



**JANUARY
ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT
INSIDE**

**Happy New
Year 2019!**

Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Hope for a cure

Local woman raises funds, awareness of autoimmune disease

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
SIUSLAW NEWS

Hope Sneddon is training to fight a disease she no longer has.

"A cure will not help me. It's too late," she said.

But with funding, Sneddon is optimistic her efforts will help others who still struggle with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Though her ordeal with ulcerative colitis is largely in her past, Sneddon's future is highlighted by a desire to alleviate the pain she knows others with her former condition must be going through. Part of that involves being upfront about a disease that carries the burden of social stigma.

"I'm open about my experiences because I want to be a voice for others," said Sneddon. "I totally respect that there are individuals who aren't open about their disease and that is okay."

Sneddon first noticed something was wrong with her intestinal tract after her first year in college, when she was around 20 years old.

"It started off pretty mild," Sneddon said. "So doctors said, 'Okay, why don't



Hope Sneddon elected to remove her large intestine instead of dealing with the effects of ulcerative colitis, which began impacting her life when she was 20. She has started a fundraiser to help those with the disease.

DAMIEN SHERWOOD/SIUSLAW NEWS

you just cut out gluten? Why don't you try taking Metamucil?"

Sneddon tried to adjust her diet — "but things progressively got worse," she said.

Sneddon became increasingly fearful of certain foods and had to learn which ingredients would roil her stomach, causing sudden and frequent trips to the bathroom.

"It's kind of trial and error trying

to figure out what works and what doesn't," she said. "Some days I could have a scrambled egg and an avocado. Some days I could have a piece of toast."

But some days nothing seemed to agree with her.

"So it was really hit or miss," she said.

See HOPE page 7A

Port of Siuslaw installs gates at three access points

Passcode locks will enforce night restrictions

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

New gates with passcode locks have been installed at the Port of Siuslaw docks in an effort to curb unwanted visitors on the docks after hours.

"The gates are something we've been trying to get installed for several years, now," said Port Manager David Huntington. "Our docks have always been closed from dusk 'til dawn; the rule has been in effect since the '70s. We have signs posted at each gangway, but they didn't deter anybody. We've been getting a lot of complaints from moorage customers from the traffic at night."

The general public will still be welcome to walk, shop, fish and recreate on the docks during daylight hours. Beginning in January, the gates will lock at dusk via electronic keypad, and only customers or visitors with a passcode will be able to enter the area.



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The east end of the Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk, as well as two other locations, now features a gate with passcode locks. The docks are not open to the public from dusk until dawn.

There were three gates installed in total, one at the boardwalk entrance and two by ICM and Mo's restaurants on Bay Street. There is a fourth entrance to the docks, through the port's RV park, which has had a locked gate for the past 20 years.

See GATES page 8A



Glad tidings & good cheer

Elks Lodge hosts annual Community Christmas dinner



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Hundreds of area residents made a free Christmas meal at Florence Elks Lodge #1858 a centerpiece of their holiday celebrations on Tuesday. Lodge members volunteered for the many hours of food preparation in the kitchen, and in the serving of the more than 800 meals that were expected to be eaten. Exalted Ruler Bruce Smith welcomed people to the meal. "I want to thank you all for coming today and I want to especially thank all of our volunteers for all the time and hard work they have put in to make this event happen," he said. The lodge's chaplain blessed the meal and those partaking of the feast, after which the hundreds waiting in line were escorted to tables, orders were taken, and meals served.



INSIDE Classifieds B5 Sideshow B4
Community A3 Sports B
Opinion A4 Monthly Calendar A6
Records A2 Weather Data A2

THIS WEEK'S
WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
53 43

SUNDAY
51 38

MONDAY
50 34

TUESDAY
52 37

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