

Today's 'Our Town' on KCST has broad focus

The April 1st edition of Coast Radio's award winning public affairs program will introduce the new director of Lane Community College's Florence Center.

Russ Pierson has been with Lane for eight years, much of that in facilities management. But, he has a rich and varied background in education.

Following Pierson's introduction, the assistant ranger for the Central Coast District of the Siuslaw National Forest will talk about the possibility of clearing formerly open sand of invasive plants and recreating more open dunal areas.

As assistant ranger, one of Carl Bauer's primary tasks is overseeing the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. He and recreation planner Angie Morris will talk about an effort that is just now getting underway. The ODNRA is seeking public input on the plan that will guide their efforts at removing some of the brush and invasive beach grass that has covered much of the open sand.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry recently held an "economic summit" where he heard from business, education, nonprofit, and other government leaders about what can be done to enliven the local economy.

Economic development has become a major focus of city leaders in the last few months. Henry has promised to make it the centerpiece of his and other officials' efforts.

Middle school science teacher Andy Marohl provides

his students with some pretty challenging activities.

Some of his students are working on an underwater "ROV" (remotely operated vehicle). Think of it as a sort of underwater drone. It's extremely challenging, but Marohl says the students involved are extremely bright and — most importantly — excited about science, technology, engineering and math.

Those four disciplines make up the basis for the acronym STEM. Marohl and others at Siuslaw Middle School have put together what they're calling "STEM Night" coming up April 24 at the middle school.

It will feature nearly three-dozen activities that he hopes will inspire, challenge and excite middle school students.

The final segment of today's Our Town on KCST will feature a conversation with school administrators.

Siuslaw Superintendent

Ethel Angal is one of several Lane County administrators who have been working hard over the past few weeks to lobby state lawmakers about school funding. The joint House and Senate Ways and Means Committee has proposed a two-year budget that they say is \$600-million more than they allocated for kindergarten through 12th grade two years ago.

That's true, says Angal, but there have also been dramatic cost increases and an increase in the number of students since then. She and others say instead of being an increase in funding for individual districts, it will actually cost them money. She said the funding amount on a "per-student" basis will actually be nearly \$90 per year less than in 2013.

That comes to a shortfall of about \$150,000 for Siuslaw at current figures. Angal, along with Siuslaw's business man-

ager Kari Blake and Mapleton business manager Maria McEldowney, will talk about the complexities of school finance in Oregon and why they say the increase proposed by lawmakers actually equates as a decrease.

In the second half of the program, Angal will be joined by Siuslaw Elementary Principal Mike Harkelrode. They'll talk about changes they've been working on as they implement the curriculum for the Common Core standards.

Harkelrode will also talk about the move to all-day kindergarten that will be starting at Siuslaw in the fall.

It's all sponsored by Andy Baber of Edward Jones Investments; Holloway and Associates CPAs; the Archives Photo Restoration Specialists; and PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center.

Our Town airs today on KCST, FM 106.9, at 4 p.m.

LCC offering computer, social media basics class

Computers and the Internet are part of everyday life. If you need help with your MAC or PC, or if you have questions or concerns about social media or navigating the internet, then LCC community education (non-credit courses offered at a slower pace) is worth checking into.

The class will answer questions such as: "What kind of devices should I purchase to be able to do what I'd like to do?" "How do I shop on eBay or Amazon?" "What kind of Apps should my smart phone have?"

Lane Community College has a fully equipped computer

lab and the class size is kept small for personal attention. LCC also invites "show and tell," when students can bring their questions and devices to class.

The class begins April 6 with Navigating Technology. April 9 is the start of Making the iPad Mypad and The "How To" of iPads/iPhones. On April 21, Click Here begins.

Costs are kept low through Community Education courses.

For more information call Lane Community College at 541-997-8444, stop by the college at 3149 Oak St., or go to www.lanec.edu/florence.



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April 10 - 12

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www.crowkids.com

A Hip Cause Fundraiser!
Sunday, April 12th from 12pm-4pm
At Miller Park

Boxlunch will be there with a **Special BBQ Menu**
~100% of sales to benefit medical expenses~
Wayne Crosthwaite's
Bilateral Hip Replacement Surgery

Silent Auction with a wide variety of items including: gift certificates, collectables, gardening items, plants and more!

Plus Music, Fun and Games!

Boxlunch's last day of regular business will be **Monday, April 6th**

Sunday's fundraiser will be your last chance to enjoy our great food until we reopen after Wayne's recovery this summer in a **NEW LOCATION:**
Look for us in front of City Lights Cinemas!


Questions? 541-991-0539 Wayne

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