

# VIKS CLAIM STATE TITLE

SPORTS — B



# SOS receives donation

INSIDE — A6



# Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Disposal of unused meds still available

*Though the city removed its drop box last fall, other options are being offered*

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence shut down the used pharmaceutical drop box, located inside the Florence Justice Center, last fall due to abuse and suspected mass disposal of used needles by one or more health-related businesses.

Since that time, the city and PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center have been unable to implement a viable alternative.

Dianna Pimlott, director of pharmacy services for the hospital, said, "Peace Harbor is unable to provide a collection receptacle for community use due to regulatory and other restrictions assigned by pharmaceutical waste handlers who are contracted by Peace Harbor Medical Center to serve our facilities.

"One example of a restriction that might result in significant penalties, including a decision by our waste handler to stop serving our facilities, is the presence of used needles or other sharp objects with the waste designated for disposal," she explained. "The inappropriate disposal of used needles and other sharp objects in the community disposal receptacle was one of the primary determinants for withdrawal of the program by the Florence Police Department."

Florence-area residents, however, do have other options for disposal of unused or out-of-date pharmaceuticals, including used needles.

Fred Meyer and Rite Aid pharmacies have mail-back programs that cost \$3 and \$5.95, respectively, and cover pharmaceuticals, other than controlled medications and needles.

Safeway will take small amounts of unused medications.

"We can do it in small batches, like one or two bottles at a time. We can't take syringes," said Safeway pharmacy manager Alex Hatch. "We have been directing people to Fred Meyer because they do have a mail-back return program."

Bi-Mart and Florence Pharmacy do not have public drug disposal programs at this time.

See **DISPOSAL 9A**

## READ FOR THE NEED



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Hundreds of used books fill tables set up at the Florence Events Center last weekend for the final Read for the Need fundraiser.

# THE LAST CHAPTER

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

*Annual fundraiser concludes as founder Taylor Graham graduates high school*

**A**fter 10 years, Read for the Need has turned its final page. The annual fundraiser, started by Siuslaw High School senior Taylor Graham when he was 7, has donated more than \$60,000 to Florence Food Share.

According to Graham, now 17 years old, the idea "popped into his head" on his way home one day.

"I asked my mom if I could start a book sale and then, with the money from the sale, buy food for the hungry," Graham said.

He partnered with area volunteers to gather book donations and organize them for the sales.

"The first year, we had 10,000 books and we raised about \$4,000 for Florence Food Share. And then it just continued getting bigger and bigger," he said.



Taylor Graham

In some years, over 30,000 books were donated. The sale filled the gym at Siuslaw Elementary for several years. This year, it covered the floor of the Florence Events Center.

"We had lots of fiction this year," Graham said.

Donations have included vintage volumes, fiction series, nonfiction books, children's picture and chapter books, westerns and audio books.

Sometimes, church groups and classrooms have gathered donations.

See **READ 9A**

Mapleton students study soil and water as part of the educational activities offered during outdoor school. The program was first started in 1962.



PHOTO BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

## MAPLETON OUTDOOR SCHOOL TRADITION CONTINUES

*Oregon's oldest outdoor school program combines education, camping and fun for students*

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Anyone who ever said school was boring never attended the Mapleton School District outdoor school program, held ear-

lier this month at Camp Lane, a 15-acre Lane County group camp facility located just off Highway 126 along the bank of the Siuslaw River, approximately eight miles east of Mapleton.

According to kindergarten teacher Carrie McNeill, the Mapleton program started in 1962 and is the oldest continuous outdoor school program in the state.

McNeill, along with teachers Jeff Greene and Mandy Werner, were this year's camp directors, overseeing nine Mapleton High School student councilors and 30 elementary

fifth- and sixth-grade campers during the four-day camp. The boys and girls slept in separate dormitory units.

"The primary purpose of the outdoor school is to teach the kids about living outdoors, with lots of science and hands-on activities and team building," McNeill said.

See **CAMP 9A**