

SIUSLAW

Graduation countdown



"This is the best time of year," said Siuslaw High School's Facebook page yesterday as moderators celebrated the Class of 2018. Area students have one quarter left in the 2017-18 school year.

PHOTO BY SHS PRINCIPAL KERRI TATUM

Future Health Professionals attend conference

The Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) Program at Siuslaw School District took part in the HOSA CTSO (Career Technical Student Organization) State Leadership Conference for Future Health Professionals. Sixteen students competed in round one the week of Feb. 12 and all advanced to the state competition held March 23 to 25.

The following students placed at the state competition and have advanced to the International Leadership Conference in Dallas Texas the last week in June.

- Zoe Zybelle Gonzaga – first place in Health Careers Photography
- Kaitlyn Snook – fourth place

in Human Growth and Development Knowledge Test

• Lacey Robinson – fifth place in Medical Law and Ethics Knowledge Test

• Hayleigh

Middleton, Ashlund Chinn and Kaylee Kimbel – fifth place in Creative Problem Solving

The outstanding HOSA Chapter also made it to the International Conference and was one of the two that made it past



HOSA State Leadership Conference opening ceremony

round one judging. It was led by Robinson and Gonzaga, with the help of Danielle Goldblatt, Lillian Wenham and the rest of the HOSA State Conference attendees. — Submitted by Stephanie Rogers



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

FOLLOWING A LEGACY WITH THE 2018 RHODODENDRON COURT

As part of the 111th annual Rhododendron Festival theme of "Rhody Rendezvous," members of the 2018 Rhododendron Court will be visiting area service groups. A majority of the students, who attend Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts, visited the Kiwanis Club of Florence last week.

The Senior Princess and Princes told Kiwanians about their reasons for joining this year's court.

For some, such as Prince Trent Reavis and Princess Alex Saindon, Florence's Rhododendron Festival and Rhody Court are a family tradition, with members or their families as previous Rhody Royalty or organizers.

For others, the court allows them to engage to the Florence

community and connect with 111 years of tradition.

The Senior Court Princesses this year are Thelma Gentry, Lainey Goss, Alex Saindon, Andrea Sanchez and Denielle VanWinkle. The two princes are Trent Reavis and Colby Waters.

For the Junior Court, four Siuslaw students and one Mapleton student are this year's princesses. They are first-grader Aleeya Thomas; second-grader Jasmine Krause; Mapleton third-grader Abigail Mendez; fourth-grader Kylee Stinger; and fifth-grader Brittney Adams.

The Florence Rhododendron Festival is the second-oldest flower festival in Oregon and third oldest on the West Coast. It is just one year younger than the Portland Rose Festival.

Rhody Days officially begin with the Rhody Showcase to crown Queen Rhododendra and King of the Coast on Thursday, May 17, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. That week, Davis Shows Northwest's Amusement Carnival will open at the Port of Siuslaw parking lot.

Other weekend events will include a Junior Parade, the Kiwanis Kids Games, Late Rhododendron Flower Show, the Florence Regional Arts Alliance Art Show, Rhody Run and the Grand Floral Parade.

For information about volunteering, participating in the parades, selling items at the Vendor Fair and more, visit florencechamber.com or call the Florence Visitor's Center, 290 Highway 101, at 541-997-3128.

BY RAMIRO RAMIREZ
Siuslaw High School Student

TO DRIVE A CAR

Teenage drivers can be tough to handle for parents for the first few years of having their permit or driver's license. You don't know what they want to do, where to go, and why. For me, I didn't want to start off as a rough driver. I wanted to be a safe driver knowing the rules of the road, and how to handle certain situations.

In Florence, there is a driver education school available for those with permits — I got mine in the summer of 2017 — so I decided to take full advantage of it. The name of the class is Rob's Driver Ed, which is Oregon Department of Transportation approved.

Turns out that driving a car is more dangerous than you think. You're going 40+ miles per hour down the highway with nothing but metal, rubber and glass protecting you, but you don't realize the dangers because of the quiet cabin inside. However, if you have been in an automobile accident, you know the feeling when you go from a high speed to almost an instant stop, and then you know that the glass, rubber and metal can't do much to protect you. In many instances, it's just the pillow-like airbag that inflates in front of you.

This is the reason why the class practices some techniques such as danger-zones, slowing when conditions are not right, and

trusting our instincts at times of desperation.

Driving a car also doesn't mean just having keys and an automobile. Drivers need automobile insurance, such as comprehensive insurance, which is effective when your car is damaged caused by theft, fire, earthquake, vandalism, flood, animal contact, etc. Without insurance, you're pretty much left in the hands of other drivers.

In one of our drives, a fun exercise we did was to handle emergency situations. This was where we experimented with a couple of procedures in emergency situations such as tire blowout, engine stalling and throttle-sticking.

The best one that I did was tire blow out. The procedure goes like this; first aim to a target area. This is where you will park and stop your car to change your tire. Second, control your steering. When the tire goes out, it will be extremely hard to steer, as well as turn. The car will want to force you to not go in a straight line.

While you're keeping control of the wheel, do not push the brake pedal with force. It may sound like a good idea, but the brake will cause the car to turn rapidly and possibly roll over. Next, you reduce speed and brake gently. This will ensure a safe stopping speed.

You then pull off the roadway

to get out of danger's way, and put on emergency lights. This will prevent cars rear-ending you at night, as they follow the lights of the car ahead of them. The procedure for me was stressful, but fun at the same time.

In one exercise, Rob, my instructor, told me he would shake the wheel at any given moment, and I was ready. When he put his hands on the wheel and started shaking it, it was a rocking fun house at that point. I went through all six procedures while laughing. I don't know why, but it just happened to me like that.

To finish up this article, Rob's Driver Ed has helped me a ton. Not just with safety, but with technique as well. To make things even more easier on myself, I now only have to have 50 hours of supervised driving practice until receiving my drivers' license, and boy has that time flown by fast. I already completed more than 30 hours of supervised practice!

I would like to thank Rob Griffes for guiding me through the world of driving, and becoming a more educated and safe driver.

Rob's Driver Ed runs in the fall from September through December, and in the spring from January to April, with a fee of approximately \$200.

With that said, I'm hittin' the road!

SUPPORTING NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

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Virgile Bechtold
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Lillian Hunter
Laena, Ethan Brandon Jagoe
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Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, ASPIRE was able to invite members to participate. ASPIRE team members would like to extend the scope of this directory to cover a variety of fields, so are requesting that members of the Florence community sign up to be available to students to learn about their work and its value in this community. Go to the Siuslaw High School Counseling and Student Services webpage and fill out the "ASPIRE CAREER EXPLORATION" form, or contact us at ASPIRE@siuslaw.k12.or.us. — Submitted by ASPIRE Team Leader Bou Kilgore