

# STUDENT EXCELLENCE

SPORTS — B



# Royal affair

INSIDE — A10



# Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



## ADVENTURE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Revived Outdoor Adventures education program includes more students and experiences

PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Students from Siuslaw School District join together to kayak, hike, fish and learn in a four-day outdoor program sponsored by the district and the Girl Scout Camp at Camp Cleawox.

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

More than 200 Siuslaw elementary and middle school students got to experience first-hand just how exciting and fun education could be when they attended the second annual four-day Outdoor Adventurers camp put on by the Siuslaw School District and held at the Girl Scout Camp at Camp Cleawox.

This is the program's second successful year after several years' forced hiatus due to educational budget cuts. The new pro-

gram, under the direction of Outdoor Adventures camp coordinators and Siuslaw schoolteachers Andy Marohl and Ben Wells, has expanded the scope and goals of the original Outdoor Education program.

Outdoor Education, the predecessor of Outdoor Adventures, was only for sixth-graders. The new program includes seventh- and fifth-graders with a focus on peer mentoring, building inter-class relationships and respect.

The program included a four-day outdoor experience that included fishing, hik-

ing, kayaking, archery, games, Native American culture and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) education at 18 different learning stations located throughout the camp.

"Our biggest theme is peer mentoring," Wells said. "We are trying to create positive relationships between our fifth and seventh graders at the end of the year so at the very beginning of next year, when they are eighth- and sixth-graders, they will have bonded."

See **OUTDOOR 9A**



## Closing the doors for the last time

Siuslaw School District bus drivers retire with a total of 56 years experience

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

After 33 years of driving for Siuslaw School District, Linda Westlund and Sharon Waite,

with 23 years experience, close the doors on their careers at the end of this school year.

Westlund has driven the Sea Lion Caves route for her entire 33 years. The route takes her as far north as Muriel O. Ponsler Memorial State Scenic Viewpoint.

Through the years she has driven more than one generation of several local families.

"I have guys that are teachers in the school that used to ride my bus," Westlund said.

In addition to bus driving, Westlund operated Chocolate Sins, a bakery,

"I've baked wedding cakes for 68 of my kids," she said with a hint of pride.

Westlund saw her job as more than just transporting children to and from school.

"She really did care about the kids," said Noland Huntington, former school bus driver trainer and supervisor. "She took the extra effort to challenge them, hold them accountable. And she rewarded them too, like when she would take the activity trips. She would bake cookies for the kids when they went on the trips."

"But they had to earn them," Westlund said.

Waite has driven the same kindergarten and North Fork routes for the last 10 years. She plans to spend more time with her grandchildren and working in her garden now that she is retiring.

See **DRIVERS 9A**



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Linda Westlund (above) and Sharon Waite (right) both retire from driving school buses for Siuslaw School District this Wednesday with the close of the school year.



## Budgeting for a successful city

Florence City Council approves \$33,877,033 budget for 2015-16

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council approved Florence's \$33,877,033 budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year at its June 1 meeting.

Interim finance director Andy Parks worked closely with staff, the budget committee and former finance director Erin Reynolds, who is now city manager.

Councilor Joshua Greene said, "Great job staff. We had a great work session. You made it really helpful for us to see how all the parts connected. I just commend you on where we're going."

"We've said that we're a city in motion," said Mayor Joe Henry. "We've kind of been a city on hold for several years, with maintenance and park and a number of other things, and now there is a whole new level of excitement in all our departments."

"Everybody is just really excited, and the council is excited that we're able to do some of these things that we haven't been able to do in a number of years. It's just a great budget and a great effort on everybody's part."

Greene agreed. "The community will get to see that a lot of things are happening because of the staff and how they figured out ways to find money, like

for the Rhododendron Drive Multi-Use Path. ... They're working at it in every way," he said.

"It certainly has been a team effort and is much appreciated," Reynolds said. In addition to the budget, they also approved extended worker's compensation for the city's volunteers.

Reynolds said, "Our volunteers are important, and we want to make sure they're safe while they're working for us."

INSIDE

Ambulance	A2	Courts	A2
Classifieds	B6	Sideshow	B5
Church	A6	Sports	B
Opinion	A4	Weather Data	A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER Full Forecast, A3

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
65 52	65 52	66 51	64 51

SIUSLAW NEWS  
125TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 45  
COPYRIGHT 2015

