

Mapleton kindergarten to hold literacy night

School district to help parents gear up for all-day kindergarten

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Mapleton School District will be hosting a literacy night at the elementary school Tuesday, May 12, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., for families planning to send children to all-day kindergarten this fall.

"We are having parents come in so that we can give them resources to get their children ready for kindergarten," Mapleton School District Superintendent and Elementary School Principal Jodi O'Mara said.

"We will be offering parents tips on how to help kids get used to getting up in the morning and getting them used to the routine."

Reading will be a primary focus of the evening. Stories will be read and free books will be given out to encourage

parents to read to their children over the summer.

Carrie McNeill, who has taught kindergarten at the Mapleton elementary school for 11 years and will be the all-day kindergarten teacher this fall, will oversee the evening's activities.

O'Mara said, "We want to work with parents to teach skills that can help kids get ready for school socially and emotionally, as well as physically, like just being able to sit in a chair at a desk for five minutes, playing board games and taking turns."

"It's a long day for kindergartners. We want the kids to feel that school is fun and somewhere that they want to be," she added.

For more information on literacy night, contact the Mapleton Elementary School at 541-268-4471.

Show from 1A

favorite book to the Junior Court.

Lane and Wells combined their culinary talents and held a cooking show. They baked and frosted more than 300 cupcakes for guests and judges to enjoy. Madden performed a modern dance that she choreographed to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

The princesses' platforms explored positive change in a community, encouraging youth to stand up to verbal abuse, the importance of the arts in young lives and the healing power of pets. Each princess also interviewed her Junior Princess.

King of the Coast Castro made a video montage of his basketball skills with fun music and quirky video clips for his introduction. His platform discussed the importance of family and how people should not narrowly define the term.

Senior Princes Trey Cornish, Joseph Dotson (king runner-up) and Jonathan Griffes also presented videos on science, basketball, football, track and running. Their platforms covered student leadership, community



The Princes and Princesses congratulate King Keoni and Queen Kennedy after the show. More photos of the showcase can soon be viewed at www.TheSiuslawNews.com.

support for schools and strong morals.

The first King of the Coast Derek Kennedy returned this year to interview the Princes, summarize his year of rule and crown the next king.

The five students in the Junior Court represent the first-through fifth-grades at local elementary schools. Olivia Moore, Adelaide Ficcadenti, Alizé Giselle Castellanos and Elizabeth Perez are from Siuslaw Elementary School. This year, only third-grader Ariana Galvan Mendez is from Mapleton.

Throughout the evening, the Senior Court danced to a medley of classic tunes in a swinging opening number, the Senior and Junior Princesses danced to "We Go Together" and the Princes snapped and spun to "Mack the Knife."

Local dance instructor Melanie Heard choreographed the dances.

A panel of five judges, including Mayor Joe Henry, KCST News Director Bob Sneddon and a former Rhody Princess, evaluated the senior court on mentorship, the performance that night, participation in community events, sales of commemorative Rhody pins and the students' platforms.

Of the entire court, Junior Princess Alizé Giselle Castellanos, fourth-grade, won the prize for the most Rhododendron Festival commemorative pins sold.

Funky Monkey Toys provided Castellanos with a gift card.

The showcase was produced by Creative Directors Meg Spencer and Jared Anderson. Rhododendron Senior Princess Coordinator Cindy

Wobbe emceed the event with support from the other members of the Rhododendron Scholarship Committee Dee Osborne, Annette Foglio and Jenna Bartlett.

The Rhododendron Scholarship Showcase may be over, but the nine Siuslaw High School seniors in the Senior Court still have a lot to do. Besides riding in a float in the Junior Parade on Saturday, May 16, and the Rhododendron Grand Floral Parade on Sunday, May 17, the students have prom, track meets, baseball games and graduation before their lives slow down — and then "real life" starts.

The showcase officially opened the 108th Rhododendron Festival, which will take place next week, May 13 through 17. Look for a special program in Wednesday's paper.

Road from 1A

The proposed VRF would provide approximately \$144,000 per year to the City of Florence, based on a population of 8,465. Dunes City would receive about \$22,000, as it has a smaller population of approximately 1,320 people.

