





# CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020



## 'Who is it you want to be?'

Mapleton High School seniors parade through area, create graduation video

STORY BY JARED ANDERSON PHOTOS BY CHANTELLE MEYER SIUSLAW NEWS

he nine graduating seniors of Mapleton High School celebrated graduation on Friday with a parade through the upriver community, as well as a posted video of this year's ceremony.

For the past few weeks, seniors and their families have been visiting the high school gym one at a time, filming all of the Mapleton traditions of graduation, including the giving out of roses and a candlelit diploma presentation.

On Friday, the video was released, which started with senior Justyce Wierichs reminding all viewers to turn off their cell phones during the presentation.

The ceremony's opening salutation was given by Theryn Schwertfeger, who opened his speech with a tribute to Brandon Kimble, a Mapleton student who passed away in

"Brandon Kimble was an amazing classmate of ours, a class clown, and a genuinely good person," Schwertfeger said. "I am truly saddened that he cannot be here to graduate with us here today. We can never forget Brandon, our classmate, and we should keep his memory alive."

Schwertfeger then congratulated Class of 2020 seniors across the world for their accomplishments

Music teacher

Amanda Sarles

named Oregon PTA

Teacher of the Year

By Chantelle Meyer

SIUSLAW NEWS

Every year, members of the Flor-

ence Community Parent Teacher

Association (FCPTA) get together

to decide on nominations for the

annual Oregon PTA Awards. This

year, the local group nominated two

people, Siuslaw Elementary School

music teacher Amanda Sarles and

fourth-grader Claire McNeill, for

awards at the state level. And this

year, both Siuslaw people won.



day we get to celebrate the accomplishments of 13 precious years of your

life, so let it sink in and enjoy it with the ones you love," he said.

State PTA honors Siuslaw teacher, student

See MAPLETON page 7A



Siuslaw High School conducts socially distant graduation ceremony

**STORY & PHOTOS** By Jared Anderson SIUSLAW NEWS

Whree months ago, we were f L finishing the third quarter



and beginning Spring sports," Siuslaw High School Principal Kerri Tatum said. "When the students went home on March 11, we were looking forward to a long weekend and nice weather. Overnight, education as we know it changed."

Tatum stood on the grounds of Hans Petersen Memorial Field to start off Siuslaw School District's first social-distance friendly graduation ceremony. Instead of hosting the nearly 100 graduating seniors all at once, the district spaced out the event, allowing seniors and their families the opportunity to walk to the makeshift stage to be handed diplomas.

Senior Class President Amelia Wells read the names out loud, while district board members Guy Rosinbaum and Paul Burns alternated the giving of diplomas.

One by one, seniors and their families walked onto the field, laughing, crying and taking pictures as the seniors entered their next chapter in life.

Traditional highlights of the ceremony, including speeches by seniors, were prerecorded and broadcasted live on KCST Coast Radio and posted online. KCST also covered the event live, with school board member Bob Sneddon and school counselor Steve Moser com-

"I want to thank this group of seniors and their families for their

See SIUSLAW page 8A

# **NEWS &**

Sivslaw News

**VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY** VOL. 130, NO. 46

FLORENCE, OREGON

#### **WEATHER**



high of 60 and a low tonight of 53.

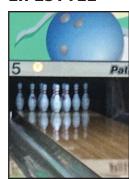
Full forecast on A3

#### COMMUNITY



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# Florence City **Council responds** to heightened

concerns

The Florence City Council met

via teleconference on Monday, June

By Mark Brennan SIUSLAW NEWS

9, with a full agenda. City leaders attempted

to reassure city residents that there is no need for concern regarding community safety on any level.

The city is in the process of improving the video platforms used for council meetings and all councilors were in attendance - and fully visible — during the nearly two-hour long meeting.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry brought the meeting to order and turned to City Manager Erin Reynolds, who welcomed the council and made a

See COUNCIL page 5A

#### According to the awards announcement, "Oregon PTA takes great pride in recognizing units

moment for all of us," said FCPTA President Crystal Osburn.

"This is an emotional, huge, epic



the Florence Community PTA honored Siuslaw Elementary music teacher Amanda Sarles as the Oregon PTA Teacher of the Year and (left, with balloon) 4th grader Claire McNeill as the with the Student Service Award for the state.

and individuals for their work and dedication to further PTA's mission and values. Congratulations to our making "important contributions 2019-2020 award winners."

Oregon PTA honored McNeill with the Student Service Award for See AWARDS page 6A

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