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PROGRESS
STORY — A11

VOL. 129, NO. 37

NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY

FLORENCE, OREGON

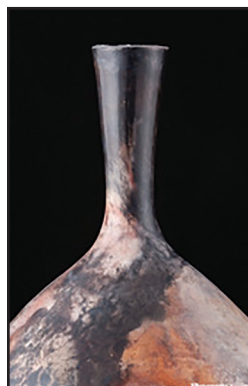
WEATHER



Mostly sunny with a high of 62 and a low tonight of 52.

Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



2nd Saturday Gallery Tour this weekend
INSIDE — A10

SPORTS



DOUBLE HEADER

INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

KID SCOOP

Newspapers in Education every week
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B6

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2 SECTIONS | 20 PAGES
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Diploma diplomacy

Siuslaw students petition for teachers to bestow diplomas at graduation

STORY & PHOTO
BY ANNALEE GRIFFIS
SIUSLAW NEWS INTERN

Siuslaw High School seniors have banded together, with nearly every student from the senior class signing a petition to have teachers hand them their diplomas at graduation, instead of school board members like in previous years. Over two-thirds of graduating seniors have already signed the petition, with the number of signatures rising as each day passes.

Seniors Elizabeth Luevano and Hannah Freudenthal started the petition.

Luevano said she felt she was speaking for most seniors when she said that teachers should hand the graduates their diplomas.

“We do appreciate everything the school board does for us. It’s just, we feel that the people who impact us the most on a day to day basis are teachers, and that giving them this honor would be a great way of acknowledging how much we appreciate what they do for us,” she said.

The seniors made it clear that they were very grateful for all the work the board members do.

See PETITION page 7A

‘We need to be aware’

90by30 reflects on past and future programs to support area youth

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

When Child Abuse Prevention Month closed, 90by30, a community-wide effort to reduce child abuse and neglect in Lane County by 90 percent by the year 2030, reflected on the efforts the program and the community have made to help raise awareness, and discussed future programs it hopes to implement.

“We had a fabulous Child Abuse Prevention Month in the community,” said Suzanne Mann-Heintz, co-chair of 90by30’s West Lane district.

There were nearly 4,000 blue pinwheels planted throughout the community in recognition of the month, with twice as many placed around town than last year. The pinwheels, a representation of a carefree childhood, are planted to bring about awareness of child abuse in the community.

“Several local businesses requested those, and paid for their own pinwheels, which was wonderful,” Mann-Heintz said. “We had the pinwheel bouquets at a lot of businesses that didn’t have the pinwheel gardens out front. They had the bouquets on their reception desks, including the City of Florence. And the Mapleton community responded beautifully. There were several businesses along 126 there that didn’t have pinwheels last year that had them this year. By the time 126 hits the intersection, and turns toward Florence, there were pinwheels for half a mile. That was cool.”

90by30 serves the western portions of Lane County, representing just one of the group’s regions within the county. A dozen volunteers live or work within Florence, Mapleton and Deadwood.

See 90BY30 page 7A

Community invited to opening of new park on Tuesday



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence’s newest park, the Siuslaw River Beach Access Park, will be publicly unveiled on May 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. at its location off Rhododendron Drive. The community is invited to help name the park through an online poll at www.ci.florence.or.us/publicworks/help-us-name-new-park.

City Council approves waste removal rate hike, declares Safe Boating Week May 18 to 24

The Florence City Council meeting on May 6 was held with a full house in attendance as proclamations and moments of public recognition filled the early part of the evening.

Mayor Joe Henry opened the meeting by welcoming the noticeably mixed-age crowd, then made certificate presentations to the 2019 Rhododendron Court and the “If I Were Mayor” contest winners.

Next, Henry proclaimed May as Florence Bike Month, citing the many advantages that cycling can provide to individuals, as well as the benefits to the local economy.

Another proclamation from Henry declared May 18 to 24 as Safe Boating Week. It was presented to US Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River and members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Afterwards, city councilors accepted a commemorative coin from Senior Chief Jay Nilles, Officer-in-Charge at Station Siuslaw River. Nilles thanked the community and city for the efforts made to support Coast Guardsmen during the federal shutdown earlier this year, and of the positive impact those efforts made on the members of his team.

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Nilles also presented a letter of appreciation to Henry and members of the larger Florence community from Rear Admiral D.G. Throop, Commander of the 13th Coast Guard District, thanking them for their support.

“Thanks for your steadfast and continued commitment to the Coast Guard. In steady state and disasters, our partnership is one of the most valuable ones,” Throop wrote. “You and the City of Florence rallied to support Sector North Bend and Station Siuslaw River after they missed their mid-January payday. We are eternally grateful for all the help you have done and will continue to do for our Coast Guard, our community and our country. You and your team helped ensure your Coast Guard remains Semper Paratus — Always Ready.”

After the proclamations, Henry notified the council and the community that he had appointed Mike Webb to serve as the Florence Urban Renewal Agency at-large representative from Western Lane Ambulance District and Micaela Carmelo West as an at-large representative.

See COUNCIL page 8A

Watershed receives funding for new projects

Funds go toward restoration of local creeks, creation of project map

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) has received approval of \$556,628 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to fund three projects that would help restore Cleveland and Upper Indian creeks, as well as enhancing the council’s website.

“With this critical investment by OWEB, we’ll be investing in our local economy by hiring local contractors, improving our rivers for salmon and water quality and helping ensure future generations can enjoy the resources we’re so lucky to have here in the Siuslaw,” said Eli Tome, executive director of SWC.

See WATERSHED page 8A

Arrest made in coastal sexual assault cases

A Reedsport man has been arrested in connection with the sexual assault that took place Sunday, April 28, at Carter Lake.

On Saturday, May 4, Douglas County detectives contacted 63-year-old Reedsport resident Edward Owen Spalione at his residence.

The investigation indicated Spalione as a person of interest. Evidence was collected at Spalione’s residence and he was ultimately arrested and lodged at the Douglas County Jail.

See ARREST page 8A

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