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VOL. 129, NO. 69
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER

Sunny with some clouds with a high of 70 and a low of 58.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Literary Salon joins 2nd Saturday Gallery Tour in September
INSIDE — A5

SPORTS



Florence Softball Association wraps up summer season
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2 & A3

KID SCOOP
Activities and comics every Wednesday
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings and public notices
Inside — B6

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2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES
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Mapleton's new teachers seek to create educational building blocks

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Mapleton School District is welcoming six new educators for the 2019-2020 school year in a variety of new positions, including staff for the district's new preschool and a new school counselor.

Preschool teacher Amber Tucker is in the process of preparing the area's first community preschool program, which will offer a full-day program meant to serve all children from the Mapleton community, age 36 months to school age.

See MAPLETON page 7A



Mapleton's new staff for the 2019-20 school year includes Amber Tucker, Dana Silvani, Nathan Westerby, Brittany Anderson, Natalie Ross and Rachel Claric.

Show goes on for Florence Playhouse

Editor's Note: Florence Playhouse, 208 Laurel St., has a long and varied history. From its inception as an Assemblies of God Church, to the transition to retail space and onward to its current iteration as a venue for plays and events, this iconic building has touched many lives in Florence and the surrounding areas.

BY DONNA MATHEWS
SPECIAL TO THE S I U S L A W N E W S

Imagine being a boy growing up in the middle of New York City before the start of World War II, where Irish-Catholics resettled together in and around the Harlem neighborhood and mostly attended Ascension Catholic School. These hard-working immigrants were struggling to get ahead and everyone pitched in.

Among them was John Flaherty, who as a youngster contributed by working as a news boy. He would carry stacks of newspapers over his shoulder throughout his assigned territory of 42nd Street from Seventh to Eighth Avenues — the heart of New York City's legendary Theatre District.

It was here in the midst of this world of lights, glamour and entertainment that the young Flaherty was moved and inspired to one day be a part of it all. Because pursuing a career in this world was not supported by his family and the community in which he lived, he would have to wait and take some detours before he dared to make the move.

Earlier, on the West Coast, Henry Rose was born in Wash-

A chronicle of the historic building in Old Town Florence



COURTESY IMAGE

ington state in 1911. Two years later, his parents filed a homestead claim on Beaver Creek near Mapleton, where his father pur-

sued employment as a saw filer and trapper.

See PLAYHOUSE page 8A

Student success at heart of new education act

Coastal Caucus discusses education plans, options at last week's summit

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

As the new school year approaches, a major change to the manner in which Oregon school districts will be funded in 2020, and beyond, has been signed into law.

On Aug. 26, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown symbolically signed The Student Success Act, House Bill 3427, at Medford High School. The new law is expected to add \$1 billion of revenue, each year, to the pool of money distributed by the Oregon Department of Education to school districts statewide for teaching K-12 students.

In her remarks at the signing Brown emphasized the broad-based goals of the act and her hope of its impact in the future.

"Giving our children the opportunity to thrive is at the core of the Student Success Act," said Brown. "I want to make sure that every single student is empowered and able to overcome any challenge and dream big for themselves and their community. These targeted investments will ensure that all our kids can graduate high school with a plan for their future and the tools to compete in a global economy."

The Oregon Coastal Caucus Economic Summit (OCCES) highlighted the act during an education panel discussion at the conference, held Aug. 21 and 22 at the Florence Events Center and Three Rivers Casino Resort.

The importance of K-12 education, and the ways in which the Student Success Act will add to the well-being of future generations of Oregonians, was discussed in-depth at an OCCES workshop.

See ACT page 9A

Public Art Committee meets for rewrite of mission

New rules will determine future of Florence committee

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The City of Florence Public Art Committee (PAC) met at Florence City Hall Monday morning to continue working on a new set of by-laws and guidelines under which the committee, if allowed to continue, will operate.

The committee has been tasked to rewrite the rules governing its

operations in the face of repeated attempts by Florence Mayor Joe Henry, along with other members of the Florence City Council, to limit — or completely eliminate — PAC.

The PAC created a community-wide controversy last year with the approval, and subsequent installation, of a mural on two exterior walls of the Central Lincoln Public Utility District building on the corner of Quince Street and

Highway 126.

The subject matter chosen for the large colorful mural, and the methodology used to select and pay for the piece, have been a source of contention for many in the community as well as on the city council, particularly in the final months leading up to the mural's installation.

See PAC page 9A

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