

AWARDS from page 1A

"You are one courageous group. You have the courage to be optimistic. We don't hear a lot of optimism these days, yet in spite of the negativity that could be overwhelming, each one of you has chosen to evaluate the risks and assets and you've chosen to do business. As a result, we have employers for our community, shops for our locals and our tourists, amazing restaurants, healthcare and some fun attractions. Thank you for your courage and for being optimistic."

The first award of the night was the 2019 Distinguished Service Award, which was given to "a valued member of the chamber and a person who goes above and beyond their service to the chamber every time," according to Ecker.

He and Hannigan presented the award to Daniel Lofy, citing his dedication to the chamber, work ethic and variety of ways he volunteers.

Lofy said, "I love my city and I love my chamber. I couldn't do this without a lot of you, and my wife."

The second award looked to the young guests in attendance from Siuslaw High School as Counselor Steve Moser presented the nominees for the Future First Citizen Award. These four seniors — Tiffany Hine, Brendon Jensen, Jared Northrop and Hannah Rannow — "are fantastic," Moser said. "The selection committee found in our finalists similar strengths of character, an unparalleled work ethic, incredible intellectual abilities, a commitment to success and a passion for supporting others. ... Ultimately, it is their distinct uniqueness that allows them to shine in their own light."

He thanked Siuslaw's teachers and staff members, the community and the students' families for guiding the students, offering opportunities and supporting their growth into young adults.

When the time came to give the award, he named Hine as this year's honoree of Future First Citizen.

"It is an honor to be on stage tonight, and I want to thank everyone who supported me in my journey to get here," Hine said. "I just briefly want to say that this school's education system has brought me to where I am today, and the community within Florence has also given me many opportunities. ... I am proud to

be a citizen of Florence. ...

"I work tirelessly to achieve each goal I set out for myself, and I will continue to crush my goals going forward."

As Hine left the stage, last year's Florence First Citizen Dee Osborne stood to present this year's nominees: Siuslaw Elementary School Principal Mike Harlerode, Dr. Brian Holmes D.M.D., Siuslaw High School volunteer Robert

Orr and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue firefighter Jerry Ward.

"This year's nominees count for thousands of hours of community service and giving. Their stories are all inspirational," Osborne said. "From their dedication to youth in our area to volunteering their time to fight fires and to provide medical care to the most vulnerable, the positive impact that they have made in Florence and beyond is a blessing and true showcase of their character and huge hearts. We honor each of them tonight with our thanks."

She presented the 2019 Florence First Citizen Award to Holmes, who is currently on a mission to provide dental care to communities in the island nation of Grenada. It was accepted on his behalf by Dr. Justin Linton D.D.S., Holmes' peer at Florence Dental Clinic.

"Brian truly has been a very nice and inspiring mentor to be involved in this community," Linton said. "He's in Grenada right now, but he would have loved to have been here. Truly, this is an honor for him to be recognized and an honor to even be part of this community."

The next section of the awards night recognized area businesses and organizations for their work in 2019. Matt Templeman, news anchor with KEZI in Eugene, presented the awards. He thanked each of the nominees as he described why they were



PHOTOS BY LAURA WILSON



(Clockwise from left) Darlings Marina won the Curb Appeal Award; FTS Computer Repair received the Customer Service Award; Marianne Brisbane's Florence Hostel 101 and Florence Regional Arts Alliance both won the Innovation in Business Award.



nominated.

The first business award was the Non-Profit Achievement Award, which went to Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Council Executive Director Eli Tome described his growing team and how they are working to restore the salmon and habitat of the Siuslaw River and its watershed.

"We're really excited about this and about all of our work here," Tome said. "We're here every day to restore salmon habitat, to bring those numbers back up, to make a resilient environment in the face of a changing climate and to work with our community partners to educate locate kids."

The next business award was the Curb Appeal Award.

"You all are in the middle of one of the most beautiful places imaginable, and that is why this is Oregon's Coastal Playground. You're why I want to come to visit," Templeman said.

He named Darlings Marina & RV Resort, six miles south of Florence on Siltcoos Lake, as the recipient.

Owners Rich and Lori Olson came to the stage, with Lori describing their five-year project to restore and rejuvenate the marina, which was founded in 1924.

"It's been a labor of love ever since," she said. "Every upgrade has been a direct result of customer feedback and the support of the community has been

amazing. Thank you so much for noticing our transformation."

Templeman then presented the Excellence in Customer Service Award.

"Not only do small businesses make up the backbone of this community, there are many who go above and beyond what the customers expect," he said.

The 2019 award went to FTS Computer Repair and owner Jolene Medeiros.

"I came here after I left the military and fell in love with beautiful Florence," she said. "The support from the community that I have received since I've been here has been phenomenal. The love and support that I get from every client I see is amazing. I am so humbled and thankful."

As Medeiros left the stage, Templeman paused the event to thank active-duty military members, veterans and family members of military personnel.

The next award was for Innovation in Business, which was the first category to receive a tie. Templeman described the winners as those who took a chance to bring "something new, exciting and even bold to the community."

