

# Community News

## SHS art students featured at FEC Gallery

Siuslaw High School art students were recently presented with awards at a special reception held at the Florence Events Center.

During the month of March, student's work is on display in Gallery One at the FEC, and the public is urged to come and view this eclectic exhibit.

FEC Gallery Committee members selected the award winners, and Liz Johnson, Claudia Ignatieff and John Leasure presented the cash prizes and ribbons to first-, second- and third-place winners, as well as gift certificates and ribbons to five students receiving honorable mention.

All students in the exhibit were congratulated for the quality of their art work, and art teacher Kim Pickell was recognized for the many 2-D and 3-D art experiences she offers to her students.

Parents were also acknowledged for supporting the importance of art and self-



COURTESY PHOTO

Featured winning artists are (from left): Brianna Mitchell, Benjamin Cahoon, Tristin Reber, Breanna Robertson and Cassidy Moore

expression in their children's lives.

Sponsors of this event included the Friends of the FEC, Florence Regional Arts Alliance, City Lights Cinemas, Grocery Outlet, Abby's Pizza,

and 1285 Restobar.

Awards went to: First place, Benjamin Cahoon for his charcoal drawing "Last Friday;" second place, Tristin Reber for his scratch board "Apollo;" and third place, Breanna Robertson

for her pottery piece, "Alice in Wonderland."

Honorable mention was given to Benjamin Cahoon, Maria Figueroa, Brianna Mitchell, Cassidy Moore and Abby Watkins.

## New local driving school aimed at teen drivers

A new driving school, recently opened in Florence, Rob's Driver Ed. LLC, aims to educate novice drivers to be low risk drivers by teaching the 10 Good Habits of Low Risk Drivers.

The program, developed and overseen by ODOT, is intended to not just teach teens the mechanics of driving, but to develop good driving habits that will benefit them for a lifetime of driving.

This is not "the easy school

of driving." The program for teens age 15 to 17, is a minimum of 47 hours long, including classroom, in-car, and home practice, and takes 10-12 weeks to complete.

A teen program is currently being scheduled for students at Siuslaw High School, beginning the middle of April.

At this time, Rob's Driver Ed LLC also offers individual instruction to novice drivers 18 and older, through private lessons. These lessons are modi-

fied from the teen program to be conducted in-car.

The school also offers private lessons to any licensed driver who wants to tune up their driving.

The school is owned by Rob Griffes, its only current instructor. Several years ago, Griffes began teaching his oldest son to drive, and got frustrated with the lack of local driver education programs.

Last March, he decided to do something about it by taking a

rigorous ODOT course, in Eugene, to become an ODOT approved instructor.

To open a private school he also had to be certified by DMV as a school, and as an instructor in his school. Griffes is certified to instruct anyone age 15 and older who has a current learner's permit or driver's license.

For more information, contact Griffes at 541-999-9179.

## Soroptimists to host seminar on ending human trafficking

The Soroptimist of Florence will present a seminar on ending human trafficking Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Florence Senior Center on Kingwood Street.

The program will feature a variety of speakers and survivors of human trafficking. The goal is to provide facts, human trafficking indicators, resources, global impact and a folder of information for reference.

The focus is to provide attendees with information about this increasing crime in rural areas and how it is related to the larger cities.

Learn about this increasing crime and how it affects all range of individuals.

Admission is free and space is limited.

RSVP by calling Jo Hine at 541-997-2385.

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