

# ENDING ON A HIGH NOTE

SPORTS — B



# Eighth-graders learn about 'Life'

INSIDE — SCHOOL ZONE



# Siuslaw News

127TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 85

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



## IT'S A GREAT PUMPKIN, FLORENCE OREGON!

KCST holds annual Great Pumpkin Giveaway Thursday

BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

**I**t was 6 a.m. on a Halloween morning when KCST made its first transmission back in 1988.

Every year since, the broadcasting organization has been celebrating that day with the Great Pumpkin Giveaway, set for its 28th annual event this Thursday, Oct. 26, at 3 p.m. The pumpkins will be given out at 4 p.m.

The event started in 1989 when the station decided to give

away pumpkins to celebrate its first anniversary.

"They wanted to celebrate their anniversary and give back to the community," said KCST News Director George Henry. "This was an opportunity to do everything all at once. Get the kids involved and get the

pumpkins out."

Thousands of pounds of the orange gourds have been given out to children 18 and under through the years, with up to 400 pumpkins expected to be handed out this year alone.

See **GIVEAWAY 7A**

## Florence hosts State of the Coast Conference

*Speakers include artists, scientists, politicians and community organizers*

The 2017 State of the Coast Conference, an annual event that focuses on the issues and opportunities facing Oregon's marine environment, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Florence Events Center.

The State of the Coast Conference is primarily science based and featured educators from Oregon State University (OSU), the University of Oregon, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a number of elected officials.

The overall umbrella organization that provides much of the direction and funding for the event is Oregon Sea Grant, which was established in 1971 at OSU to provide a better understanding of Oregon coastal communities and ecosystems.

Flaxen Conway is the director of the Marine Resource Management Program at the OSU College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences and point person for the event.

"The idea behind the conference is that folks can come and get a glimpse into the 2017 'state of the coast.' In other words, they can come and share and learn about the latest science and art regarding pressing issues and opportunities for the coast," Conway said. "The theme this year is innovation and the topics on the program relate to these issues and opportunities."

The conference will feature an early morning keynote address given by Dr. Richard Spinrad, a former Chief Scientist for NOAA and vice president of research at OSU from 2010 to 2014.

Spinrad will kick off the event on Saturday morning with a presentation entitled, "The Ecosystem of Innovation Addressing Coastal Issues."

See **CONFERENCE 7A**

## HOMECOMING GALA 2017 A SENIOR-SENIOR PROM



STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News



**O**n Friday, the first annual Homecoming Gala Senior-Senior Prom was held at Three Rivers Casino Resort. The Gala was a fundraiser for Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County.

The total raised at the event is still being calculated but Club Director Jack Davis said the event was a great success.

"Everyone who attended the

Senior-Senior Prom had the time of their life, and all of us at the Boys and Girls Club are so grateful for the generosity," he said.

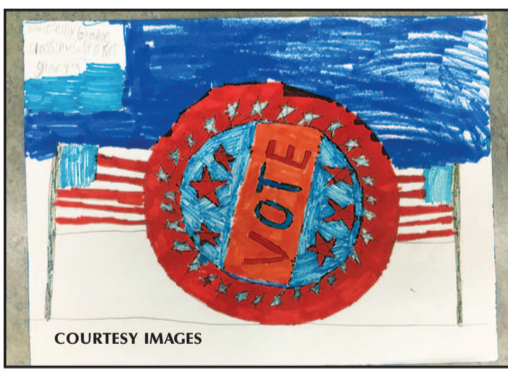
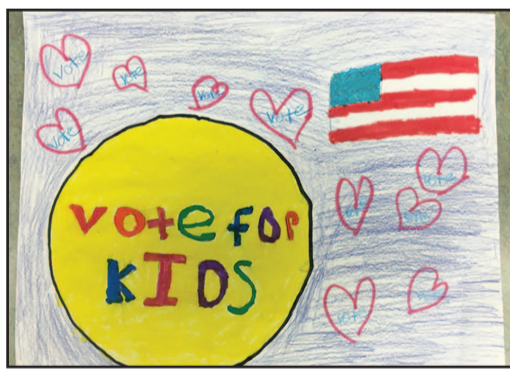
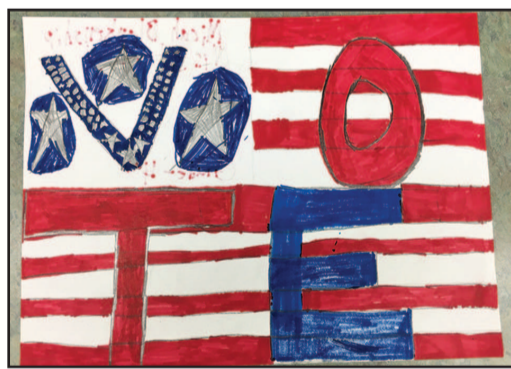
The fundraiser featured a silent auction with art and collectables donated by community members and a dessert auction, which raised more than \$4,000.

