

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN
 And when they do, we're here in Florence.

nova URGENT CARE
 4480 Hwy 101, Suite G • 541.997.1251
 Walk-ins welcome -or- schedule online at novahealth.com

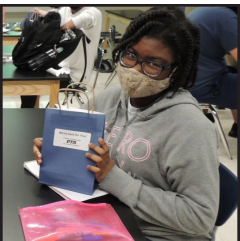
Memorial Day
 Monday, May 31
 Siuslaw News joins other Florence businesses in honoring Memorial Day by closing the office.

Siuslaw News
 NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
 VOL. 131, NO. 43
 MAY 29, 2021
 FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER

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

COMMUNITY



Teens receive Care Kits
 INSIDE — A3

Siuslaw News Community Voices
 INSIDE — A8-A9

SPORTS



Wrestlers take to the mat
 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 | 18 PAGES
 Siuslaw News
 0 88267 02345 1
 COPYRIGHT 2021

Committee names Future First Citizen of Florence

By CHANTELE MEYER
 SIUSLAW NEWS

This year, six Siuslaw High School seniors were nominated to be the Future First Citizen of Florence. The award, given annually by the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, recognizes a student based on their academic leadership and success as well as civic involvement and contributions to the community. It includes the Marteen Wick Future First Citizen Scholarship for \$2,500. The chamber normally names the winning student at the Siuslaw Awards, which also honors businesses, volunteers and the First Citizen of Florence Award. This year, however, Siuslaw School District announced the nominees during the 2021 Siuslaw Regional Scholarship Awards Ceremony held virtually on Friday,

Siuslaw High School senior Jessica South earns Marteen Wick Future First Citizen Scholarship

May 28. The nominated students were Brea Blankenship, Elijah Blankenship, Jacob Foskett, Maxwell Klump, Andrea Osbon and Jessica South. “They are all wonderful. We know that,” the selection committee said of the nominated students. “They all deserve to be chosen as Future First Citizen.” Siuslaw High School Counselor Steve Moser echoed this. “We had a pool of incredibly strong candidates this year. Ultimately, the winner is an excellent choice in their own right,” he said.

The committee read the students’ applications and considered their classwork, as well as their school experiences, activities and community service, as they came to a decision, which they announced this morning. The Future First Citizen winner is Jessica South. “Jessica has made Florence, the high school and the Siuslaw School District so proud,” Moser said. “This is a huge, life-changing honor for her as she is truly recognized for her hard work and who she is.” People can watch the Siuslaw Re-

gional Scholarship Awards for more information on the Future First Citizen nominees by going to www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/o/siuslaw-high-school. **Future First Citizen Jessica South** Jessica plans to attend Corban University to study secondary education. “Every year I see amazing teachers and each one has something special they add to their work. ... I see how hard they work to help us thrive, and it makes me want to give back. In a way, I consider it continuing their legacy,” she said. Jessica’s interests and activities include art and pottery, cooking, bowling, family, church and volunteering, especially through the Christian Motorcycle Association, Interact, Key Club and National Honors Society. See NOMINEES page 5A



Boardwalk beautification

PHOTOS BY CHANTELE/SIUSLAW NEWS

Thanks to a grant from Travel Oregon, the Port of Siuslaw Boardwalk now has six new picnic tables and additional recycling bins. The \$44,161 grant went to both the port and the City of Florence for additional seating areas, trash receptacles and bike racks in Historic Old Town Florence and along the Port of Siuslaw’s Boardwalk. The city encouraged Old Town visitors to get their meals to go and enjoy the view of the docks this Memorial Day weekend.

Lending color to the end of the school year with the Color-A-Thon

By CHANTELE MEYER
 SIUSLAW NEWS



Florence’s most colorful event returns this year with the Siuslaw School District’s fourth annual Color-A-Thon Community 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, June 5. “I am super, super excited. I think this year more than in the years past,” said event organizer Crystal Osburn, Siuslaw Elementary School’s health aide. The Color-A-Thon starts and ends at the Siuslaw Middle School parking lot, 2525 Oak St. The race starts at 9 a.m., with \$30 same-day registration from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. This is when people can pick up their T-shirts and color packets while supplies last. The route travels along 27th,

Kingwood and 15th street and is approximately 3.1 miles long. At 8:15 a.m., DJ Al will start the fun with pre-warm-up running music. This is also where the colors really start flying as people get the chance to douse race participants in clouds of powdered color. The color dust is made of cornstarch and dye and is safe, non-toxic and completely washable. In fact, Oregon’s rain often does most of the cleanup along the race route. See COLOR page 6A

Siuslaw News Editor receives award for Excellence in Journalism

By CHANTELE MEYER
 SIUSLAW NEWS

On May 19, the Oregon Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) announced its 2020 Northwest Excellence in Journalism Contest winners. Among those was a first-place win for Editor Ned Hickson and a series of editorials he wrote over the year. The editorials were built around the investigative series written by Siuslaw News staff from August to October. They won the small newsroom division’s editorial and commentary writing. In a Twitter post announcing the winners, Greater Oregon SPJ stated, “Congratulations Siuslaw News for your winning entry in this year’s SPJ Region 10 Excellence in Journalism Contest!”



This competition is one of the largest of its kind in the nation. It honors journalists across SPJ Region 10, which covers Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. Journalists sent in more than 3,000 submissions to the contest. Hickson has won awards several times in his past 23 years as a journalist, but there is something different about winning this time. “The timing of this is special,” he said. “I found out about this in the last couple weeks before I head out.” See AWARD page 6A

FLORENCE-OPOLY

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

On Sale \$24.99 each