

Schools unhappy with state budget

**Legislators stress
social services over
public education**

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Following on the heels of the Oregon House of Representatives, the state Senate passed the \$7.255 billion K-12 education budget April 6, and Gov. Kate Brown is expected to sign the two-year school funding plan soon. Both Siuslaw and Mapleton school district superintendents, however, oppose the amount approved.

"The new budget stops us in our tracks as far as adding back things into our program that have been gone for several years due to recession cut-backs," Siuslaw Superintendent Ethel Angal said.

Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "Yes, the legislature is talking about allocating more money than they did two years ago, but there has been an increase in the number of students. And they have mandated increased services, like full-day kindergarten."

In an address to the state Senate, prior to the passage of the budget, Sen. Arnie Roblan explained why other areas of the state's budget were taking priority over education.

"We have an obligation to take care of our kids throughout the budgeting process," Roblan said. "We are not budgeting in a vacuum and the big picture has to take into account all the things we need to do to take care of our kids."

Roblan listed examples of state programs that were competing with the education budget for dollars: the Oregon Health Plan, self-sufficiency programs, the Emergency Housing program, the Oregon Hunger Response Fund and the Low Income Rental Assistance program.

"Every area of the budget is interconnected with the others," Roblan said.

See **BUDGET** 6A

ALL ARE OFF

DUNES CITY VS. FLORENCE



PHOTO BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede engages in a friendly game of tug-of-war with Florence Mayor Joe Henry. Ruede challenged Henry to host a team in Dunes City's third annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon set for Saturday, May 9, at Honeyman State Park.

Florence accepts Dunes City's challenge for duathlon race

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

In February, Dunes City Council issued a challenge to Florence City Council to participate in the Oregon Dunes Duathlon on May 9. Florence mayor Joe Henry accepted the challenge and this week announced the team.

"Our team will be City Manager Erin Reynolds and Councilor Susy Lacer," said Henry. "We are raring to go. ... I will of course be there to cheer on our winning team at the finish line."

Dunes City's team consists of councilors Maurice Sanders and Duke Wells.

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Cal Applebee said, "The two in the Dunes City team are veterans. They've done it for a couple of years, but they're old guys. The Florence team are the rookies, and they're the younger gals."

"Experience makes the difference a lot of times, I think," said Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede.

The duathlon features both a bike and running course. The triathlon includes a swim through Woahink Lake.

The mayor from the winning team in this challenge gets to put the mayor from the losing team to work for three hours of community service.

"I'm going to the mayor of Veneta on Tuesday to

get her to participate," Ruede said. "She may get in on it, too."

The mayors hope that their involvement will help other participants sign up for the annual duathlon or triathlon.

Ruede added, "Mayoral bragging rights will be well worth the energy and publicity that we put into this."

The Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon begins May 9 at Woahink Lake and continues through Honeyman State Park, south of Florence. Events run from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Go to oregondunestriathlon.com for more information and to register.



PHOTO BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Cecile Fleming as the Jester dances with Topher Keppol as the King and Nyah Vollmar as the Minstrel in CROW's "Once Upon a Mattress" at the FEC.

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

'Once Upon a Mattress' opens this weekend as CROW preps for new building

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) can now live as "happily, happily, happily ever after" as the characters in their production of "Once Upon a Mattress," which opened at Florence Events Center last night.

Director Melanie Heard announced Friday that CROW

acquired its new building at 3120 Highway 101.

"We're at a place where we have so many exciting projects ahead of us," she said.

The leaders at CROW weren't sure they were going to be able to purchase the building, as there were multiple offers on it already.

Heard said, "It was very upsetting because it's the perfect facility for everything

we're trying to do. It has the artistic, storage and construction space and dressing and green rooms that we need."

Then, an anonymous sponsor stepped in.

"Basically out of the blue, an angel came and stepped forward and said that they would be willing to secure the building for us for the period of one year," she said.

CROW will use that time to

continue to raise funds and apply for local and national grants. It will cover the operating expenses of the building and begin the permit process for necessary renovations.

"It needs a lot of work, but it's going to be fabulous. ... I'm really confident that CROW is going to be able to do this," Heard said.

See **CROW** 6A

SPORTS — B



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TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Rain	Clouds & Sun	Rain	Mostly Cloudy
53 38	59 43	55 43	54 41