Davis said more than 50 spon-

sors contributed to the success of the gala.

"We couldn't have held this fundraiser without the support of Three Rivers Casino, which provided the room for the banquet and the staff for the evening,

Roseburg's Reustle-Prayer Rock Vineyards, which provided the wine for the evening, and the businesses and individuals who contributed to this effort," Davis said. "Without this outpouring of local support, this club would not exist."



Kim Stokes' fourth-grade Siuslaw Elementary class creates patriotic, nonpartisan posters in an attempt to motivate the community to vote in the Nov. 7 Special Election. Measure 20-281 is the only local measure on the Lane County ballot.

## Students encourage community to vote Nov. 7

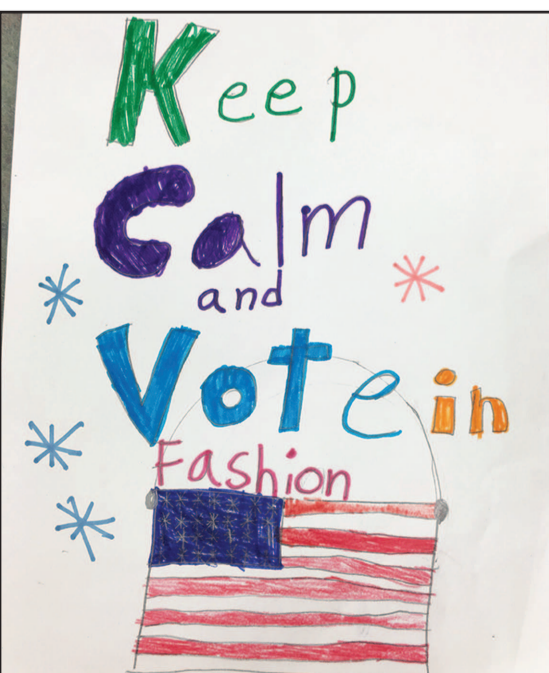
Western Lane County's only measure is Siuslaw School District's local option levy renewal

**T**he fourth-graders in Mrs. Kim Stokes' class at Siuslaw Elementary School District really want to encourage people to vote in the Nov. 7 Special Election. The students were so determined to remind people that they each made small posters meant to motivate residents to vote.

The posters were designed and colored by the students and are nonpartisan, with the emphasis on encouraging citizens to turn in their ballots.

The project started out as a contest. As Stokes received the posters, the quality of the work was so high that no individual winners were selected and all entrants were declared winners.

Florence resident Nancy Rickard is the sole sponsor of the poster contest this year.



"I served 14 years on the school board so I have seen the problems the district faces up close," she said.

She felt the stakes were too high this election to sit on the sidelines doing nothing.

"Another problem is the number of people voting is so low," Rickard said. "Folks need to know that we need them to participate. Regardless of their position on the measures on the ballot, I really want to encourage people to look at the issues. It's not so much about how you vote, it's more about becoming informed about the issues and then voting for the measures you support."

The upcoming special election will focus on the renewal of a local option levy for school operations, Measure 20-281.

See **ELECTION 7A**

## Sen. Roblan, Rep. McKeown to hold town hall

A town hall meeting hosted by State Sen. Arnie Roblan and Rep. Caddie McKeown will be held in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28.

The topics to be discussed by the elected officials, both of whom represent residents of coastal areas of Lane, Coos, Douglas and Lincoln counties, are issues related to transportation and education.

McKeown said she is looking forward to sharing about the progress made this term on the issues of education and transportation, but also on other topics raised by attendees.

"I appreciate the opportunity to recap this legislative term with our coastal community members. Sen. Roblan and I are members of the coastal caucus, and we meet once a week, when we are in session, to discuss issues that effect our constituents," she said. "It will also give us the chance to preview the upcoming 2018 short session and what we hope to accomplish during the term."

McKeown currently serves as chairwoman of the Transportation and Economic Development Committee and is a member of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee. She is also a co-chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, Preservation and Modernization.

See **TOWN HALL 7A**