



Siuslaw News

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B&G Club director placed on paid leave

Board continues to seek solutions for financial struggles

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Last weekend Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County Board of Directors President Mike Smith placed club Executive Director Jonathan Hicks on paid administrative leave, effective immediately, according to club secretary and media liaison Bob Forsythe.

"We are in a restructuring mode and we needed to make that move for several reasons," Forsythe said. "Hicks and his family have already moved to the Bend area, so he was only here either one or two days a week, depending on which week of the month. It's also something we really needed to do as a part of the restructuring process the board is doing."

Hicks has served as executive director of the club since Feb. 1, 2013. He was initially hired as the club's athletic director in 2012.

Forsythe said the club's board is continuing negotiations with Oregon Pacific Bank on restructuring options to ease financial pressures and allow the club to continue operating.

The Boys and Girls Club currently operates an after-school program in cooperation with the Siuslaw School District; the ABC Preschool program and the Quality Child Care of Florence daycare facility, as well as numerous sports and other programs.

'American Bear' comes to Florence

Award-winning documentary of interest to students, adults

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Spoiler alert. This movie has nothing to do with hunting, bears, hibernation, cute cuddly cubs or the California state flag. It's about human interaction and one couple's unique American odyssey, spanning 60 days, 30 states and five small towns named Bear.

This award-winning documentary, by husband-and-wife filmmaking team Sarah Sellman and Greg Grano, both 25, is coming to City Lights Cinemas Tuesday, Feb. 24, because of the efforts of Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O'Mara.

"A former colleague I taught with introduced me to the documentary, 'American Bear — An Adventure in Kindness,'" O'Mara said. "I looked at it and spoke with Michael Falter of City Lights Cinemas. He had been talking with the filmmakers for another theater that he manages."

See BEAR 6A

RHODY ROYAL

SIUSLAW, MAPLETON STUDENTS SELECTED TO REPRESENT ANNUAL FESTIVAL

SENIOR COURT - PRINCESSES



Courtney King



Trista Lane



Natalie Madden



Kennedy Roylance



Bailey Wells

SENIOR COURT - PRINCES



Keoni Castro



Trey Cornish



Joseph Dotson



Jonathan Griffes

JUNIOR COURT - PRINCESSES



Alize Giselle Castellanos



Adelaide Ficcamenti



Ariana Galvan Mendez



Olivia Moore



Elizabeth Perez

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARENTS AND SIUSLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Continuing a tradition that began more than 100 years ago in 1908, five Siuslaw High School senior girls, four Siuslaw High School senior boys, one Mapleton Elementary girl and four Siuslaw Elementary girls joined the Rhododendron Festival's 2015 "Rock 'n' Rhody"-themed royal court.

The Rhododendron Festival High School Court is comprised of five outstanding young women: Courtney King, Trista Lane, Natalie

Madden, Kennedy Roylance and Bailey Wells.

The four outstanding young men are Keoni Castro, Trey Cornish, Joseph Dotson and Jonathan Griffes. This is the Rhody Festival's second year with boys included in the scholarship competition.

Applicants had to provide references, fill out an application and describe their personal achievements and goals. They also said which college they would prefer to attend.

Choice in college varied from relatively close, like Central Oregon Community College, Corban

University, George Fox University, Lane Community College and Oregon State University, to those a little farther away, like Brigham Young University Idaho.

The mission of the Rhododendron Court program is to provide scholarships for higher education, to promote community outreach and volunteerism and to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to outstanding young women and young men in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for Rhododendron Festival history and tradition.

The Junior Court is comprised of five young ladies: Alize Giselle

Castellanos, Adelaide Ficcamenti, Olivia Moore and Elizabeth Perez of Siuslaw, and Ariana Galvan Mendez of Mapleton.

Beginning in March, court members will visit community events, business leaders, senior living centers, youth organizations and civic groups. Court members also receive one-on-one mentorship.

The members of the senior court will showcase their talents in the Rhododendron Showcase on Wednesday, May 6, where they will compete for the titles of Queen Rhododendron and King of the Coast in addition to scholarship money.

Herb Enthusiasts learn history, uses of cannabis

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The Florence Herb Enthusiasts invited herbalist Nome McBride and Joanne Whitney, chief pharmacist at Bi-Mart in Florence, to speak about cannabis at their Thursday, Feb. 19, meeting.

McBride covered history, types and uses of cannabis. Whitney answered questions about the interaction of cannabis with pharmaceuticals and provided input from the medical community.

"I was a little surprised when I was asked to do this presentation, but I'm glad to," McBride said. He has spoken at five previous meetings of the Herb Enthusiasts.

"I'm for cannabis," he said. "I'm for every herb and the use of every herb in the correct dosage at the correct time, and that time may or may not occur in your lifetime. But it is good to respect every herb for the uses that it can have."

According to McBride's research, cannabis is an ancient plant with origins in the Himalayas. It spread, along with colonialism, to South America



PHOTO BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Joanne Whitney, chief pharmacist at the Florence Bi-Mart, and Nome McBride, a master herbalist based in Eugene, address more than 50 people at the Florence Herb Enthusiasts' Feb. 19 meeting about cannabis.

and into North America.

"Cannabis is definitely the most bred plant on earth," he said. "It's probably the oldest recorded plant in human history."

There are many strains and uses for cannabis.

Parts of the cannabis plant are used in medicines, food and the manufacture of clothing and building materials. Male cannabis is called hemp, which means "useful," and has antifungal properties.

See HERBS 4A

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Your Weather

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny	Sun	Sun	Mostly sunny
55 38	56 38	56 38	56 43



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