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Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 13
FEBRUARY 13, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

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Rankin retires

Longtime Siuslaw teacher wraps up 30 years

By Chantelle Meyer
Siuslaw News

Vicki Rankin

Later this February, Siuslaw School District fourth-grade teacher Vicki Rankin will be retiring after nearly 30 years of teaching.

Rankin first taught in California for two years before she got married and moved to the Florence area. She then became a substitute teacher for Siuslaw.

"The old middle school was one of my favorite places to go. Then I got hired for an overload position. We had a big influx of first graders, and I interviewed with Boomer Wright and got the job," she said.

When that position ended, Rankin was hired next to help in the third grade.

"1997 is when I started full time teaching third grade. Then I taught first and second, then I went back to third, and now I'm at fourth," she said. "I've moved around a lot in this school. I've been in a lot of classrooms, too. I've been through lots of principals and lots of superintendents. All kinds of things."

She even taught previously in the same classroom she is currently cleaning of her possessions.

"I'm trying to finish up here and pack my room after 30 years. It is kind of crazy," Rankin added.

In all her years of teaching, the past two years have been some of the greatest challenges. Like the rest of the school district, Rankin left for

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Sign of progress

Story & Photos
By Chantelle Meyer
Siuslaw News

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has installed a new LED sign to welcome people to the Florence Visitor's Center, 290 Highway 101.

"It's a great way to promote our events," said Chamber CEO/President Bettina Hannigan. "With the wrap up of ReVision Florence, we want to remind people that Florence isn't a drive-through town. It's a place where you can stay and play."

The chamber's goals are to promote tourism to the area and support economic development. Investing in the Daktonics Galaxy sign will also allow the chamber to promote events and photos of the area.

"People have been contacting me telling me that it's a beautiful sign, a good sign," Hannigan said.

For more information about the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, visit florencechamber.com.

The chamber's new sign on Highway 101 hopes to encourage people to "stay and play" in Florence.

New city council meets for work session

By Mark Brennan
Siuslaw News

The Florence City Council met for a scheduled work session on Wednesday, Feb. 10. This was primarily focused on updating the council — particularly new councilors Bill Meyer, Sally Wantz and Margaret Wisniewski — on current city work plans.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry outlined the purpose of the meeting and turned the facilitation of the work session over to City Manager Erin Reynolds. She let the council know there would be presentations from herself, City Recorder and Economic Development Coordinator Kelli Weese, Florence Police Chief Tom Turner and Public Works Director Mike Miller.

Reynolds began with a review of the city's current work plan, highlighting aspects of the many moving parts of the comprehensive goals now in effect.

The assignment of councilors to specific committees was discussed briefly, with a determination of which candidates will serve on which committees, with assignments to be finalized at next week's scheduled work session on Feb. 18.

Reynolds then reviewed five major goals, approved by the previous councils. The overall city goals, with input from committees are used as a guide when developing the city's final work plan.

"Everything we are talking about and presenting is with one goal in mind: to help the city council put together a work plan for the next

See CITY *page 6A*

COURTESY PHOTOS

Staff at Mapleton Elementary welcomed students back to campus this week for on-site learning.

Otterly delightful

Mapleton welcomes fifth and sixth grades back to campus

Submitted by Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara for the Siuslaw News

On Wednesday, Mapleton Elementary School welcomed back the first group of students to on-site learning. Mapleton staff made a "Welcome Back" sign featuring otters with every student and staff member's name in honor of the Mapleton Elementary Otters.

"It was a wonderful day to have students on campus all day, even just the small number of fifth graders," said Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara. "Everyone was all smiles, including the students."

Mapleton is bringing students back to campus on a staggered start schedule

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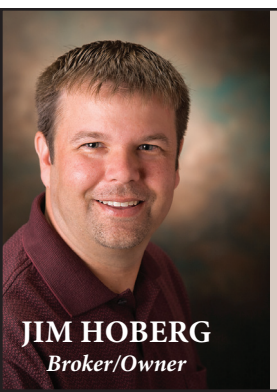
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