

VIKINGS FALL TO BRUINS

SPORTS — B



Latest 'BE the Whale' winner

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

2017 FLORENCE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SIUSLAW AWARDS

First Citizen, Future First Citizen nominees

The upcoming Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Siuslaw Awards on Wednesday, Feb. 7, will be a night to celebrate members of the Florence community. In addition to the Business Awards, the chamber will also recognize the Future First Citizen and First Citizen Award recipients. For the 2017 year, there are four nominees for the Future First Citizen — Kyle King, Kaylee Graham, Jared Brandt and Abigail Coday — and three nominees for the First Citizen Award — Jean Murphey, Rachel Pearson and Thomas F. "Sam" Spayd. For nominee bios, see SIUSLAW AWARDS 7A.

FUTURE FIRST CITIZEN NOMINEES



Future First Citizen nominees are (from left): Kyle King, Kaylee Graham, Jared Brandt and Abigail Coday

FIRST CITIZEN NOMINEES



Florence First Citizen nominees are (from left): Jean Murphey, Thomas F. "Sam" Spayd and Rachel Pearson

SVFR, WLAD discuss 2017 and future plans

Merging of administrative functions and district call out statistics are explained

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The SVFR and WLAD Boards met one day apart this week in the same location, SVFR Station House 1, for January board meetings.

The SVFR meeting was held Wednesday evening and all members were present when Board President Green gavelled the group to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the agenda was amended to reflect the postponement of a presentation from Chris Mahr, a CPA hired to evaluate SVFR's financial protocols and procedures.

Mahr is in the process of conducting an audit of the

See **SVFR 9A**

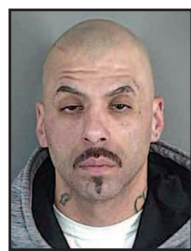
Deadwood man killed in officer-involved shooting

BY NED HICKSON
Siuslaw News

More details have been released regarding the officer-involved shooting in Eugene this past Monday that took the life of 42-year-old Robert Martinez Jr., whose last known residence was Deadwood, Ore.

The incident began with the Lane County Sheriff's Office receiving reports of a stolen vehicle, a white Honda Accord, at the 500 block of Clairmont Drive in the River Road area of north Eugene on Jan. 15.

