

## Siuslaw Awards seeks nominations

The 10th annual Siuslaw Awards is fast approaching. The awards banquet, sponsored by the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, will take place Feb. 7 at the Florence Events Center.

This prestigious event recognizes excellence in the local business community by naming recipients for awards in Excellence in Customer Service, Curb Appeal, Nonprofit Achievement, Community Caring, Innovation in Business and the Stu Johnston Business of the Year Award.

In addition, two outstanding individuals in the community will be honored with the Future First Citizen Award and the First Citizen Award.

The First Citizen Award recognizes an individual who has given selflessly to the community based on community involvement, leadership and overall community impact.

The Future First Citizen Award recognizes a student based on his or her academic success as well as civic involvement and contributions to the community.

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce will also recognize an individual or business that has selflessly given of its time and efforts in supporting the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and its efforts with the Distinguished Service Award.

Anyone can choose to nominate their own or another business for the Siuslaw Awards. Applications are available now either at the Florence Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center or online at [florencechamber.com](http://florencechamber.com).

Nominations for business awards must be submitted to the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce by Friday, Dec. 15.

First Citizen and Future First Citizen nomination forms will be available at area service clubs starting Monday, Dec. 4, and are due back to the Chamber by Jan. 10, 2018.

For more information, call Florence Area Chamber of Commerce at 541-997-3128.

## Pounding from 1A

"There was a real drop in the amount of charitable giving in those first few months," Wobbe said. "People were still giving, they were just giving it to a larger cause."

When Wobbe discovered the financial difficulties Florence Food Share was having, she decided to create The Pounding. The genesis of that idea came from Wobbe's Pentecostal background, where parishioners would donate one pound of food, allowing the church pantry to be filled.

"At that time, my dad had died the year previously," Wobbe said. "He had left me his extensive library and office furniture, asking me to sell

those and do something positive with them in the community."

Wobbe took those funds to Jon Thompson, Coast Radio general manager, asking if they could do something similar to the Pentecostal tradition. Thompson promised to air the event on the radio, which would be held the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

"At the time, we thought it was going to be a one-year deal," Wobbe said.

They raised 1,400 pounds of food that year, which Wobbe matched in cash donations, using her father's funds. The event was such a success that it's been going on ever since.

"I wish my dad could have seen what he started," Wobbe said.

While big cash donations are important to providing operational costs for Florence Food Share, for Wobbe it's the fact that everyone in the community has a chance to give in a significant way.

"What's always touching to me is when someone walks in with a single can of green beans, saying, 'I know it's not much, but I wanted to help,'" Wobbe said. 13,088 pounds represents several hundred people who came in and gave what they could. I see people who are actually clients of Food Share donate to the Pounding.

"That's what I love. It's a part of something that all of us can be a part of to make something pretty miraculous happen."

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