



SAND JAM

SPORTS — B

Register for annual book festival

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Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

MAPLETON

Archie Knowles saved

Lane County receives state grant to reopen popular campground

By Jack Davis
Siuslaw News

Archie Knowles Campground, located four miles east of Mapleton on Highway 126 and closed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 2012, will reopen under the jurisdiction of Lane County, thanks to an \$84,976 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The local government grant will allow Lane County to rehabilitate and reopen the 4.5-acre campground and day-use area located along Knowles Creek. According to county staff, reopening the campground has been a priority of area residents since the closure, when a group called “Save Archie” was formed to promote the reopening of the site.

The USFS closed the campground — named after a former forest service ranger who was the child of early area settlers Albert and Lillian Knowles — because it was deemed too expensive to renovate and maintain. Lane County has been in negotiations with the forest service to take over the campground since its closure three years ago.

“I am pleased to have played a small part in the reopening of Archie Knowles Campground,” said West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich. “The credit goes to Lane County Parks staff, the staff of the Siuslaw National Forest and, most of all, to the community members who would not let this gem of a park stay closed.”

When learning of the reopening, Angie Wilkerson, deli manager at Randy’s Riverview Market in Mapleton, said, “That will be awesome. A lot of people like to camp there.”

Work on the campground is scheduled to begin in November and will include updating the water, waste and electrical systems and renovating the restrooms. The project will also pave all campsite spurs and create a campsite compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The project is expected to be completed in time for reopening Memorial Day, May 30, 2016.

POWERFUL FLORENCE

Power of Florence volunteers connect, collect, clean up for service day



PHOTOS BY RYAN CRONK/SIUSLAW NEWS, MEGAN MESSMER AND SHANNON GRAHAM

Volunteers (clockwise from top left) take a Power walk, paint at Miller Park, spruce up Rolling Dunes Park, plant trees at East Woahink Lake Day-Use Area, hold a Ducks vs. Beavers fundraiser, grill hot dogs to support the local humane society and wash cars for CROW on Saturday. The day included 48 different events at locations all around the Florence area.

By Chantelle Meyer
Siuslaw News

The fifth annual Power of Florence on Saturday was a powerful experience for the many volunteers, organizations and community members that made the day of service possible.

Led by 15-year-old founder Kaylee Graham, the day included 48 official events. Graham and Florence Mayor Joe Henry opened the day at 9 a.m. with the Power Walk through Old Town.

“Power of Florence was a tremendous event,” said Henry at Monday’s city council meeting. “It was a great day and a fun time.”

Some groups began working by 8 a.m. to beat the summer heat.

“There were a lot of groups that put in a lot of effort,” Graham said. “I

thought it went really well. ... So many great things were done around town.”

Besides the events out in the community, many groups hosted booths at the Party in the Parking Lot at Grocery Outlet. These booths provided information, collected donated items and sold lunch and treats.

There also was live music and entertainment from David Wiegand, Marty Adams, John Stone, Jason Wood’s vocal students, and Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops

(CROW) song and dance campers.

“It was a little quieter at the parking lot this year because the temperature was so hot at 92 degrees,” Graham said. “It was the best day for lemonade.”

She also said that the food, entertainment and company was great.

“It was so fun and amazing seeing so many people working around town,” Graham said.

Her mother Shannon Graham added, “So many awesome people came out. We want to recognize every

single group that put on an event or helped out.”

According to Shannon, the day’s events exceeded 50 because more people participated, proving that residents have made Power of Florence their day.

The Grahams provided results from some of the organizations:

Service projects

- The Florence Area Democrats collected eight bags of litter from two miles of Highway 126.

See VOLUNTEER 7A

COOL PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

SPECIAL FEATURE: This summer we are highlighting unique spots that make the central Oregon coast one of the coolest places to live and play. A new location will be featured each week.

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

278 Maple St., Florence | 541-997-7884

AT A GLANCE: The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum is the home of historic displays, pictures and other information about the Siuslaw River area, including the pioneers and the City of Florence. These displays feature the pioneers whose occupations were primarily as loggers and fishermen.

In the early days, the Siuslaw River was the primary and nearly exclusive means of travel in the area. Visitors to the museum will have the



COURTESY PHOTO

opportunity to see real settings that these early pioneers lived in.

The museum’s Research Library has documentary information regarding local history and pioneer families. An audio-visual presentation shows a brief history of Florence along with information on early shipwrecks.

Museum hours for the summer are noon to 4 p.m. every day. Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children under age 16, if accompanied by an adult, as well as members.



Mornings with Wayne & Bob

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