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14th Annual

Winter Music Festival

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TOP SPORTS

STORIES OF 2015

SPORTS — C



Baby

New Year

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Siuslaw News

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FLORENCE, OREGON



2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

Siuslaw News' annual

Year in Review looks back at

some of the Florence area's

top stories from 2015

STAFF REPORT

JANUARY

Mapleton pool may get new lease on life

Members of the Siuslaw Regional Aquatic Center (SRAC) will propose that the Mapleton School District allow them to raise money to repair and reopen the pool located on school district property during tonight's Mapleton School Board meeting.

The SRAC board has already paid for initial engineering to determine what needs to be done to bring the pool up to current compliance standards.

The SRAC took over operations of the pool in 2006, when government funding to operate the pool was lost due to budget cuts. SRAC operated the pool facility until funds ran out in 2009.

The estimated cost to run the pool is \$100,000 per year, including the proposed pool director's annual salary of about \$40,000. Potential revenues from lessons, memberships and facility rentals would offset a portion of the cost.

New editor of Siuslaw News

Siuslaw News Features Editor Ryan Cronk has been chosen to replace retiring Siuslaw News Editor Theresa Baer, who has been editor since August 2007 and will be leaving to spend time with her parents near Los Angeles.

Cronk, a native Oregonian, was hired as a reporter in 2008 and promoted to features editor in January 2012. He will be only the third editor of the Siuslaw News since 1982.

Boys and Girls Club faces financial crisis

Beginning Feb. 1, the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County will implement a drastically increased fee structure to cover the cost of after-school care and enrichment programs.

The cost of the Boys and Girls Club membership will remain at \$25 per year per child. The new fee structure for after-school

programs will be \$30 per week per student, in addition to the annual membership.

The Boys and Girls Club has not increased its annual dues since its inception more than 30 years ago.

Reynolds named city manager

On Jan. 20, Florence City Council unanimously voted to hire Finance Director Erin Reynolds as the new city manager. Her two-year contract begins on March 1, 2015, with a starting salary of \$105,000.

FEBRUARY

Events center catering opens to new options

After 19 years of operating with an exclusive caterer, the Florence Events Center (FEC) will now provide catering options to its clientele, following approval from the city council.

The FEC will now accept proposals from area caterers. Red Rose Catering, which has provided FEC with catering services for the past 10 years, could be a possible option as well. Clients could then pick from qualified caterers for specific events.

See **REVIEW** 9A

Port hires

new manager

Steven Leskin to take over

position Feb. 1

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Port of Siuslaw commissioners voted to offer Steven Leskin the port manager position during a special meeting held Jan. 6.

Board president Ron Caputo met with Leskin on Friday to negotiate the specifics of the five-year contract. Leskin signed the agreement Monday, Jan. 11, and is scheduled to begin as port manager Feb. 1. Starting salary is \$62,500 per year.

Leskin will take over from Dina McClure, who has been interim port manager since Bob Forsythe vacated the position Nov. 6. McClure will continue in her former capacity as administrative assistant.

Leskin is currently employed as project manager for the Port of Bandon, a position he has held since August 2015.

See **PORT** 7A

Chamber announces First Citizen nominees

First and Future First Citizens will be named next Wednesday at Siuslaw Awards

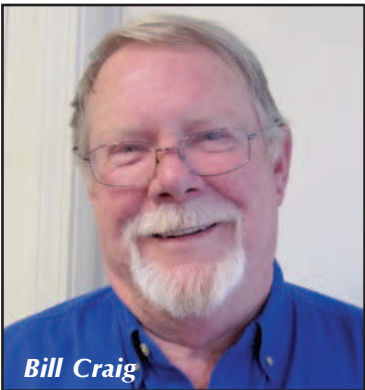
STAFF REPORT

The Siuslaw Business Awards on Wednesday, Jan. 20, will be a time to celebrate the people of the community. During the evening of awards, the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce will feature the First Citizen and Future First Citizen awards.

There are four nominees for the 2015 First Citizen Award: Bill Craig, Geraldine Lucio, Janet Snow and Gayle Waiss. Elements of consideration for First Citizen include length of service, current involvement in the community, past and present leadership, and overall community impact.

The 2014 First Citizen recipient was Cindy Wobbe.

Bill Craig has volunteered both time as well as donated professional services to area nonprofits



Bill Craig



Geraldine Lucio



Gayle Waiss



Janet Snow

such as Florence Kiwanis Club and City of Florence Transit Advisory Committee, and has served on the design committee for both the Florence Events Center and the Justice Center. In addition, he donated design plans for Quality Child Care of Florence, Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) and the Church on the Rock.

Geraldine Lucio is the owner of Old Town Barbershop and has actively supported Old Town events such as Can Hunger Concert for Florence and Mapleton Food Share and The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign.

Janet Snow has been instrumental in establishing the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign in Florence, which has

See **CITIZEN** 7A

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

Full Forecast, A3

TODAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Siuslaw News

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