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**Happy PRESIDENTS' Day**

MONDAY, FEB. 17, 2020

# 12th annual Florence Area Chamber of Commerce SIUSLAW AWARDS



**Florence Area Chamber of Commerce 2019 Distinguished Service Award — Dan Lofy** | **Future First Citizen Nominees and 2019 winner Tiffany Hine (left)** | **2019 Stu Johnston Business of the Year Award — Hyak, with Chamber Director Bettina Hannigan and Matt Templeman**

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Feb. 12, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the 2019 Siuslaw Awards with community members at the Florence Events Center. Attendees indulged in gourmet hors d'oeuvres catered by event center staff, sipped wine with their table-

mates and recognized two dozen businesses and nine area residents who were nominated for the chamber's 12th annual business awards. "We live in a most amazing community — a community where most people care about one another and where philanthropy is really a part of the DNA of who we are," said Pastor Dale Edwards of Cross Road Assembly of God.

In his convocation at the opening of the awards, he talked about giving honor where honor is due. "In this room tonight, there are many people who do a wonderful job of taking care of people," Edwards continued. "Honor can be given to anyone in this room. Each one of you is worthy of honor, and for that we are grateful." Chamber Executive Director

Bettina Hannigan led the evening's program, which included a State of the Chamber Address with Chamber Board President Neil Ecker and the presentation of the Siuslaw Awards. "I want to take a moment to talk about our business community and our entrepreneurs," Hannigan said.

See AWARDS page 6A



**The 2019 Community Care Award was a tie between The Archives (left) and Three Rivers Casino Resort.** | **Non-Profit Achievement Award — Siuslaw Watershed Council** | **First Citizen Award — Brian Holmes, accepted by Justin Linton**

## ADDRESSING LEARNING NEEDS

*Siuslaw School District seeks community input on Student Success Act — Part II*

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

"There's a lot of unanswered questions that this will bring up, and that's what we're tasked with," said Siuslaw School District's Special Programs Director Lisa Utz. "Digging down deeper into the data, what can we do with some of this money? It's all about connections and making those partner-

ships." Utz was speaking at a community forum for how the district will spend \$1.14 million dollars that will be given to the district through the Student Success Act (SSA). The meetings are a requirement for the funds, meant to get community input in how schools are ultimately shaped. The first two meetings in January were sparsely attended, though the district hopes that an upcoming meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m., held at the Florence Events Center, will bring in more people. Over the past few months, the *Siuslaw News* spoke with multiple district officials, administrators, board members, teachers and the public regarding the funding.

While Siuslaw School District does have higher than state average graduation and completion rates, as described in Wednesday's edition, there are still multiple challenges that the district faces, from mandatory testing, cultural and economic differences, scheduling conflicts, problems with chronic absenteeism and getting students interested in classes. The challenges are as disparate as the solutions that could help to fix them. Part of the money from SSA is focused toward underserved populations. District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak said, "Statewide, you have ethnic students and students

See LEARNING page 8A

## Florence Planning Commission approves floodplain amendments

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Planning Commission met Tuesday evening with a short list of action items on the evening's agenda for commissioners to consider. In 2019, the changes to the Florence Residential Building Code took the better part of a year to modify, update and eventually adopt, and the commission worked for many hours to craft a new code that would be less difficult to maneuver for developers and property owners. The members of the commission can now turn their attention to other areas of importance in the areas of planning and development. One of the ongoing projects City Planner Wendy FarleyCampbell has been working on, in addition to the extensive residential code modifications, is an update to the flood plain map for Florence. The expected changes to the actual map of Florence may impact a number

See FLOODPLAIN page 7A

## New suicide prevention training takes different tact

*Lane County Suicide Prevention Council seeks to 'Question, Persuade, Refer'*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Suicide has become a focus of increased national attention in the last few years as the number of Americans taking their own lives approaches 50,000 annually. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S., with an American choosing suicide by death about every 12 minutes. Another unsettling suicide-related

fact reported by the advocacy group Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) is for every suicide, 25 others have tried and been unsuccessful. That equates to 1 million attempts at — or death by — suicide any given year in the U.S. Unfortunately, this troubling trend is not unique to the U.S.

See PREVENTION page 7A

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### WEATHER



Rain with a high of 50 and a low tonight of 40.  
Full forecast on A3

### COMMUNITY



Two Jima Exhibit at OCMM  
INSIDE — A3

### SPORTS



Mapleton goes into overtime  
INSIDE — SPORTS

### RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs  
Inside — A2

### SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday  
Inside — B4

### CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices  
Inside — B5

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