

# GENERAL NEWS

## ‘Stewards of the Sands’ presentation made to school board

*Board also receives update on Siuslaw Educational Foundation progress*

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

During the Oct. 14 Siuslaw School Board meeting, students from the elementary and middle school gave board members a preview of their “Stewards of the Sands” presentation that was given in Portland the following day.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, 10 students attended the Oregon

Youth Summit in Portland along with 29 other schools from around the state. The students are members of the Oregon Dunes Stewardship project, an ongoing program of Siuslaw fourth grade classes since 2011.

The students made their presentation to keynote speaker, anthropologist Jane Goodall. It was a display built from scotch broom stems and

demonstrated the negative impact this invasive species has had on the dunes along the Oregon coast.

The four-year-old program won an award from the Oregon Invasive Species Council. The program is headed up by fourth grade teacher Dennis King and retired teacher Jim Grano.

Also during the meeting, board member Suzanne Mann-Heintz gave an update on the

Siuslaw Educational Foundation that is being established to help Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts acquire additional funds to cover the costs of school needs.

“On Oct. 9, we officially formed the corporation, a non-profit corporation for public benefit. We will be applying for the final 501(c)3 status as soon as we have the \$400 to cover the application fee,” Mann-Heintz said.

According to Mann-Heintz, the board is not yet complete, but there are currently six board members and superintendent Ethel Angal. Mann-Heintz is hopeful of getting Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O’Mara to join as well.

“The foundation board is supposed to have one representative from each of the six schools in the two districts, either staff, teachers or parents,” she said.

Mann-Heintz said former Siuslaw school board members Deena Mitchell and Michele Rose have agreed to serve on the board.

“The Siuslaw Educational Foundation will be an organization that will be able to collect donations, receive requests and apply for and receive grant money and fun-



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

During the Siuslaw School Board meeting, Oct. 14., members of the “Stewards of the Sands” student group kneel in front of the display they created out of scotch broom stems. The group practiced a presentation they would give to anthropologist Jane Goodall in Portland the next day on the dangers of non-native invasive plants during the Oregon Youth Summit.

nel it to the school projects,” she said. It exists for the purpose of supplementary funding of schools, activities and classroom supplies.”

Mann-Heintz said the organization would not compete with other local school fundraising organizations such as the PTA or booster clubs.

“We hope to pull in grant money from corporations who would not fund public institutions, but who will fund private organizations,” she said.

Mann-Heintz has already been receiving requests for

project funding. “I learned from a couple of students that are in the choir that they need new music and replacement choir robes.”

She said the foundation hopes to be able to replenish some of the funds for extracurricular activities that have been cut from school budgets over recent years.

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews\_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.

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## ‘Dia de los Muertos’ at Siuslaw Library

Local resident, Mary McCarthy, a retired registered nurse practitioner, will share her experiences celebrating the annual Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) holiday Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at the Siuslaw Public Library at 1 p.m.

This Day of the Dead gathering is sure to appeal to anyone interested in customs of other cultures and, in particular, this festive tradition honoring those who have passed away.

For twenty-five years, Mary McCarthy attended to HIV/AIDS patients at the University of California San Diego’s Owen Clinic.

“Because I speak Spanish, I attended to many of the Mexican patients who came to Owen Clinic,” said McCarthy. “Some of their customs related



COURTESY PHOTO

Sugar Skulls, a Dia de Los Muertos Trea ending

to death and dying were of great interest to me.”

This year, with the help of those attending the celebration, McCarthy will build an altar to honor departed family and friends. Attendees are invited to bring their own objects to place on the altar in celebratory memory of their loved ones.

Dias de los Muertos festivities observed in Mexico and many Latin American countries and communities are held

over a two-day period annually on Nov. 1 and 2.

The holiday honors those who have passed away with joyful rather than somber celebrations, as there is a commonly held belief by the community of celebrants that the deceased would be offended by grief.

The festivities include food, drink, and music.

Families gather and share happy remembrances of the dearly departed and ofrendas (personal altars) are erected on which to place mementos of the dead including candles, flowers and pictures.

This event is free to the public.

For more information, visit the Siuslaw Public Library, call 541-997-3132 or visit [www.siuslawlibrary.org](http://www.siuslawlibrary.org).

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>OCTOBER 24</b>	<b>OCTOBER 25</b>	<b>OCTOBER 26</b>	<b>OCTOBER 27</b>	<b>OCTOBER 28</b>	<b>OCTOBER 29</b>	<b>OCTOBER 30</b>
Cloudy with Breaking Sun	Mostly Cloudy, Showers	Clouds and Sun	Periods or Sun	Cloudy with Passing Showers	Times of Clouds and Sun	Times of Clouds and Sun
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