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Chamber business award finalists announced

Annual Siuslaw Awards to be presented Jan. 21.

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has released the nominees for the eighth annual Siuslaw Business Awards. This year's businesses are vying for recognition in five categories.

The Community Caring award is presented to a business that supports nonprofit organizations and projects that enhance the community. This year's nominees are the Beachcomber Pub; Coast Broadcasting and KCST Radio, and Mo's Restaurant.

The Curb Appeal award acknowledges a business that strives to maintain a physically attractive business. The Chicken Coop and Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians are this year's nominees.

The Excellence in Customer Service award honors a business that has demonstrated dedication to outstanding customer service and satisfaction in all aspects of sales and service. Siuslaw Broadband is the only nominee for this category.

The Nonprofit Achievement award is presented to a nonprofit organization that demonstrates good stewardship of donor dollars and sound business practices while meeting its commitment to its organization mission. KXCR Radio Partners, Rotary Club of Florence and Western Lane Community Foundation are the three nominees.

The final award is the Stu Johnston Business of the Year award, acknowledging a business that has demonstrated long-term or significant business success and has shown strong and active community involvement. This year there are five nominees for this coveted award: Hoagland

See **AWARDS 8A**

New reporter joins Siuslaw News

STORY AND PHOTO BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

This past summer, Chantelle Meyer took an intern position with the Siuslaw News editorial department.



Chantelle Meyer

At the time, Editor Theresa Baer said, "Chantelle is smart and focused. She started picking up news skills instantly."

When the Siuslaw News began looking for a reporter at the end of last year, Meyer's application was well received. Monday, Jan. 12, was her first day as reporter for the Siuslaw News.

Meyer, 25, a native of the Eugene area, has a strong journalism background. In high school she was one of the editors of the Elmira Falconer school newspaper. While attending Concordia University in Portland, she worked on the Concordia Chronicle.

Among other beats, Meyer will be covering city government, the police department, the fire department and social media.

"I'm excited," Meyer said. "I feel like I can really connect to Florence as a community now that I have a professional role. I love writing and photography, so this is a fun, new challenge

See **REPORTER 8A**

McCornacks kick off folk festival

Eugene artists bring more than 40 years of folk music history to local elementary students.



PHOTO BY CHRIS GRAAMANS PHOTOGRAPHY

Every year, a weekend of folk music starts off with a day just for young people. The annual Kids' Concerts signal the of the Winter Folk Festival, now a Florence tradition in its 13th year. (courtesy photo)

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

More than 900 students from area elementary schools were treated to a free concert at the Florence Events Center (FEC) Thursday, Jan. 15. Two concerts, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., featured the husband and wife guitar duo of Mike and Carleen McCornack, accompanied by Kevin McCornack on bassoon and concertina and Dale Bradley on bass and cello. The concert featured original

compositions by the McCornacks along with popular children's music from the past and present.

"Mike and I started playing together in 1971," Carleen McCornack said. "The band joined us when we released our first children's recording in 1989. That was supposed to be just a fun thing. We certainly love playing and writing children's music."

"We had children of our own and there really wasn't a lot of children's music out there," McCornack explained. "So we thought, let's just do a children's

recording and it ended up winning a Parent's Choice Gold award in 1989. Sesame Street got a hold of it. We did two more children's recordings."

The popular Eugene artists will offer an adult-focused performance at 2 p.m. today as part of the Winter Folk Festival at the FEC.

"We will be playing quite a lot of music we have written ourselves," McCornack said. "We also have a Tom Paxton song on the program. We have done songs of his from the very beginning. We love his music very much."

The McCornacks played at last year's Winter Folk Festival.

"We support the fact that the Winter Folk Festival exists and supports music education in the schools," McCornack said. "Mike is a retired chorale music teacher. Children's music is a topic near and dear to our hearts."

Tickets for the Winter Folk Festival, which runs all day Saturday and into Sunday afternoon, are available at the FEC box office. An artisans' fair also is open free to the public throughout the weekend.

New year, new Florence city manager?

Council offers position to current finance director

STORY AND PHOTO BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence's new city council has offered the position of city manager to Erin Reynolds, who has served as the city's finance director for 3-1/2 years. Pending negotiations with the contract, the new city manager could take office on March 1.

Filling the city manager position was a primary goal for the incoming city council.

In January's "Focus on Florence" newsletter, Mayor Joe Henry wrote, "It must be our No. 1 priority to hire a new city manager followed by a new police chief. We have gone much too long without those two critical positions being filled."

Councilor Joshua Greene echoed this viewpoint in the same



Florence City Manager Pro-Tem Larry Patterson is drafting a contract with Finance Director Erin Reynolds. If approved, the Florence City Council will vote to appoint Reynolds as city manager.

newsletter.

Finding a qualified applicant so early in 2015 shows a strong start for the city council in the new year.

"Over the last six months," Reynolds said, "I've been feeling

the calling to public service even more, and that's what led me to make the decision to apply to be the city manager."

The council met Jan. 13 to interview Reynolds as a candidate. "I took it very seriously,"

Reynolds said. "It's an interview with people you already know and respect and desire their acceptance."

The council interviewed Reynolds for more than an hour before breaking for an executive session.

"They came out of the executive discussion and directed City Manager Larry Patterson to enter into negotiations with me for the position to be the city manager," Reynolds said.

"So that's what we've been doing. The last two days has been talking about negotiations and what was going to be in the contract. The intention is there for the job to be mine."

City Manager Pro-Tem Larry Patterson is working with Reynolds on the contract until the

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