

Siuslaw

Nerd Squad becomes one with the whale

Middle school students produce video for nationwide BE the Whale project

Siuslaw Middle School students have joined forces with Florence artist and River Gallery owner Jan Jagoe to promote her endangered species project by awarding \$1,000 scholarships to art students nationwide.

Student Memphis Gliewe performs the voice of Melody, a humpback whale, in a short video for BE the Whale on its website. She dances over imagery of whales in the water, gives a little bit of the whale's history and describes the BE the Whale mission.

SMS teacher Hilary Roach provided piano marches and The Siuslaw Nerd Squad produced the video.

The Siuslaw School District will now receive 10 percent of the funding received by the BE the Whale project, to be divided between the elementary school, middle school and high school.

The funds will be distributed to classroom teachers and staff to buy much needed school supplies and equipment.

The project targets all types of endangered species, with a different animal chosen to represent each state.

Paris Meyers, from Crescent Valley High School in Albany, Ore., received a scholarship in



From left: SMS students Levi Spencer, Tyler Johnson, Memphis Gliewe, teacher Eddie Mielke, student Ross Richmond, teacher Hilary Roach, student Campbell Williams and project BE the Whale project creator Jan Jagoe

December 2014 for her watercolor of a humpback whale.

Jordan Merz from Bonners Ferry High School in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, received a scholarship in May 2015 for her graphite and charcoal drawing of a Woodland Caribou.

Brooks Jones from Herriman High School in Salt Lake City, Utah, received a scholarship in December 2015 for her pen and ink drawing of a Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

The ocelot has been chosen as this semester's endangered

animal. High school students from Arizona will be submitting artwork by the April 1 deadline.

Pictures of the winning artwork and information about the project can be found on the project website at www.bethewhale.com, "BE the Whale" on Facebook and at The River Gallery in Old Town Florence.

Promotional items such as T-shirts and coffee mugs are available on the website and at the gallery.

In addition to the 10 percent of the www.gofundme.com

account going to Siuslaw School District, a portion of all proceeds will be donated to various endangered species projects across the country.

Donations to help support this program can also be made at Oregon Pacific Bank, 1335 Highway 101, P.O. Box 22,000, Florence, OR, 97439.

Checks should be addressed to the "BE the Whale" donation fund.

The BE the Whale project will continue as additional funding becomes available.

Siuslaw students named geography bee semifinalists

Siuslaw Middle School student Margot Fleming and Siuslaw Elementary School student Ava Glowacki have been notified by the National Geographic Society that they are each one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2016 Oregon National Geographic State Bee.

The contest will be held in Salem on Friday, April 1. Fleming is the daughter of Jerry and Mary Fleming. Glowacki is the daughter of Gabe and Ella Glowacki.

The Salem contest is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 28th year. School Bees were held in schools with fourth-through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took an online qualifying test.

The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the state Bees.

Each state champion will receive \$100, the National Geographic book "The National Parks: An Illustrated History" and a medal, and will journey to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Geographic Bee Championship at National Geographic Society headquarters from May 22 to 25. The national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society. The national champion will also travel (along with one parent or guardian), all expenses paid, on a Lindblad expedition to Southeast Alaska aboard National Geographic Sea Lion, including Glacier Bay National Park, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Travel for the trip is provided by Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic.

For more information on the National Geographic Bee, visit www.natgeobee.org.

The 2016 National Geographic Bee Championship final round, moderated for the first time by journalist and humorist Mo Rocca, will air on the National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD on Friday, May 27, at 8 p.m. ET, and later on public television stations. Check local television listings for air date and time in your area.

How would you fare as a Bee contestant? At the school Bees this year, students had to answer such questions as:

- To fish in Lake Winnepesaukee and ski near Franconia Notch, you would travel to which state — New Hampshire or South Dakota? (Answer: New Hampshire)
- Visitors to Biscayne National Park in Florida can go fishing and lobstering along the shore of which kind of habitat — mangrove or desert? (Answer: Mangrove)
- Sea kayakers can explore hundreds of islands off the Dalmatian coast of which European country south of Slovenia? (Answer: Croatia)
- For centuries, the Chinese emperors lived in seclusion in the Forbidden City, which is located within what present-day city? (Answer: Beijing)

National Geographic is a global nonprofit membership organization driven by a passionate belief in the power of science, exploration and storytelling to change the world. It funds hundreds of research and conservation projects around the globe each year. With the support of our members and donors, we work to inspire, illuminate and teach through scientific expeditions, award-winning journalism, education initiatives and more.