The award went to Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) and Florence Hostel 101.

FRAA President Kristin Anderson accepted the award for the nonprofit arts organization, saying, "Our goal is to bring art

to the community and art to you, as well as people who have never done art before. We've tried to create a place where artists can thrive, congregate and explore together."

Florence Hostel 101 owner Marianne Brisbane also accepted the award. She referenced her decades of work building into the Florence economy and her desire to bring something new to the area with its first hostel.

For the Community Caring Award, there were also two winners.

"We are extremely fortunate to have an abundance of caring hearts in the town of Florence," Templeman said. "Their generosity with their time, resources and/or financial donations make extraordinary things happen here. ... The Community Caring Award winners have used their talents, opened their hearts — and many times their wallets — to help the community through events, charitable organizations and causes, always answering the call to sponsor and/or donate."

He named both The Archives and Three Rivers Casino Resort as this year's winners.

"The beauty of giving is the feeling that you've given something. The gift is what you get back," said Joshua Greene, owner of The Archives.

He described his 30-year presence in the Florence community and the choices he has made to be involved and help people achieve their goals.

"Along the way, I've sat down with many of you to listen and get sound advice on how to accomplish what we all want to accomplish," Greene said. "That journey to making our dreams come true can be frustrating ... in a way, that's what fuels me to want to keep giving, since that joy is what I get back."

Three Rivers Director of Marketing Rich Colton and casino

staff also came forward to accept their award.

Colton thanked the hard-working staff and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians for their dedication and direction. "This would not be possible without them," he said.

The final award of the night was the Stu Johnston Business of the Year. Templeman compared it to the "Best Motion Picture" category of the Oscar's.

"These businesses are a combination of all the attributes we have talked about and awarded tonight," he said. "Caring, innovation and expertise all while taking the extra step to provide the best customer service experience and supporting the community. They are shining examples of why Florence is a very special place to conduct business, live and visit."

After describing the nominees, he named Hyak as the 2019 Stu Johnston Business of the Year.

Owners Robbie Wright and Ecker came forward with staff and family to accept the award, with both men expressing their gratitude for being nominated and acknowledging the impact of Laurel Bay Gardens and Coldwell Banker Coast Real Estate as the other nominees.

"We're humbled," Ecker said. "We put our time and effort in to bring needed fiber optic internet to you guys, to Florence. We try to do our best in customer service. If you see Drew, Chris, Matt and those guys out and about, give them a hand and thank them for doing a good job. Without them, this wouldn't be possible. Thank you."

Wright added, "We wouldn't be anywhere without our wonderful community, our staff and our families."

As the meeting concluded, Hannigan thanked the attendees, the event sponsors and the committee who worked on creating the event. This included chamber event coordinator Mitzi Hathaway.

"We're your chamber and we're here to serve you," Hannigan said. "I am your servant, your chamber is your servant, and if there's anything we can do to serve you, please reach out and let us know."

For more information, visit florencechamber.com, follow Florence Oregon Coast on social media or call 541-997-3128.

