

**Awards** from 1A

Applebee retires from the chamber on Friday, Feb. 26. He plans to remain in the area. "Cal has set the bar pretty high," Bartlett said. She then presented Applebee with the Distinguished Service Award. During the rest of the award ceremony, Applebee read descriptions and testimonials for each of the nominees. "All of these nominees are winners. Just look at their contributions to the community," he said. Oregon Pacific Bank won the Community Caring Award. The City of Florence's Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Center won the Curb Appeal Award. The Excellence in Customer Service Award went to Hoagland Properties. Sand Master Park

won the Innovation in Business Award. The Non-Profit Achievement award went to the Kiwanis Club of Florence. Two businesses were nominated for the Stu Johnston Business of the Year Award, Homegrown Public House, who catered the event, and Gary Foglio Trucking. Gary Foglio Trucking won. The business is a second-generation family-owned business that has adapted to changes in the logging and trucking fields and remains a vital part of the local economy. "You're all way too kind, but I thank you very much," Foglio said. "It is an honor to be nominated and an honor to receive this award. ... You can tell this has been a family show. About two years ago, my granddaughter Muerella told me that she is going to move to Florence after college and she's going to run

Gary Foglio Trucking." Siuslaw School District Superintendent Ethel Angal announced Holly Hicks, Hannah Bartlett, Alexis Scheer and Mikaela Siegel as the nominees of the Future First Citizen Award. All four young women are seniors at Siuslaw High School. The 2015 Future First Citizen is Hannah Bartlett. "Hannah's work ethic, compassionate spirit and talents have made her a very well-rounded and successful young woman. Our school community and Florence community are lucky to have her," Angal said. "I want to say a big thank you to everyone here and to the community. I've lived in Florence my whole life. For such a small town, it is a generous and giving community. It makes it easy for me to want to give back to it," Hannah Bartlett said. The Florence First Citizen Award, the final award of the night, considers length of service, current involvement in the community, past and present leadership and overall community impact of the nominees. This year's nominees were Bill Craig, Geraldine Lucio, Janet Snow and Gayle Waiss. Wobbe, the 2014 First Citizen, honored past First Citizens from the award's beginning in 1967. Mayor Joe Henry announced Waiss the winner. Waiss is the children's librarian at the Siuslaw Public Library, a volunteer in many organizations and the volunteer executive director of the Western Lane Community Foundation. "Gayle's participation in organizations and projects all have a common thread: to make a difference in the lives of youth in the Florence and Mapleton area," Henry quoted from the Rotary Club of Florence. "I'm not often speechless, but I am," Waiss said. "I'm also humbled. Most people volunteer without expectation of being noticed. ... I never imagined I would be one of the very fabulous First Citizens who have done so much for our community."

**Film** from 1A

"A fabulist is a person who creates stories. The other part of the description is a liar," he said. "I loved that combination being like a coin. On the head side, it's really nice, like a storyteller. On the flipside, this person is a liar." He describes the series as "a collection of short stories, smoke and mirrors, shadows and light" that he hopes to continue in monochrome. It will be similar in format to "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" and "The Twilight Zone" and will be full of suspense and mysteries. Many of his crew from "Glorious" will return, though he hopes to include different actors and settings in each episode. "I really want this to be a real Oregon product," Sisson said. "The intimacy that I have with Florence, Portland and the state is huge for the direction of this project." "Glorious" was shot in Florence and featured City Lights Cinemas, the Florence Playhouse, Grocery Outlet and the Siuslaw River Bridge. The expansion will include even more of the landscape. Future episodes will likely take place in Florence, Mapleton, Eugene and Portland. Sisson wants to explore a variety of themes in the series, and he knows some of them will feature the uglier sides of human nature. "This stuff is real. I'm trying to hold up the mirror. You're not always going to like what you see, but it's real," he said. "I love this community so much, and they've given me so much love, I hope that we have an understanding that this is a fantasy. I do want to portray Florence, and to a degree help put it on the map." As a young artist in Florence, Sisson has tried his hand at various ways of creating spaces for creative expression. He hasn't always been successful, but he has high hopes for both himself and the community. "I always wanted to provide something that Florence deserves, something world class. I want people to experience something

