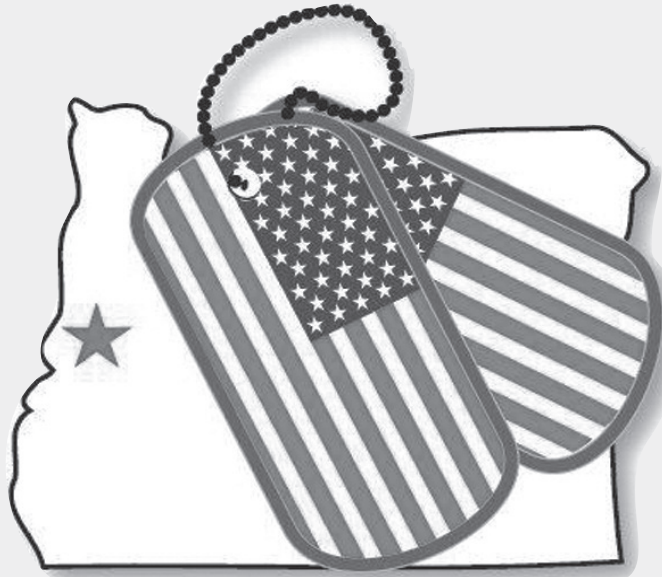


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Siuslaw News

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124TH YEAR • ISSUE No. 42

MAY 28 • 2014

75 CENTS

Memorial Day: Florence honors its heroes



PHOTOS BY THERESA BAER/SIUSLAW NEWS

The American Legion Francis M. Yost Post 59 hosted the 68th annual Memorial Day service on Monday, May 26. The Veterans Memorial Park was filled with military veterans and their families for ceremonies that included patriotic songs, prayer, a statement remembering Sept. 11, 2001 and a keynote speech by USCG CPO Kyle Betts of the local Siuslaw Station. The ceremony closed with members of the Coast Guard laying memorial wreaths on the Siuslaw River (left photo). In the photo at right, a Guardsman bows his head during the memorial ceremony.

Siuslaw School Board approves 2014-15 budget

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

The Siuslaw School District board approved the 2014-15 budget during a special meeting held May 14, prior to the regular school board meeting. The board will adopt the \$18.5 million budget at its June 11 meeting.

According to Siuslaw School District Business Manager Kari Blake, this is the first budget in several years that the school board did not have to tap into reserve funds to cover budget shortfalls. The Oregon State legislature increased funding for the school district and revenue from property taxes have grown.

“Prior to my coming, we had quite a healthy fund balance carrying over year to year,” she said. “We have been sort of using that as resources into the following year. So they have been dwindling year by year.”

“This year, where we are right now was supposed to be the year when the money is gone and we were going to be making some big cuts. At the beginning of the budget season that was definitely the talk. It looked pretty ugly. We were looking at having to cut around \$750,000. Then the state came through and we were no longer in a position where we had to cut teachers.”

Fiscal responsibility is a priority, even with the added funds.

“The board sets a percentage goal every year. This year they have set an 8 percent fund balance reserve. So we will be setting aside 8 percent of the total budget resources. I’ve been working with the board to make sure that money is never touched. It’s sort of a bottom line we never cross below, just to protect us,” Blake

See BUDGET 8A

SMS at play: Alice @ Wonderland

Siuslaw students to perform modern take on classic tale.

By RYAN CRONK
Siuslaw News

If Alice lived in the 21st century, would she have used an app to find her way out of the legendary Wonderland? Or perhaps texted a friend for help?

Siuslaw Middle School students will retell the classic children’s story with a twist this Friday and Saturday when they perform a modern take on Lewis Carroll’s “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.”

“Alice @ Wonderland,” written by Jonathan Yukich, is an updated version of Carroll’s tale in which Alice (played by Summer Brog) gets interrupted while making a call on her cell phone by a very agitated — and tardy — White Rabbit (Ethan Owens), whom she follows through a rabbit hole and into Wonderland.

Along the way Alice meets an



Cast and crew members of “Alice @ Wonderland” (courtesy photo)

ensemble of characters from the original story, including the vindictive Queen of Hearts (Talyn Bello) and her enabling King (Will Johnston), the teleporting Cheshire Cat (Cesar Castillo and Cameron Utz), a hookah-toting caterpillar (Anthony Perez) and the Mad Hatter (Tristin Reber).

The humorous play features a cast of nearly 30 seventh- and eighth-grade students, many of whom are first-timers to the stage. As part of the school’s theater program, students have been working on the production since mid-April.

“From the very beginning, the

students have been involved with — or at least privy to — every aspect of the collaborative art of theater,” said drama instructor Eddie Mielke.

From designing sets and costumes to learning characterizations and blocking, students are discovering what it takes to produce a live show. They even put on a school dance and acquired donations from the community to finance a large portion of the production.

“This group of students operates as an ensemble, and it is my belief it’ll play through their performance,” Mielke added.

Audiences can expect sets highlighting mushrooms and playing cards, with costumes ranging from modified sumo outfits to furry headgear and spring-loaded stils, all inspired by the strangeness found in Wonderland.

See ALICE 8A

Ambulance district to host free car seat clinic May 31

Safety engineers are constantly working hard to ensure that cars and car seats are designed to keep children as safe as possible, but it’s up to every parent and caregiver of a child to take full advantage of these innovations by making sure car seats are used and installed correctly.

Traffic injuries are the leading

cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in Oregon. Correctly used car seats can reduce the risk of death and injuries over 70 percent, and approximately 73 percent of car seats are not used or installed correctly.

Western Lane Ambulance District is presenting a free Car

Seat Clinic on Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the BiMart parking lot, 4310 Highway 101.

Certified car seat technicians will be on hand to assist and educate parents and caregivers of young children on the proper and safe car seat installation techniques.

Car seats will be available for those who qualify (OHP and S20 donations).

Complimentary food and beverages will also be available for participants.

BiMart and the Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Division are also sponsors of this event.

INSIDE WEDNESDAY			
Ambulance	A6	Police	A7
Birth	A2	Scoreboard	B3
Classifieds	B7	Sports	B
Library Tidbits	A5	Tides	B1
Opinion	A4	Weather	A2



Your Weather			
TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Rain	Mostly cloudy	Late rain	Mostly cloudy
59 47	61 45	61 50	62 49

