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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

New reporter joins Siuslaw News

Newspaper welcomes Florence resident Jared Anderson

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw News has announced the hiring of Jared Anderson as its new community reporter.



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS
Jared Anderson

Siuslaw News Editor Ned Hickson said, "Jared is a great fit for the dynamics of our news team. He brings strong writing skills and the

ability to convey information in a way that is interesting and informative. His ability to connect with people and the trending issues that affect our community are elements in his reporting that I know will benefit our newspaper and its readers."

Anderson, 39, unofficially joined the newsroom in May as he created content and conducted video interviews for TheSiuslawNews.com.

Now, his primary focus will be to write stories and take photos that inform readers about community-based events, organizations and individuals who impact Florence and Mapleton,

See **REPORTER 7A**

Florence Mayor announces Coast Guard City designation

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence Mayor Joe Henry confirmed Monday that he had received official verbal approval of Florence's application to become a Coast Guard City.

"This distinguished award came after a long application process and a lot of hard work," Henry said.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Affairs Officer Deborah Heldt Cordone was instrumental in getting written testimonies, compiling photographs and working with local media as she completed the Coast Guard City application on behalf of the community.

"According to the admiral, our application package was one of the best that has been submitted and we feel fortunate to have been selected," Henry said.

"We are especially thankful for the people and their families at Coast Guard Station Siuslaw for what they do for our community. Not only do they keep our river and the adjoining miles of coastline safe for boaters, they are an integral part of our community and contribute greatly to what makes Florence Oregon's premier Coastal Community."

See **CITY 7A**

To end the cycle of cancer



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Cyclists participating in the Texas 4000 roll into Sandland Adventures on Friday, July 14, just 42 days after departing Austin, Texas. Every year, riders in the 4000 travel from Austin to Anchorage, Alaska, taking a stop in Florence to ride the dunes and replenish with a feast held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. The program is used to offer hope, encouragement and fundraising for the fight against cancer. The 4000, made up of graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Texas at Austin, has raised over \$7 million since the program's inception in 2003. Read more about this journey in the July 19 edition of Siuslaw News.



Lane honors Florence employee

LCC gives recognition award to Administrative Specialist Beth Habian

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Beth Habian had no plans to make the Lane Community College (LCC) Florence Center tick. Just four years ago, she was an administrative support specialist in the front office, taking phone calls one day a week.

Now the head administrative specialist for the campus, Habian was awarded the LCC Employee Recognition Program award, the highest honor the college gives administrative employees.

In a packed room at the Florence campus last Thursday, Habian was given her certificate surrounded by faculty, staff, main campus administrators, students and friends.

Habian was humble about the recognition, simply stating, "It's nice that somebody from Florence could be recognized."

To the recollection of Russ Pierson, dean of the Florence Center, no administrator had ever been officially recognized by the main campus before.

In Pierson's mind, it couldn't have happened to a better employee.

"She's awesome," Pierson said. "I sometimes describe her as the real power behind the throne and I'm just an ugly figure-head in the community. She has a great capacity for administrative excellence."

The award is culled from the 325 administrative employees who work in campuses across the LCC system. Coworkers nominate individuals for the award, which the dean of each campus certifies.



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

LCC Florence Administrative Specialist Elizabeth Habian is honored in a special, surprise ceremony Thursday.

Habian's responsibilities at the campus are vast. From employee issues, financial considerations for classes, community outreach, supporting the dean, solving complex administrative issues, catering meetings and an innumerable amount of other tasks, many LCC Florence employees feel Habian is responsible for making the campus a success.

Reading from comments about Habian the staff had provided, Pierson said, "She is the go-to person for all kinds of questions. She goes beyond in all she does. I can tell you that the Florence campus would not be the same without her, and I believe she should be recognized for the fantastic work that she does."

Habian's education and knowledge goes well beyond her time at the campus, according to her sister and interim administrative support specialist at LCC, Cindy Swoboda.

"In the family we always call her a walking dictionary because she knows everything. Every evening, when Jeopardy comes on, she knows all the answers. And the weirdest answers, too. They'll just pop out of her head," Swoboda said.

Habian has called Florence home since 2000.

Originally from Sacramento and the Bay area, she found housing in California to be too expensive.

See **RECOGNITION 7A**

CRIME

Man identified in Mapleton carjacking attempts

Lane County sheriffs arrest Chad Randolph Miller on July 13

BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

MAPLETON — Thursday morning, 37-year-old Chad Randolph Miller threatened several Mapleton residents in an apparent attempt to obtain a car before being arrested by Lane County Sheriffs around noon that day.

Jesse Johnson, owner of Caffeination Station, was talking with Florence resident and Mapleton High School teacher Aaron Longo when Miller approached them asking for Longo's car.

"He said he was a special agent who had a son being held by pedophiles and needed a car to go get him," said Johnson. "He had a heavy alcohol smell and was talking a mile a minute, which made me believe he may have been on meth or something."

"His skin was pockmarked and he didn't look healthy."

At that point, Johnson suggested to Miller that he contact the police if his son was in danger, and gave Miller a phone to call 911.

"He dialed the number, talked for a minute then hung up the phone," said Johnson. "It was pretty obvious he didn't really complete the call."

See **ARREST 6A**

Dunes City 'streams' council

Dunes City begins Internet live streaming city council meetings

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Dunes City Council will now be holding all meetings in local coffee shops. Simultaneously, councilors will be speaking at grocery stores, restaurants, cars, homes and Woahink Creek.

"The city council meetings are now streaming live on our website," announced Dunes City Administrative Assistant Rapunzel Oberholtzer at the July 13 council meeting.

Dunes City is the region's first local city council to live-stream meetings.

"We're main-stream now!" Oberholtzer joked while making the announcement.

"I think it's exciting," said Dunes City Administrator Jamie Mills. "It's an opportunity for greater transparency. The citizens will be able to watch the meetings in progress, and if they see something they want to comment on, they can dash down here and take part."

Before the live streaming, citizens only had three options to watch the meetings: Attending, watching on cable channel 191 or viewing prerecorded meetings on the city's website.

Each option had its own limitations.

See **STREAMING 6A**