

Awards from 1A

Florence's Future First Citizen. Waggoner said, "I am so humbled to have this honor and I am blessed to call Florence my home."

City Lights Cinemas was presented the "Stu Johnston" Business of the Year Award.

Co-owner Michael Falter said, "It was a spectacular evening for Florence. I was honored to be a part of it."

Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County received the Nonprofit Achievement Award.

Board President Michael Pearson brought many in the audience — and himself — to the brink of tears as he shared the struggles and triumphs of the club's Cinderella-like recovery from almost insurmountable challenges. He credited the philanthropic generosity of John

and Patricia Hardison and the club's current leadership with saving the club.

The Innovation in Business Award went to Friends of the Florence Events Center (FEC), in part for the creative and profitable FEC 20th anniversary Dancing with Sea Lions fundraising event throughout 2016. Under the direction of FEC Marketing Specialist Jennifer Connor, the project raised more than \$60,000 for Friends of the FEC.

Hoagland Properties was awarded the Excellence in Customer Service award for the local and national recognition the company's two hostelry properties, River Town Inn and Old Town Inn, have received for customer satisfaction.

The Curb Appeal Award was given to Lovejoy's Restaurant and Tearoom.



Laurel Bay Gardens co-owner and former First Citizen Lisa Walter-Sedlacek accepted the Community Caring Award for her business. Laurel Bay Gardens also provided willow

branches for the evening's decor. As a special surprise, Chamber Ambassador Jean Hefty was presented with the Distinguished Service Award for



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS
(Above) Jean Hefty wins the Distinguished Service Award for her years of volunteering. (Left), Lisa Walter-Sedlacek accepts the Community Caring Award for Laurel Bay Gardens.

her 18 years of volunteer work at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and her role with the Visitor's Center. Pavilion Catering provided the meal of two types of pasta, three sauces, meatballs, chicken cordon bleu, breadsticks, salad and dessert.

Hannigan said, "We do represent an amazing community

to have this many nominations and candidates. It is humbling to be surrounded by so many people of such kindness and generosity."

A live-feed video of the event is available to view at Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's social media page at www.Facebook.com/FlorenceOregon.



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February is National Children's Dental Health Month

The tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth



Fighting the battle where it starts

Who's the top-grossing actor in kids' tooth decay stories? Sugar. And in February 2017, during National Children's Dental Health Month, the American Dental Association is bringing "Sugar Wars"™ to a dentist's office near you.

Your child's dental hygiene isn't only about brushing and flossing. The best way to prevent tooth decay and the costly dental cavities that result is to tackle the problem where it starts: eating sugary foods.

Everyone likes a treat now and then, but when you and your kids do indulge, it's extra important to remember a couple of things.

- Don't eat candies or sugary foods throughout the day; the bacteria that cause decay feed on sugar, so it's important to give your mouth a break.

- Brush your teeth with a dentist-recommended toothpaste after you've eaten a sugary snack or dessert. This does two things: it removes any stuck food particles from the teeth and gums, and it helps the saliva return to a normal pH level that doesn't favor tooth decay.

Generally, it's best to avoid eating sugary foods every day for your dental health and overall health. Opt for desserts that feature fresh or frozen fruits, nuts and low-sugar recipes. At snack time, choose fresh fruit or vegetables, nuts, cheese, whole-grain products or other low-sugar foods that don't easily get stuck in the teeth. Plan an attack on sugary sodas, fruit drinks pastries and candies.

Teaching your kids good dental habits is the best way to fight the Sugar Wars. Remind them to brush at least twice a day (once before going to bed), rinse after snacking, floss daily and choose low-sugar snacks.



Sugary sodas and fruit drinks are big culprits in the Sugar Wars.

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