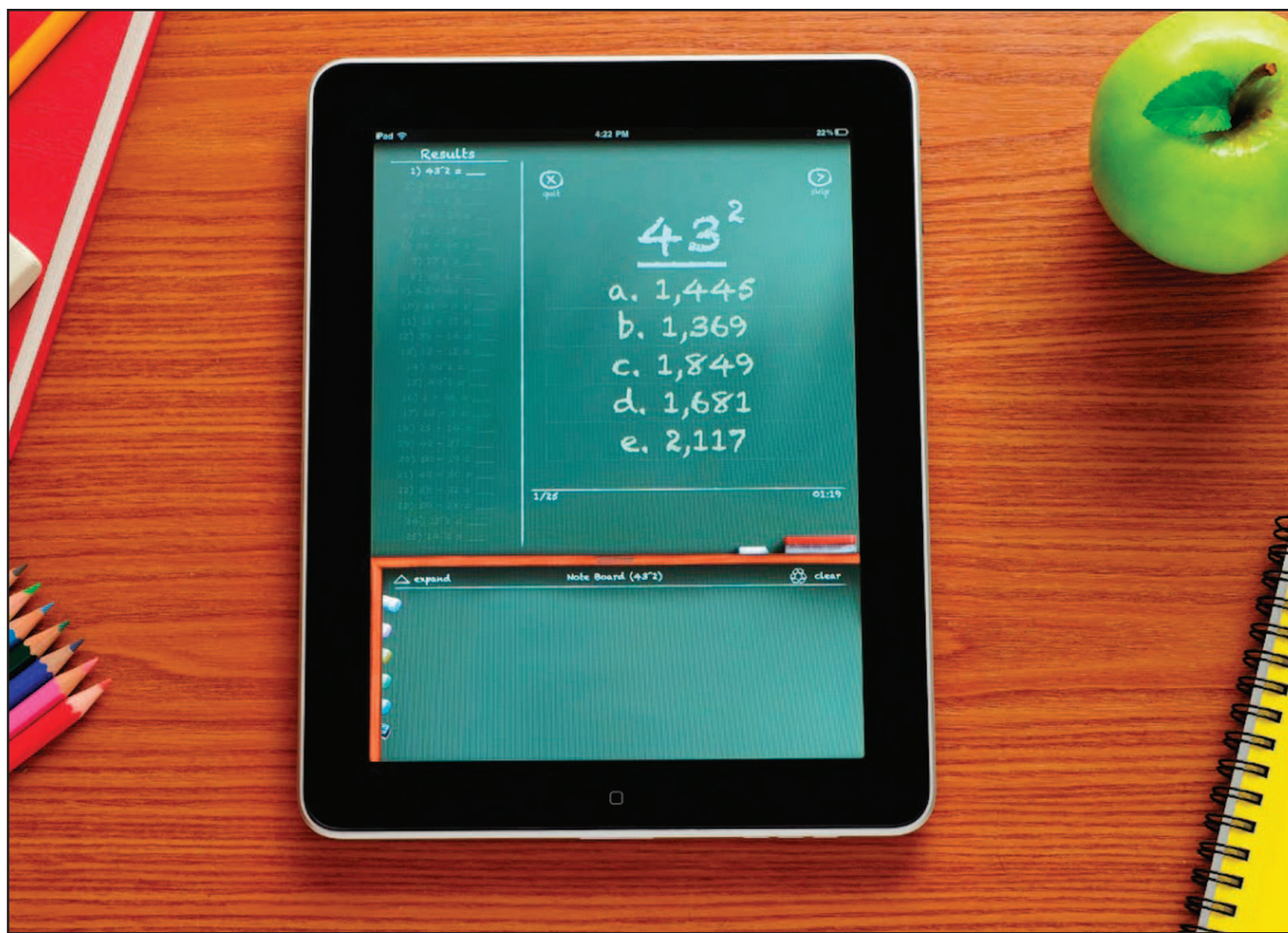
At about 4:50 p.m., a deputy responded and had been made aware of the possibility of two occupants in the vehicle. Upon arrival, the deputy only observed Martinez, who exited the vehicle and



LCS PHOTO
Robert Martinez Jr.

See **SHOOTING 9A**

New tech 'clicks' with local schools



Technology like tablets and iPads are slowly edging out traditional tools once used by educators.

The blending of technology and learning is key to next generation of education

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD
for Siuslaw News

The Oregon Coast is seldom associated with terms like "cutting-edge technology." Contrastingly, the coast's allure is planted firmly in its panoramic natural beauty and the ease of escaping the din of our modern world. Outside of Florence, the gentle buzz of small-town modernity settles to a low, rural hum, eventually rippling upriver toward the pastoral ambience of riverside homes in Mapleton, where images of pleasantly simple life seem far removed from

thoughts of "cutting-edge" concerns.

A glimpse through a window in a Mapleton classroom, though, might widen some eyes. For all the rustic appeal of Mapleton's community, a quiet but revolutionary adaptation to the 21st century is occurring inside its schools. For students here, a typical day will present a range of front-line technology into their lives.

While a recently-installed computer lab boasts 25 new computers, each class in the elementary school comes equipped with eight iPads, a Smart Board (an interactive

whiteboard), a document camera (a digital overhead projector) and two computers for teacher operations. In higher grades, many of the same tools complement lessons, including 40 notebook computers which float between classes as needed.

For a district its size, the sight of a classroom full of digitally connected students may come as a shock.

"Most people come out here and don't expect that," said Jodi O'Mara, Superintendent of Mapleton School District.

O'Mara has stepped into the digital domain with little trepi-

dition, bucking the inherent limitations of a rural school district to win her students a taste of the future. Though the plethora of modern hardware means some veteran teachers face a bit of a learning curve, it's proven little to no obstacle for the students of a tech-savvy generation.

"Students are pretty fluent in all of that," O'Mara said. "In fact, they can sometimes help the teacher with it."

On top of classrooms brimming with digital devices, the entire district's internet

See **DIGITAL 8A**