



# Siuslaw News

WEDNESDAY

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## Fleenor resigns from port

*Commissioner cites conflict of interest as reason to leave*

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Port of Siuslaw Commissioner Bill Fleenor submitted a letter of resignation, effective Friday, March 27, to Port Manager Bob Forsythe this week to avoid possible conflict of interest with his telecommunications company.

Fleenor had just over three months left on his four-year term as port commissioner for position No. 4, which was scheduled to end June 30.

"Last year I started a company, Pacific Landings, LLC, with a couple of investors, to explore the feasibility of bringing telecommunications industries to the Florence area," Fleenor said. "Particularly using the industrial property the port owns."

"We created Pacific Landings with the full understanding and support of the port, the port manager and the port's attorney. I wanted to keep this completely above board and clean."

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 777 regulates the business and other activities that Oregon ports are allowed to engage in by law.

"We requested the port to petition the state legislature to make a change to OR 777, allowing all Oregon ports to be able to engage in telecommunication activities; which appears to be moving forward and has a high probability of success," Fleenor said.

See **PORT 7A**

## Election race is on

*Candidates campaign for board positions*

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

The deadline to file as a candidate in the May 19 special election passed last week. Now, with less than two months until the election, candidates vie for positions in Mapleton and Florence.

The most hotly contested positions are for Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue's (SVFR) three open seats. Seven candidates will face off.

For director position 3, Tony Phillips is running against incumbent Rob Ward. For director position 4, incumbent Cindy Spinner is running against Ave Bernard and John A. Carnahan. For director position 5, longtime incumbent Steve Olienyk is running against Woody Woodbury.

At SVFR's March board meeting, Ward said, "I think it's great. Just look at the number of people running for the board positions now. We've got a minimum of two people for every position and three for one ... and that's awesome."

See **VOTE 7A**

# POW WOW

TRIBAL TRADITION CONTINUES ACROSS GENERATIONS



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

*Siuslaw Middle School was the site of the largest Pow Wow on the Oregon coast March 21 with more than 350 federally recognized Indian nations represented and about 200 dancers performing traditional native dances. According to event coordinator Lynn Anderson, this was the largest Pow Wow in the event's 22-year history.*



## Schools face cuts to state funding

*Siuslaw could lose an estimated \$150K in state revenue*

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw School District Superintendent Ethel Angal voiced her concern over the Oregon State Legislature's proposed new budget for the 2015-2017 biennium.

"Every school district in Lane County stands to lose money based on the Average Daily Membership/weighted (ADMw). Our best calculation is that Siuslaw School District will lose approximately \$100 per student," Angal said.

The ADMw is the formula used to determine how much money each school district receives per student.

The loss of revenue is particularly baffling to Angal because, with the improving state economy, all other state services are seeing budget increases.

Since the 2003-2005 state budget, according to the Oregon State Revenue Office, total state expenditures have grown by 53 percent over the last 12 years.

Human Services are up by more than 84 percent and Public Safety has increased by more than 68 percent. K-12 state school funding is at 35 percent, which is 18 percent below the growth rate.

In addition to loss of revenue, Oregon students are losing ground on the national level as well.

According to information provided by Lane Education Service District, Oregon spends about 88 percent of the national average on education per pupil in classes K-12. It ranks 49th out of 50 states in student-to-teacher ratios; six more students per teacher than the average of all other states.

"Even though we get money for each child, the pot of money is divided between a lot more children. Our best guess is that Siuslaw School District stands to lose about \$150,000," Angal said.

See **SCHOOL 7A**

## B&G CLUB KEEPS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

The Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County will continue to offer after-school programs Monday through Friday at the Siuslaw Elementary School.

The club, which for several years had been working with the Siuslaw School District to offer after-school activities in conjunction with the district's Twilight program, will continue its after-school enrichment programs, even though the club and Twilight are now

operating independently.

The district's decision to part ways came after financial difficulties caused Boys and Girls Club to begin requiring a fee for the after-school programs.

"I really believe our community needs a strong boys and girls club. It can be the best thing ever for the kids in our community," Siuslaw School District Superintendent Ethel Angal said. "To the extent that we extend the school district facilities, I don't see any reason why we would not continue that part

of the partnership."

Boys and Girls Club board member John Murphey said, "We are very thankful to the Siuslaw School District for partnering with us and allowing us to use their facility, their gymnasium and their field for our athletic programs. We are also grateful to the Mapleton School District for letting us do the same in Mapleton."

The Boys and Girls Club after-school enrichment programs run from after school until 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 1:30 until

6 p.m. on Fridays.

The first hour of the after school program is dedicated to homework. According to club board vice president Chuck Trent, club staff members sit down with the students and help them with homework. The next two hours are enrichment programs, arts and crafts and physical activities.

The club's after-school program will continue to serve a full meal Monday through Thursday and a snack on Friday.

During spring break, in

addition to the enrichment programs, City Lights Cinemas is presenting a special showing of "Big Hero 6" today at 10:30 a.m. On Friday at 1 p.m., the club will offer a magic show at the elementary school. There is no charge for either event for club members.

The revamping of the club's Teen Center continues. The exterior has been painted, the driveway has been graded and landscaping has been refreshed.

See **CLUB 7A**

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### Your Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Cloudy
59 49	63 49	60 47	58 45

### Sports — B