that's so awesome that they realize how valuable their life is in Florence," he said. He doesn't want to leave the area to accomplish this. "Florence is just woven into my heart. When people do come out to support, it is something I'm incredibly fortunate to experience. Florence is so intimate, and there is no anonymity," he said. Sisson and the "Glorious" crew — Dmitri Von Klein, Omar Alaniz, Steve Crocker, April Gilreath, Mark Marbas, Jeremy Austen and Brynne Sapp — have started a Kickstarter campaign to raise money. Kickstarter is an online fundraising platform that allows anyone to give money to groups or individuals "to make their ideas a reality." Sisson's Kickstarter goal is \$6,500. As of Friday, 24 backers had pledged to donate more than \$3,500. Backers can fund Sisson's project in any amount. There are also "rewards" for donating, from a digital download of the completed film, to a role as an extra and even a production credit. However, Kickstarter has a catch: groups only receive the money if they hit their goal. In Sisson's case, he isn't worried. "If the public wants to see it happen, they will rally the support. The only reason I would fail this time is if I didn't talk to the right people and if I didn't make enough effort," he said. The money raised will go to paying the current crew and hiring additional people who can bring more equipment. City Lights Cinemas hosted the launch of the Kickstarter campaign with a champagne party and silent auction. Tomorrow, Jan. 24, Siuslaw Riverside, 1340 Bay St., will feature "Glorious Night" from 6 to 8 p.m. and will donate 20 percent of all sales to Sisson's fund. "I'm just seeing this love and support from people," Sisson said. "I get emotional every time the support is there." To find out more about Sisson's Kickstarter fundraiser, go to [www.kickstarter.com/projects/seansisson/glorious-pilot-project](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/seansisson/glorious-pilot-project).

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**School** from 1A

Angal took over the administration of the district just as the Common Core standards were being implemented in Oregon. Angal said she knows that Common Core has become controversial in some communities. "I truly believe that the controversial piece is the standardized state testing, not the core," she said. Her concern for education in Oregon is early learning. "By the standards, our kids are expected to do quite a bit in kindergarten and when they come out of kindergarten. I would really like to see some movement toward school-sponsored preschool," she said. "We need the preschool component

to be available to all." Angal also voiced concerns over the number of families who must work two or three jobs. "When you are with your child, you don't necessarily want to be teaching school stuff, you want to be doing other enriching things that are also important," she said. Funding has always been a struggle for Oregon schools since the change in school revenue resources mandated by Measure 5 in 1990. The measure transferred the responsibility for school funding from local government to the state. "If schools were really adequately funded we could attack some of the other issues. It is especially significant in small communities," Angal said. Her No. 1 priority, if she had the funds, would be finding a way to improve attendance. According to Angal, a school resource officer, a specially trained police officer, would help the attendance issue. "A school resource officer would come to work in the school and build a relationship with kids and help round up kids that are not attending classes," she said. Angal said the resource officer would also build relationships with the students in school so they would have someone they could trust in addition to school staff. Siuslaw School Board of Directors vice-chairman John Barnett said, "She has been a phenomenal asset to the district and she will be greatly missed. But I understand that it is time for her to move on to other chapters in her life." According to Angal, she and her husband Steve have no immediate plans to leave the area and she said she hopes to continue her relationship with the school district. "I have loved it," she said. During a special meeting Jan. 18, the board agreed to initiate an internal search of current school district personnel for an interim superintendent and not look outside the district for candidates.

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What should the Siuslaw Region's 10-year Vision Plan include?



"What I'd like would be for the community to still be a giving, caring and sharing community."  
—GAYLE WAISS, FLORENCE



"I would love to see a community/recreation center, with a swimming pool, racket ball courts and meeting rooms. A place for both adults and kids."  
—ANDY MAROHL, FLORENCE



"We need a community center, where kids between ages 11 and 16 can go and have fun, positive activities with other kids and adult mentors or role models."  
—STEPHEN WESTLEIGH, FLORENCE

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