



News Release

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Siuslaw Bank Celebrates Community Banking Month in Lane County

Eugene, OR: Siuslaw Bank is joining community bankers throughout the nation to celebrate the month of April as Community Banking Month. There are nearly 7,000 community banks across the United States.

What distinguishes a community bank from another financial institution? Personal service, local credit decisions and local ownership. Another unique characteristic is that community banks are the primary source of lending for small businesses. These loans benefit the neighborhoods where depositors live and work. Because community banks put local deposits back to work in the community, and are financial first responders both in good times and in bad, consumers will be reinvesting in their neighborhood and making it a better place to live and work for generations to come.

This year, Siuslaw Bank is focusing Community Banking Month on promoting financial literacy. Students in middle school and junior high are encouraged to turn in essays on "If you had \$1,000, on what would you spend it?" Students in grades 3-5 are being asked to design their ideal piggy bank on sheets of 8.5 X 11 white paper. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the month. Essays and posters should be submitted to any Siuslaw Bank location by Friday, April 27. Winning essays and artwork will be published in local newspapers.

Community Banking Month is a time to celebrate activity and collaboration within our communities. "Siuslaw Bank employees are local citizens who volunteer with many non-profit and projects," says Lonnie Iholts, Siuslaw Bank president. "We are proud of our community and we are dedicated to serving our citizens and businesses that reside and operate here. Siuslaw is uniquely committed to the Lane County area and our focus lies in helping our community to grow and prosper."

As a community minded organization, Siuslaw Bank reinvests a portion of its profits back into the community through programs like Leadership Scholarship. Since the inception of the program in the 1980s, Siuslaw has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to high school seniors in our community. This year, Siuslaw awarded 11 \$1500 scholarships to local seniors in high school who have been successful in a leadership capacity both in and out of school.

With more than 48 years of service, Siuslaw Bank has a proven track record of financial stability and customer care. Founded in 1964, Siuslaw Bank is Lane County's oldest independent bank and currently has ten branches throughout Cottage Grove, Creswell, Eugene, Florence, Mapleton, Oakridge, Pleasant Hill, Springfield and Veneta.