For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.org.

SIUSLAW HOLDS APRIL CAREER FAIR

On Thursday, April 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be a Career and Job Fair held at the Siuslaw High School gym for high school students from Florence and Mapleton. Presenters from community colleges, vocational schools, the military, local employers, and representatives from various professions will be available to talk with students about career options. There will also be door prizes throughout the day.

The idea for the Career and Job Fair started with Florence residents Nancy Walker and Carol Jolley discussing how stu-

dents might benefit from direct interaction with people from various professions who could talk about career paths and jobs.

Nancy comes from a convention and hotel marketing background and Carol is the lead volunteer at the high school and has been an ASPIRE adviser over the past several years.

Siuslaw School District Superintendent Ethel Angal, Siuslaw High School Principal Kerri Tatum and Steve Moser, counselor, are partners in developing this event for local high school students for the first time.



PHOTO BY WIN JOLLEY

The Career and Job Fair team

Organizations are coming from as far away as Portland and Klamath Falls.

Vocational schools will represent the construction industry, culinary and beauty schools.

There will be many presenters to talk about the ever-growing health care industry.

The Florence police, fire and ambulance organizations will be there as well as the Siuslaw School District representing

teaching and other jobs within the district.

Banner Bank, the Rotary Club and Ladies of Elks have all provided funding for the Career/Job Fair. Fred Meyer, Safeway, Three Rivers Casino Resort, the Florence PTA, ASPIRE and the Indian Education program have also contributed door prizes and/or support for the event.

—Submitted by Carol Jolley

Promising opportunity

Siuslaw High School seniors are taking advantage of the Oregon Promise. As of March 1, 35 students applied for this opportunity for assistance to attend state community colleges. To date, FAFSA reports 39 submissions. Students still have time to file their FAFSA and to link it to the IRS for an automatic update. —Submitted by Bou Kilgore

Bowling for gold



COURTESY PHOTO

Two teams from Siuslaw Bowling qualified for the state tournament. The Siuslaw Athletic Booster Club donated \$450 to help cover expenses. —Submitted by Gina Castro Brandt

Perfect attendance continues

The following 12 students have maintained 100 percent attendance thus far in the school year.

Ninth Grade

Burnem, Eli S.
Disalvo, Nicholas J.
McNutt, Scott
Stinnett, Gabriel M.
Tupua, Annabel M.

10th Grade

Hicks, Joshua

Mielke, Edison N.
Stinnett, Darren J.
Valentine, Ramona C.
Williams, Hailee A.

11th grade

Fleming, David A.

12th grade

Hicks, Holly

Congratulations to their commitment to success.

—Submitted by Kerri Tatum, Siuslaw High School principal

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Breanna Robertson — Pottery

BY BENJAMIN CAHOON
Siuslaw High School Student

Breanna Robertson is a senior at Siuslaw High School. She is an advanced student in fifth period pottery and a Teacher's Aid in second period pottery.

Breanna is the daughter of Daun Bolling and Ken Robertson. She states the atmosphere of Kim Pickell's classroom is, "very relaxing and calm."

Breanna explains, "I can express myself in my artwork" and that is her favorite part of pottery. She recently won third place in the Fresh Impressions student art show at the Florence Event Center with an "Alice in Wonderland" sculpture. Breanna describes her sculpture as, "a three-tiered cake. The base is purple with squares, and has a Cheshire Cat. The middle is the Mad Hatter's hat, and is green with leaf textures. The top is a teapot, to represent Alice."

Breanna appreciates how Mrs. Pickell teaches.

"It is okay if you mess up, and that not everybody is perfect at everything. As long as you try your best, that is all that matters," she says.

She shares a bit of knowledge she learned in her years of pottery: "Instead of being so specific about how to get something done, sometimes you just let it go and it turns out way cooler than you expected it to be in the first place."

Breanna also enjoys reading and drawing. She plans on going to Lane Community College and majoring in sign language. Breanna plans on being a sign language teacher for the government or school system, but she has a back up plan in cosmetology.

Breanna's artwork will be at the Florence Event Center until the end of March, so be sure to check out her amazing and award-winning sculpture.



PHOTOS BY CAROL JOLLEY

Senior Breanna Robertson won third place for her "Alice in Wonderland" sculpture at the Fresh Impressions Art Show.