



May/June School Zone inside + Siuslaw & Mapleton Grad Shout outs

VOL. 129, NO. 45

NEWS &
VIEWS THAT
DEFINE OUR
COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Cloudy with a high
of 60 and a low
tonight of 51.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



**Essay Contest
Winners**
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



**Family
Fishing**
INSIDE — SPORTS

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emergency
response logs
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comics for kids
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Bad grads

*The Class of 2019's
journey to overcome
its title as the "bad
class" of Siuslaw*

BY ANNALEE GRIFFIS
SIUSLAW NEWS INTERN

Graduation is steadily approaching. Excitement is buzzing throughout the entire community, and members of Florence are eager to see the Class of 2019 receive their diplomas after 13 years of hard work. Some may even be surprised that the class has gotten this far, considering this particular group has carried with them throughout the years a reputation of being a "troubled" class. Teachers, staff and past alumni still kid with each other about how rowdy and misbehaved the 2019 seniors were in past years. But three graduating students, Hope Garcia, Audrey Lowder and Alyssa Richards, are ready to put an end to their class's infamy, one accomplishment after the next.

Hope prefers to stay out of the limelight in her day-to-day, but once there's a camera pointed on her, she's a star. She has already performed in several films, two of which, "Good Boy Connor" and "Missing Indigenous," won "best film" awards at festivals.

"I've done acting since I was 12," says Hope. "I've always been pretty into it. I come from a pretty artistic family."

With the support of her family, Hope plans to remain in Florence for a year to save up to attend the Los Angeles campus of the New York Film Academy (NYFA). She'll be getting a taste of what it's like to be a NYFA

See GRADS page 8A



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Competitors in the Fun Bass Tournament show off their trophies for best bass at Darlings Marina.

Who's going to be bass boss?

Florence Siuslaw Lions Club hosts 37th Fun Bass Tourney

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Siuslaw Lions Club held the 37th annual Fun Bass Tournament at Siltcoos Lake on June 1 and 2. More than 20 teams and 40 participants fished in the long-running tournament, which raises funds to support a variety of charitable activities in the Florence area during the year.

Lions Club International is a

non-political service organization formed in Chicago in 1917. It now has more than 1.7 million members worldwide. These members, and the chapters they represent, are dedicated to helping with community-based issues that can best be addressed by providing needed funding.

The Florence Siuslaw Lions Club donates directly to school scholarships for two Siuslaw High School seniors each year and provides glasses, hearing aids and eye care

to students and others with financial challenges. The tournament is one of the Lions Club's most important yearly fundraising events.

The two-day tourney, held at Darlings Marina, is the only open bass competition currently held in the state. This means that anyone who wishes to enter and catch fish can do so without qualifying or competing to obtain entry into the tournament.

See TOURNEY page 9A

Florence approves \$58 million city budget

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The first of two Florence City Council Meetings scheduled this month took place on Monday, June 3, to a mostly empty room. The low public turnout for the meeting was unusual given the nature of the action items presented to the council by City Manager Erin Reynolds and her staff for consideration and approval.

Reynolds was asking councilors to approve the City of Florence's

Biennial Budget proposal of nearly \$60 million in public expenditures over the next two years. The lack of community presence was a stark contrast to recent council meetings, which have included public debate between councilors and citizens over placement of public art; the issues decided at Monday's meeting involved much larger amounts of money with more significant longterm ramifications for the city. Despite that, not one member of the public chose to question or offer com-

ment.

Reynolds and recently hired City Administrative Services Director Anne Baker's presentations followed City Special Projects Manager Megan Messmer's update on the 2019 Community Block Party.

Messmer provided an overview of the City's plans for the event scheduled for July 19, from 5:30 to 10 p.m., in the Historic Old Town District.

See CITY page 8A

'To further their dreams & education'

Night honors Siuslaw graduating seniors with \$244,950 in community scholarships

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

On May 30, the Siuslaw community gathered to celebrate Siuslaw High School's Class of 2019 and award 35 seniors with 137 local scholarships totaling \$244,950. The event, held at the Florence Events Center with music from the SHS Jazz Band, brought together high school students, their families and the large network of service groups, businesses and organizations that administer scholarships at a local level.

SHS Principal Kerri Tatum opened the evening. "Thank you so much for joining us tonight. Gradu-



Siuslaw's scholarship night on May 30 honored dozens of students. (Left) Senior Ella Stidham accepts the Elks Lodge National Foundation Scholarship, presented by Chris Rowbotham. (Right) Seniors Grace Hammonds and Alyssa Lydick react to winning Central Coast Board of Oregon Realtors scholarships.

ation is our big event at the high school, but tonight is by far our favorite. This night, more than any other, our community shows

how much they support our young adults. Thank you for your generosity," she said.

Counselor Steve Moser

emceed the event, introducing each provider, the awards and the presenters.

"I want to be very clear that we want to thank our

providers for being here tonight," he said. "From the students, staff and families of Siuslaw High School — without our providers here, those organizations that generously donated scholarship dollars, we wouldn't be here tonight. This is the first of many 'thank you's' for being here."

Many of the awards, listed at the end of this article, went to students who filled out applications by the May deadline. Scholarships were then awarded by each provider based on merit, work ethic, community service, GPA, participation in the arts and more. Some even required an interview.

See AWARDS page 7A

PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

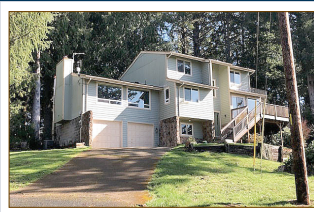


A SAMPLING OF HOMES FOR SALE IN FLORENCE...



614 38TH PLACE
\$430,000 #11823 MLS#19434722

One of Florence's finest homes, this luxurious estate-type Silvercrest Manor II has undergone an extensive interior & exterior remodel. Oversized rooms with an open and airy feel, this home is move-in ready. All the work has been done - ready for you to enjoy. Backs to common area for privacy. Work bench in oversized garage w/ shop area.



5854 MERCER LAKE ROAD
\$384,500 #111784 MLS#19552202

COUNTRY HILLTOP PRIVACY - Spacious tri-level home with ocean & territorial views, out of the wind & fog. Huge living room and modernized country kitchen. Heat Pump. 3 decks for outdoor living and entertaining. Enjoy the peace & quiet of the North Lakes area, just 10 minutes from town in this 3,000+ square foot, 4+ bedroom country home.



4939 SANDRIFT COURT
\$325,000 #11821 MLS#19106269

First time offered for this 3 BD/ 2 BA home. Many "age in place" features here - large lot w/ low maintenance. Steps to the top of the hill at the rear of the property. The double garage has a ramp into the home, large kitchen, living room, and spacious bedrooms - split floor plan. Outstanding home in a prime neighborhood.

"We're next to the Bridge"
100 Hwy. 101

See all Florence Listings at [cbcoast.com](#)



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