What's happening in the Siuslaw region

<p>Feb. 15</p> <p>Siuslaw Watershed Council — Native Plant Distribution 10 a.m. to noon 541-268-3044, siuslaw.org SWC Office, 10868 E. Mapleton Road</p> <p>Ada Grange Bingo Noon; food and bingo available for purchase Ada Grange, 10 miles out Canary Road 541-997-2380</p> <p>"Fossil Fuels & Forests: Climate Crisis/Climate Solutions" 1:30 to 4 p.m.; open to public Presbyterian Church of The Siuslaw</p> <p>Precious Plastics Florence Classes 2 to 4 p.m.; open to public Florence Maker Space, 1230 17th Place Suite D</p> <p>Meet & Greet with Candidate Doyle Canning 2 to 4 p.m.; open to public Old Town Coffee & Gallery, 125 1/2 Nopal St.</p> <p>"I <3 Bingo" Family Bingo Night</p>	<p>6 to 8 p.m.; \$5 for students, \$10 for adults (cash) Cross Road Assembly of God, 1380 10th St.</p> <p>Valentines Country Hoedown Hosted by Amy Clawson with Dan Harmon and Jessie Leigh 7 p.m.; tickets required Florence Events Center</p> <p>Feb. 17 — Presidents' Day</p> <p>Florence Parent Coffee & Chat Hosted by Families Connected: Families Network 9 to 10:30 a.m.; open to parents of children with special needs River Roasters, 1240 Bay St.</p> <p>Feb. 18</p> <p>Us TOO Florence Prostate Cancer Support Group With Dr. Roger McKimmy Noon to 1 p.m.; Open to public Ichiban Restaurant 541-999-4239</p> <p>Siuslaw Diabetes/Prediabetes Support Group 2 p.m.; open to public 541-902-6059 Conference Room at Siuslaw Public Library</p>	<p>Disabled American Veterans Meeting 5 p.m.; Open to area veterans Florence DAV Hall, 1715 21st St.</p> <p>Florence Newcomers' Dinner No host dinner open to newcomers, community 5 to 8 p.m.; RSVP to 541-590-3944 ICM Restaurant</p> <p>"Herbal Proving: A Plant Spirit Meditation" Hosted by Rose & Crown Apothecary 6 to 7:30 p.m.; admission required Wellspring Clinic, 1845 Highway 126, Ste H</p> <p>American Rhododendron Society 6:30 p.m.; open to public Presbyterian Church of The Siuslaw</p> <p>Feb. 19</p> <p>Van Fans "Fun & Games" fundraiser 11:30 a.m.; \$15 admission includes lunch Florence Elks Lodge, 1686 12th St. RSVP groups to 541-991-3092; 541-991-3209</p>	<p>Feb. 20</p> <p>Pacific Dunes Shrine Club Luncheon 11:30 a.m.; contact 541-997-3728 Chen's Family Restaurant, 3630 Highway 101</p> <p>Stroke Survivor Support Group 3 to 4 p.m.; open to public Siuslaw Public Library Conference Room</p> <p>Business After Hours with Three Rivers Casino & Eugene Emeralds 5 to 7 p.m.; open to public 21+ Three Rivers Casino Resort, 5647 Highway 126</p> <p>Siuslaw Talespinners Toastmasters 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Open to public Port of Siuslaw Office</p> <p>"First 10 Customers and Branding 101" Hosted by Oregon RAIN, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce & City of Florence 5:30 to 7 p.m.; open to public Oregon Pacific Bank Financial Building meetup.com/Startup-Florence-Oregon-Coast/</p>	<p>Coastal Writers Meet 7 to 9 p.m.; open to writers at all stages Shorewood Residences, 1451 Spruce St. 541-902-8575 or nicholskaren22@gmail.com</p> <p>Feb. 22</p> <p>FEC Indoor Yard Sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; minimal admission charged Booths available for rent; call 541-997-1994 Florence Events Center</p> <p>Beginning Truffle Hunting with Your Dog Hosted by Premier Truffles Noon to 3 p.m.; \$125 per person/dog pair www.facebook.com/premiertruffles/</p> <p>Feb. 23</p> <p>Florence Ukulele Club "The Flukes" 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. — Beginners 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. — Advanced Beginners and Intermediates 3 to 4 p.m. — Song Circle for all levels Loaner ukuleles available; open to public Siuslaw Public Library janetwellington@gmail.com</p>
--	---	---	--	--

A Weekly Listing of Community Events in the Florence Area

Submit all events information to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com

MODEL TRAIN ENTHUSIASTS

Over 50 Years Experience

CALL ME TO BUY, SELL OR TRADE! I'M LOCATED HERE IN FLORENCE!

541-255-9822 - Larry
landl316@live.com

Alva Bracey Broker

Your goals are my top priority. Let's get together!

Call, Text or Email
Cell: 541-505-1180
Alva@CBCoast.com

541-997-7777
100 Hwy. 101, Florence, OR

COLDWELL BANKER

COAST REAL ESTATE

Us TOO Florence

Prostate Cancer Education
Support on the Oregon Coast
www.ustoooflorence.org

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Bryan Mehlhoff attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

Contact Bob for more information:
(H) 541-997-6626 • (C) 541-999-4239
maribob@oregonfast.net

Tires LES SCHWAB

LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTERS

Tires • Brakes • Shocks
Alignments

4325 Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439
541-997-7178

PRIDE IN PERFORMANCE SINCE 1952

Since 1983

P.E.S.T. SWANSON'S Management Inc.

Insect & Pest Removal
Trapping • Mole/Gopher
Dead Animal Removal • Honey Bee Removal
Crawl Space Cleaning • Exclusion Work
Fumigation of Antiques and Commodities.

(541) 997-4027

CUSTOM ENGRAVING & CUTTING

Awards • Plaques • Name Badges
Gifts • Signage • Glassware

C P E ENGRAVING

541-997-5691
541-361-9080
jmirvis@charter.net
Florence, Oregon

CTR County Transfer & Recycling

Separating recyclables from your trash reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfills, saves energy, and reduces emissions!

Items that can go into your recycle cart are:

- Cardboard (flattened) and Paper (magazines, junk mail, newspapers, scrap paper, cereal boxes, egg cartons)
- Plastic milk jugs and transparent drinking bottles (rinse - no lids)
- Metal food and drink cans (rinse - no lids)

Florence recycling picked up on same day as your trash.

541-997-8233
5078 Coastwood Ln, Florence OR
wasteconnections.com

Village Grooming

Quality grooming with a gentle touch

1379 B Rhododendron Dr.
541-305-5411

STREETS Insurance

Auto, Home, Life, Business
Flood, Antique Auto, RV's
Medicare Advantage Plans
Medicare Supplements
Health Insurance

Phone (541) 997-9497
1234 Rhododendron Dr / Florence

ESTATE JEWELRY AND ANTIQUE FURNITURE!!!

We buy, sell and consign quality estate/heirloom jewelry & furniture.
Gold, silver, platinum jewelry with precious & semi precious stones.

Call 541-997-8104,
Florence Antiques & Coast Jewelers