In the letter read by Mayor Henry, Florence City Council said, "We remain in favor of voters deciding the issue and also want to voice our council's united support of this measure. We encourage local voters to pass this much-needed funding to benefit both Lane County and City of Florence street maintenance."

The council encouraged voters to consider how many roads near Florence are actually considered county roadways. A map of county roads in the Florence

area is included in Measure 20-231's website, www.lanecounty.org/Departments/PW/TransPlanning/Pages/VRF.aspx.

When Bozievich visited Dunes City, the Dunes City Council declined to endorse the measure.

Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede said, "The \$35 vehicle registration increase remains a politically charged subject. ... It was brought up during discussion that the increase would actually cost \$70 per vehicle because renewals are every two years. Even though some feel that is a modest fee, there are those that would not agree, and we believe it is not a council's place to attempt to influence voters by taking a position on the matter."

Ruede added that the council agrees that finding funds for Lane County's roads is critical.

Dunes City Councilor Ed

Scarberry has since appeared on KCST Coast Radio in opposition to the measure. However, he said he only speaks for himself on the issue.

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal Sean Barrett served as a member of the Citizens Roads Advisory Committee and argued in favor of the measure in the voter's pamphlet.

"I looked at all of the available options to fund our road maintenance needs. The vehicle registration fee is the best option we have to keep our roads safe and well maintained. With the loss of federal timber payments and a projected \$9 million shortfall in Lane County's road fund, the \$35 annual fee is the best option we have," he said. "It's a small price to pay for safe roads. I know my family and neighbors are worth it."

Voters already have their Lane

County Voters' Pamphlets and ballots. Completed ballots must be turned in by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19.

There are several 24-hour drop-off boxes in Lane County, but Florence Police Department, 900 Greenwood St., is the only one in Florence. Ballots can also be mailed in to Lane County Elections, 275 W. 10th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401, as long as they are received before 8 p.m. on May 19.

To check your registration or ballot status, go to www.oregonvotes.gov.

Boards from 1A

Butler lists her occupation as small business owner. She has lived in Florence for 25 years.

Rosinbaum listed his occupation as network engineer and is CEO of RosinCloud, Inc, a Florence business. He served on the 2014-2015 Siuslaw School Board budget committee.

No write-in candidates have registered for positions 7 and 3.

Three candidates are running for three Mapleton School District openings. All three are current Mapleton School Board members.

Michelle Holman is running for position 5. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oregon. She currently serves on the board.

John Simington is running for position 1. Simington is a graduate of Mapleton High School and is running for re-election to the board.

Current board member Carl West is running for re-election to position 3. West, a graduate of Mapleton High School, studied fire science at the University of Washington. He is a retired fire staff officer for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Siuslaw Public Library has three board positions expiring June 30, 2015. Three current board members, Susy Lacer, Pat Riley and Jane Yecny, are running unopposed for re-election.

Lacer, a Florence city councilor and professional grant writer, has lived in Florence since 2006. She believes the Mapleton and Florence libraries play an integral role in the lives of local residents.

Riley and her husband, John Scott, moved to Florence in 2000 from Portland. She retired as senior vice president and manager of the Trust and Wealth Management division for Oregon Pacific Bank in 2014.

Yecny and her husband Rick have lived in Florence since

1982. She volunteers for the library, Siuslaw School District and Relay For Life and has been

a member of Delta Gamma, a local philanthropic organization for more than 25 years.



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RHODODENDRON SALE

MAY 10th - MAY 17th

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\$12/plant or \$120/dozen
5&7 gallon sizes - many available

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Why Don't You Do Right?
The classic female vocalists
Sat, May 9, 1:30 pm - Florence Events Center 541.997.1994

The Eye Center
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Kent A. Karen, MD

Merrill Lynch
COLLIS WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP
oregon ilask

CODE RED
ROCK & ROLL PARTY BAND



THREE RIVERS
CASINO RESORT



RELAY FOR LIFE

FUNDRAISER CONCERT
May 9, 8-11pm, Doors open 7:30
No Cover - Donations Encouraged!
Silent Auction 7:30-10pm