Tatum said. "The math department offers college algebra, trigonometry and two calculus classes. The English department offers college writing and English composition. Our social studies department offers college level U.S. history and western civilization. In our elective department we offer health occupations I and II and pottery."

"We also offer three advanced placement (AP) courses: AP literature and composition, AP chemistry and AP studio art. Students that take these classes and score well on the AP exams can earn additional college credits."

Advanced placement classes are curriculum courses set by the college board. The board instructs the high school on what is to be taught and how. They provide a syllabus to the high school and the school teaches that syllabus. The college board also grades student tests.

Out-of-state colleges and universities more readily recognize AP classes.

Students may transfer college credits earned at Siuslaw High School directly to any Oregon college or university. Many out-of-state universities also accept these credits.

According to Tatum, there are several reasons for which college-bound students should consider taking elective college credit courses.

"The students are better prepared for college," she said. "Also, these courses impress scholarship committees, and that can potentially save their families hundreds of dollars in tuition expenses."

Siuslaw High School currently offers 54

See SHS 11A

SS Bean sails into Old Town



PHOTO BY THERESA BAER/SIUSLAW NEWS

The SS Bean "came into port," courtesy of the Port of Siuslaw, Saturday to help Old Town and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce celebrate Columbus Day. The oddly shaped boat was renovated by Florence volunteers Margaret McDermott, Dan Grimes and Karen Mehek, and it will be used as an occasional landmark during festivals and parades. The SS Bean is named after former Oregon senator, representative and speaker of the house Louis E. Bean, who is credited with the founding of the port here, and all ports in Oregon except the Port of Portland.

Local restaurants dominate chowder competition



Kyle Lewis, Siuslaw High School culinary arts teacher; Mario Casarez, Three Rivers Casino and Hotel chef; Terri Mason, SHS Life Skills program director; and Corky Franklin, SHS assistant principal, display their prize. (courtesy photo)

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce may want to change its name to the "Chamber of Chowder" after three local restaurants took the top prizes in a regional chowder competition last month.

Three Rivers Casino's Trio's Restaurant snagged first place, followed by Surfside Restaurant and Mon Ami Gourmet Deli in second and third, respectively.

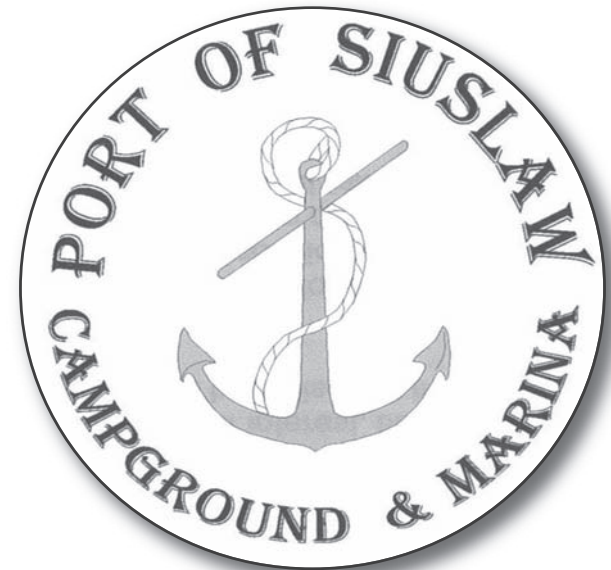
The Florence eateries bested their competitors' chowders in the

Oregon Coast Chowder Competition, one of the featured events of the annual Fire It Up BBQ weekend held Sept. 19-21 at Three Rivers Casino and Hotel.

The results were particularly gratifying since the event was

presented by the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. Two notable finalists were Hole in the Wall from Eugene and Shark Bites, located in Coos Bay.

See CHOWDER 11A



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Your Weather			
TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Periods of rain	Cloudy	Rain	Some rain
60 53	63 55	61 55	62 53

