

**FLORENCE-OPOLY**

On Sale \$24.99 each

Modeled after the world famous board game, Florence-Opoly is customized to our great city.

**Fun for the whole family!**

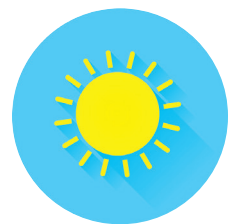
Siuslaw News • 148 Maple Street • Old Town Florence or call 541-997-3441

**MAKE IT COUNT**

Ballots for the May 18 Special Election due Tuesday  
Read More on A2

Siuslaw News  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
VOL. 131, NO. 39  
MAY 15, 2021  
FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**



Sunshine all day with a high of 60 and a low of 45.  
Full forecast on A3

**COMMUNITY**



Rhody Quilt Show open today  
INSIDE — A3

**SPORTS**



Cheering on Siuslaw Cheerleaders  
INSIDE — B

**RECORDS**

Obituaries & emergency response logs  
Inside — A2

**SIDE SHOW**

Activities and comics every Saturday  
Inside — B4

**CLASSIFIEDS**

Listings and public notices  
Inside — B5

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:

[f/SIUSLAWNEWS](#)

[@SIUSLAWNEWS](#)

[THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM](#)

2 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES  
COPYRIGHT 2021

## Recognizing nursing excellence

Eight Peace Harbor caregivers honored with awards May 12

STORY & PHOTOS  
BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Hospital announced its 2021 Nursing Excellence Award honorees at a recognition ceremony on Wednesday, May 12, in Florence.

There were eight individuals honored during the ceremony and all were nominated by co-workers in seven different categories: Educator, collaborator, leader, clinician, advocate, innovator and support colleague.

“The hospital and clinics’ Nursing Excellence Awards recognize nursing caregivers who embody the role of the professional nurse, as well as other members of the patient care team who provide exemplary support services. These special caregivers were nominated by their peers,” said PeaceHealth Communications Coordinator Anne Williams.

There was also a special presentation made, The Daisy Award, to acknowledge the overall contributions to patient care, which was given to Brittany Countryman.

A nurse in the Emergency Department at Peace Harbor Medical Center, Countryman was nominated by a patient who appreciated her calm, compassionate care in response to an uncomfortable situation.

The patient went on to say, “She was so great, sweet, calm and she made me less embarrassed. Thank you for not judging me and being a great nurse!”

The Daisy Award is a special recognition that was created to honor caregivers at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor after a patient, Patrick Barnes, was treated at a PeaceHealth



Robin Allen (right), vice president of patient care, presents the first “Daisy Award” to Brittany Countryman, Registered Nurse at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor, for her excellent patient care. Seven other awards were presented to caregivers in a special ceremony Wednesday.



facility. While Barnes’ struggle with an auto-immune disease was ultimately unsuccessful, his family was so appreciative of the care he received they established the “Daisy Award” to recognize the special work done by all PeaceHealth employees.

Tena Barnes, Patrick’s wife, came up with the acronym “DAISY,” which stands for Diseases Attacking the Immune System, and the family set up a scholarship program in addition to the awards presented to Peace Harbor employees.

“We are so blessed that we were able to spend the eight weeks of his hospitalization with him and his family. During those weeks, we experienced the best of nursing,” said Patrick’s father, Mark Barnes. “We were there to see the clinical skill that dealt with his very complex medical situation, the fast

See NURSES page 5A

## Siuslaw brings students back to school 4 days a week

School board meeting covers political policy, budget, graduation

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Starting May 3, Siuslaw School District was able to expand its on-site operations to invite students onto campus four days per week.

“We started going back to school four days a week, two weeks ago,” said Siuslaw School Board Student Liaison Elijah Blankenship to the school board on May 12. “That’s been successful. I think all the students are really liking it, and it’s nice to have more social interaction every day. It’s nice to be a little bit back to normal before this year’s out and the seniors are gone.”

Siuslaw Middle School administrators reported that having students in classrooms four days a week doubled the amount of time they are at school.

“I think every step of the way we’ve taken with adding students back to campus has been slow and deliberate and thoughtful,” said El-

ementary Principal Mike Harklerode. “That allowed for a really big step forward in this last change, and it went pretty seamlessly.”

