

SN

Siuslaw News

**VETERANS AND SPOUSES
FREE DENTAL DAY**

KORANDO DENTAL GROUP
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12TH 2021 0900-1500


CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BEGINNING OCTOBER 15TH, 541-991-7920

WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY



Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 86
Oct. 27, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Evening rain with a high of 59 and a low of 55.
Full forecast on A3



Sheriff's Office seeks missing man
INSIDE — A10



Giving cheerleaders a cheer at SHS
INSIDE — B

RECORDS
Obituaries & response logs
Inside — A2

TV GUIDE
Inside — B3-B4

KIDS CORNER
Activities for kids
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS
Listings & notices
Inside — B6

FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS:
f /SIUSLAWNEWS
@SIUSLAWNEWS
THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

2 SECTIONS | 20 PAGES
COPYRIGHT 2021



IN THE CARDS

Artists gather to create greetings for area seniors

The Florence Regional Art Alliance (FRAA) is a unique space for artists of all types. The FRAA Art Center, 120 Maple St. in Historic Old Town, provides a venue for exhibition of work but also holds classes, workshops and social gatherings designed to enhance the creativity of its members.

FRAA also takes an active role in creating and sharing art with people in the community who might be isolated, mobility challenged or who are suffering cognitive decline.

One of the artist groups has been meeting regularly to not only create art, but share it with seniors in our community in a simple but personal way, with greeting cards.

Christine Santiago is a FRAA artist and the project manager for Art CARE (Community Artists Reaching the Elderly), a program designed to reach out to senior citizens living in local assisted living facilities.

The informal group meets Tuesdays at noon and welcome anyone who wants to assist.

Santiago and FRAA President Kristin Anderson have been coor-



inating the card making effort.

"We were motivated to reach out to seniors because we both had recently lost parents who were in assisted living facilities out of state," Santiago said. "I worked in nursing homes as a teen and knew that some residents had no family left or no family close by to visit. We wanted to help combat isolation

and loneliness. Since I make greeting cards from my photographs, we thought that would be a good place to start."

She began giving cards to seniors at Spruce Point Assisted Living and Regency Florence in August 2020.

"Kristin and I put out the word to the art community and soon I was joined by five other artists,"

Members of FRAA's card making club, Art CARE, meet weekly to create unique greeting cards for area senior citizens. All materials and a great deal of fun are supplied by the group.

Santiago added. The members of Art CARE are all accomplished artists and use their particular techniques and materials to create cards which not only capture their style but also result in a wide variety of cards.

"We make 110 cards each month by hand. We use watercolors, alcohol ink, mixed media and collage techniques, to name a few," Santiago said. "Each card we make is as unique and as varied as it's recipient. Karen Mohr makes hand-calligraphed greetings for the inside. FRAA donates the card stock. We also received a ton of mixed media donations such as pens, paper for collage, stamps, stickers and ribbons. We have even gotten some already-made cards from other generous card artists."

One of the artists spending time as a Art CARE card creator is Patricia Ball.

See CARDS page 7A

Mapleton supports students' success in cyber session

BY ZAC BURTT
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Oct. 20, the Mapleton School District Board of Directors met for its second meeting of the 2021-22 school year. The meeting was conducted via Zoom. People were able to watch the meeting via YouTube.

Mapleton High School Principal Brenda Moyer opened the meeting and talked about the volleyball team and how it would be traveling to Alsea on Oct. 21 for a play-in game to earn a spot in the Mountain West Conference playoffs.

This prompted Director Michelle Holman to voice concern, because there have been previous issues with Alsea School District not enforcing mask rules.

Moyer said she had contacted the Oregon School Athletic Association (OSAA) regarding the issue and they told her to contact Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Though Moyer said she would not be calling OSHA, she assured the board that she and Athletic Director Carrie Dean would travel to

See MAPLETON page 7A

Mowbray Gardens showcases rhododendron hybrids locally

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

One of the most unique locations nearby to learn about plants and trees is Mowbray Gardens near Florence, where the focus is not just on selling plants but on developing new and unusual varieties of familiar trees, shrubbery and especially rhododendrons.

Chris Trautmann is the owner and plant breeder at Mowbray Gardens, an arboretum with an extensive selection of trees and shrubs. He is primarily focused on producing regionally specific plants and trees which thrive on the Central Oregon Coast.

"First, I'm basically retired, but my place keeps me going to primarily share a common interest with other master gardeners and supply new and exciting plant material for local collectors," Trautmann said. "My passion for new and exciting rhododendrons keeps me making crosses and producing new and exciting plants that have sizzle and allure."

There are rows of trees of all shapes and sizes on Trautmann's property, filling the spaces between and under trees. There are also dozens of rhododendrons with different leaf sizes and flower formations.

"My breeding goals are rhodies with peachy-orange-yellow colors, along with ones with dark red and black-purple flowers to fill the void of these tones. Plants with good foliage, leaf retention and heavy indumenta (the felty fuzzy bottom of some leaves) and colorful conifers in the dwarf and golden realm, which are also a big part of my plant community," he said.



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Chris Trautmann is now working on his third local arboretum, this one called Mowbray Gardens, where he develops new strains of local greenery.

According to Trautmann, his life has always revolved around plants and the development of specific varieties. His family roots are in agriculture and he has continued in that family tradition.

"My grandfather, Andrew, was the 'Onion King' of Texas in the 1940s and '50s, owning and operating Green Top Farms in two locations in Texas, consisting of over 300 acres of potatoes, carrots, lettuce and, of course, Vadalía sweet onions," Trautmann said. "My father, Charley, was president of the farm and was assisted by his four brothers."

Trautmann has spent the past few decades working with plants and has shifted locations as his space filled with growing things. He now has his third large scale garden here in Florence.

See GARDEN page 7A

Bi-Mart Pharmacy in Florence to close by Nov. 3

BY MARK BRENNAN & CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

At the end of September, the Bi-Mart Corporation announced that it was exiting the pharmacy business and transitioning pharmacy services to Walgreens.

Florence Bi-Mart, 4310 Highway 101, will continue to operate for its usual hours, just without the pharmacy.

According to Don Leber, Vice President of Marketing for Bi-Mart Corporation, no decision has yet been made regarding the specifics of providing service in Florence.

"Walgreens has not confirmed with Bi-Mart the final arrangements for providing service to Florence residents. We are still discussing future relationships with local merchants. We expect to hear from Walgreens soon, perhaps in the next 24 to 48 hours, with an announcement of the plan moving forward. We realize there is confusion at this time, and we are working with Walgreens to finalize arrangements," Leber said.

See PHARMACY page 10A

DRIVE-THRU TRICK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31ST
2-4 PM

FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER

DRIVE-THRU EVENT,
PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLES

A COMMUNITY EVENT PRESENTED BY:



Kiwaniis
Florence, Oregon