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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

PATRIOTIC ASSEMBLY

Elementary students honor veterans for their service, sacrifice



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Kim Stokes' second-grade class from Siuslaw Elementary School performs patriotic songs May 16 prior to an address by local veterans at the Veteran's Memorial Park on Bay Street. The community is invited to several Memorial Day services around town on Monday.

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Elementary School second graders shared their gratitude for Florence veterans during a ceremony Monday, May 16, at the Veteran's Memorial Park on Bay Street.

The second-graders sang the Pledge of Allegiance and played other patriotic songs on recorders for the assembled veterans.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry introduced World War II veteran and event coordinator Steve

Olienyk, who shared his love of country and community with the students before introducing veterans of the five military branches in attendance.

"I'm grateful that my experiences in the army during World War II taught me the skills of teamwork, discipline, tenacity and follow through," Olienyk said. "My military service deepened my commitment to my country."

During the presentation, veterans shared their military experiences and talk about what serving their country meant to them.

"I'm privileged to know so many local veter-

ans who've felt a commitment to their country, and have gone on to serve their communities through volunteerism or careers in public service," Olienyk said. "These veterans go above and beyond to help others and improve our community. They are great role models for our young people."

After the veterans spoke, students passed out handmade thank-you cards, expressing their appreciation for the veterans and their service and sacrifice.

See **VETERANS 10A**

Florence preps for November election

Mayor, 2 city councilors announce plans to seek re-election this fall

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

City Recorder Kelli Weese documented the Florence election process for the positions of mayor and city councilor at the May 16 Florence City Council meeting. This year, positions held by Mayor Joe Henry and councilors Joshua Greene and Ron Preisler will be up for re-election.

Any qualified elector who is registered to vote in the City of Florence and has resided in the city since Nov. 8, 2015, is eligible to run for the two four-year councilor positions and the mayor's two-year position.

"I wanted to make sure that the public was aware of all that goes into being a city councilor," Weese said at the beginning of her presentation.

Florence City Council is the governing body of the city. It is responsible for passing laws, fees, policies and the annual budget. It also appoints and supervises City Manager Erin Reynolds and Municipal Court Judge Rick Brissenden.

The council establishes policy and develops the overall vision for the city.

The mayor has no additional executive functions aside from his or her position on the council. However, the mayor facilitates the council and presides over deliberations, determines order of business, appoints positions to boards and committees and performs ceremonial functions.

Weese encourages qualified citizens to run for an office. She is available by appointment to meet with people to give more information.

See **ELECTION 10A**

Mr. Cahoon's artwork goes to Washington

Siuslaw student's etching of an owl chosen to represent 4th congressional district

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw High School junior Benjamin Cahoon's scratchboard etching titled "He Flies in Silence" was chosen by U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio's office to represent Oregon's 4th District in this year's Congressional Art Contest.

The black-and-white representation of an owl

in flight will be displayed for a year in the U.S. Capitol building, along with high school art pieces from the other 434 congressional districts. Cahoon, 17, will be honored at the annual awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., this summer.

Cahoon chose scratchboard as a medium because he wanted to try



"He Flies in Silence"

something different.

"Scratchboard is a layer of India ink laid over white clay," Cahoon said. "You use special knives to scratch off the top layer so that the white clay is exposed. It is one of the only ways to get the extreme contrast between the whitest of

white and the blackest of black."

This is only the third scratchboard piece Cahoon has ever done.

In addition to scratchboard, Cahoon applies his talent to a multitude of art media.

See **CONTEST 10A**



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw High School junior Benjamin Cahoon sits with three of his ceramic art pieces. His scratchboard 2D depiction of a Great Owl in flight (at left) will represent Oregon's 4th District in the Congressional Art Contest on display at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.