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**Siuslaw News**  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
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FLORENCE, OREGON

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Partly sunny with a high of 63 and a low of 47.  
Full forecast on A3

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# MEYER TO BE NEXT EDITOR OF SIUSLAW NEWS

*Newsroom to undergo changes in June*

Early next month, the *Siuslaw News* will see a familiar face withdraw from the public spotlight only to see another ascend.

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
FOR THE SIUSLAW NEWS

After 23 years with the paper, *Siuslaw News* Editor Ned Hickson is capping his pen and stepping away from the editor's desk in June. In his place, Features Editor Chantelle Meyer will be taking up the mantle.

Hickson said Meyer was the natural choice as she's not only deserving, but ready for the role.

"One of my main considerations after deciding to leave was how to do so in a way that maintained the integrity and direction we have taken in recent years, while also holding onto and appreciating the rich history of our newspaper," he said. "Few people understand

the importance of those things more than Chantelle. It's in her DNA."

*Siuslaw News* Publisher

Jenna Bartlett also expressed support.

"I am excited to have Chantelle lead the *Siuslaw News* editorial team and oversee the daily operations of our newsroom. She is ready," Bartlett said. "She is passionate about bringing news that matters to our community and that shines through in her work. I am thrilled to have an editor with the integrity, reputation, expertise and vision of Chantelle, to lead the *Siuslaw News* forward as we continue to grow and expand."

At 31 years old, Meyer is accepting the editor position with a self-awareness of her own youth, yet an eagerness to continue to build  
See EDITOR page 6A



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS  
Chantelle Meyer, current features editor, will be editor of the *Siuslaw News* starting in June.

**Open season**  
Florence Farmers Market again offers in-person shopping

MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Farmers Market opened for the season on Tuesday, in the parking lot beside the Veterans Memorial Park on Bay Street in Historic Old Town. Natalie L'Etoile and Wes Palmer from L'Etoile Farm are excited at the prospect of talking with customers this season and look forward to a successful summer. "We are really glad to be back, and we are really looking forward to seeing everyone we missed last year." The market will be allowing customers to

shop onsite this year, after limiting purchases last season to online ordering and contact-free pick up. Shoppers will still be asked to wear masks while shopping and to maintain social distance when possible. There will be new vendors participating in the market this year and the food products available range from vegetables, berries and mushrooms to pastries, pies, meat and fish. For more information, visit [florencefarmersmarket.org](http://florencefarmersmarket.org).

# Protesting Florentine's sign, flag law

*Residents concerned over rule limiting military service flags*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence has a large number of retirees and many of them are veterans, proud of their service and the branch of the service in which they served. This appreciation for the work done by the members of America's five military branches — the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard — often takes the form of flying the flag for that service at their individual homes.

However, that option is no longer available to veterans who live or own property in Florentine Estates. This is due to a recent clarification in the homeowner's association regulations, which prohibits the flying of any flag other than the American flag on any lot or property in the development.  
See FLAGS page 5A



COURTESY PHOTO

Goats eat greenery from shrubs and bushes, making them well-suited for coastal land management.

# Just kidding around

*Goats sustainable, eco-friendly way to manage land*

People spending time near Dowells Peninsula on Mercer Lake have experienced the curious joy of a bunch of kids playing around over the past two weeks. In fact, the 17 goats from Justin Austen's herd have been eating their way through overgrowth and spring greenery in an eco-conscious effort to clear the land.

"Not only are the goats are doing a good job, but they're a bit of a community builder as well," Austen said.

The three owners of the property, Steve and Meredith Swenson and Becky Goehring, contacted Austen for his help after hearing about his goats through a mutual friend. They recently purchased the land, which was covered in berries, ivy and salal, as well as other woody greenery.

"The goats have really uncovered what's there," Goehring said. "It's a natu-

ral way to clear property."

For the landowners, it was important to clear the property without the use of heavy machinery. Not only is the land near the lake, but there are residences nearby and even vacation rentals. Those neighbors have come out to watch the goats at work.

"It's just joyful and fun every day to walk out and hear them bleating or watch them jumping," Goehring said.

Austen has had goats for the past five years, and the current herd for three years at his own property in Glenada.

"People love goats. I certainly love goats," he said.

Right now, his herd has 17 goats, with nine of those this year's kids. The herd is matriarchal, with two half-sisters leading the other three adult does, two adult bucks, one adult wether (a castrated male), five male kids and four female kids.  
See GOATS page 8A

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