According to Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak, a portion of students remain in distance learning, with a majority of students now attending class from district facilities. This amounts to 130 students at Siuslaw Elementary, 80 students at Siuslaw Middle and 187 students at Siuslaw High School working from home.

Next, high school principal Garth Gerot gave a brief update on Siuslaw’s graduation, which will be held Friday, June 11, at 7 p.m. Eighty-four seniors are expected to graduate in an outdoor ceremony, with members of their families present.

“If numbers stay the same in terms of positive case rates ... we’ll

See SIUSLAW page 6A

## FURA approves proposed budget for 2021-23 biennium

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) met virtually on May 14 with all directors and members in attendance except for Ron Caputo.

The first action of the evening, and the last act taken by current FURA Chairperson Bill Meyer, was to nominate and appoint a new chairperson, Mike Webb, and a new vice chair, Rob Ward. Both nominations were approved unanimously.

Webb took over the responsibilities of the chair and resumed the meeting.

FURA members and directors then turned their attention to City Manager Erin Reynolds for a presentation on the city budget and on the agency’s proposed budget. There was a public hearing included in the meeting agenda which saw no speakers request time to address the agency.

Reynolds proceeded to review the impact COVID has had on the inner workings of the city and

on FURA and how her staff has responded to the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Although COVID-19 has significantly impacted local businesses, the overall impact to the agency so far has not been catastrophic. The administrative and management staff have worked remotely since the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, furthermore the FURA board has been meeting on a virtual platform since June 2020,” she stated. “On March 31, the Urban Renewal board reviewed the previous budget documents and the progress of those items and at that meeting staff also provided recommendations for the upcoming biennium workplan.”

Reynolds mentioned that some of those items had been included in the proposal and then turned to Assistant City Manager Megan Messmer, who provided a recap of the history of the Florence Urban Renewal District and the projects which have been funded by the agency.

See FURA page 5A

**A SAMPLING OF OUR HOMES FOR SALE...WATER VIEW, OLD TOWN AND MORE.**

**5064 MITCHELL LOOP RD**

A very clean and popular floor plan with bookend bedrooms-Master/Private En Suite bathroom is on the opposite side of the other bedrooms. Deep garden tub, walkin, 2 full ovens and hardi plank siding. Beautiful wooded setting while being very close to town. About a five minute drive to the Siuslaw Bridge. Only one neighbor is visible from the shared driveway. The other neighbors are tucked behind woods and greenbelt. Come see country living close to town! Call/Text for a showing appointment. \$325,000 #12179 MLS#21659307

**4615 JOSHUA LANE**

NW Contemporary beach home. Easy walk to beach or dunes. Unbuildable football sized field of green behind house provides wonderful privacy. Pie-shaped ocean view from main level w/ 3 BD, 2 BA, open concept kitchen, dining & living area that center around propane fireplace. Downstairs guest quarters, full bath, kitchenette, slider to the front patio and garden & door out back to hot tub. Zoned radiant floor heating. Oversized garage. RV/Boat garage. Owners selling adjacent cottage. MLS#21472496. \$710,000 #12177 MLS#21436870

**4621 JOSHUA LANE**

THIS BEACH COTTAGE IS PERFECT! Priced to sell! Short walk to beach, wind protected and tucked off the street for privacy, this cute “tiny home design” cottage has been fully remodeled with explosions of beach colors, on demand hot water, fully furnished, pellet stove, quartz countertops and wrap around deck that is perfect for entertaining. The ocean, singing birds and evening frogs truly make this cottage a magical little sanctuary. \$310,000 #12178 MLS#21472496

**1304/1308 BAY STREET**

1304/1308 BAY ST RIVERFRONT COMMERCIAL BUILDING. This is a very rare offering. Leased riverfront retail commercial downstairs and a wonderful upstairs managed vacation rental. Built in 1920 and known as the “Lockers” this is a stunning affordable and exciting income opportunity in the center of Bay Street. Expansive river/bay and bridge view...this is the rarest of rare. Enjoy the income or use the upstairs for your own enjoyment...better than owning a condo!! Must have appointment as access is limited. \$569,000 #12165 MLS#21369818

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
**COAST REAL ESTATE**  
**541-997-7777**  
“We’re next to the Bridge”  
100 Hwy. 101  
See all Florence Listings at [cbcoast.com](#)