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## SHS BRINGS HEAT TO ICEBREAKER

SPORTS — B



# Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 23

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## SIUSLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT TO SEEK \$36.9M BOND

*Money would pay for new high school construction and possibly other building improvements*

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw School District will ask voters to approve a 25-year general obligation bond not to exceed \$36.9 million on the May 17 ballot to cover the cost of constructing a new high school facility and

possibly additional improvements to other district buildings.

The district has received a \$4 million construction grant from the state to help offset construction costs, but that money can only be accessed if the bond measure is approved. The district received the grant through a lottery process and has

no guarantee that the money would be available again in the future.

School board members and superintendent Ethel Angal are meeting with community groups and interested individuals to explain the need for the new school and the urgency of the timing.

“The more people hear about how

we came to this decision, the more people will understand,” Angal said.

According to the district, the high school facility, completed in 1970, does not meet current seismic, energy, fire safety and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance codes.

“Every year it becomes more and

more expensive to maintain,” Angal said. “It is not energy efficient. It has single-pane windows.”

In addition, Lauren Johnson with LSW Architects from Vancouver, Wash., gave the building a “poor” rating

See **BOND 8A**

## ROTARY TAKES FLIGHT

*Final amount raised at auction to be announced Tuesday*



## Port rescinds land purchase agreement

*Commissioners forfeit \$3K earnest money and will not move forward on deal*

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

Following an executive session March 16, Port of Siuslaw commissioners voted to rescind an offer to purchase a 50-acre parcel of land located at 5940 Highway 126, just east of the North Fork Siuslaw River Bridge, from Don Wilbur.

In January, Don Wilbur Ltd. and the port agreed to a sales price of \$300,000, with a 60-day review period during which the port would conduct its due diligence. In terminating the offer, the port will forfeit \$3,000 in earnest money paid at the time of signing the agreement.

According to port manager Steven Leskin, who took over the position Feb. 1, the port initially saw an opportunity to build a second boat launch, preserve the area for clamming and maintain a deep-water port on the river.

The parcel has previously been used for dock building, tug and barge operations, boat repair and storage.

During the review period, the port conducted soil and water samples, consulted with tribal members, ordered an appraisal, inspected the property for endangered species and requested an environmental assessment report.

“There were some minor issues,” Leskin said, “but there were no environmental issues which would impede the sale from moving forward. The property appraisal came back favorable as well.”

He added, “This decision is simply about money. This is not a good time for the Port to over-extend itself. In the short term, we need to repair erosion damage to our shoreline, repair a failing bulkhead and build a new campground restroom.

“The next several years will see significant upgrades to our wharf and boardwalk and additional renovations to the RV Park. The purchase of this property, and the development and permitting costs, would have inhibited our ability to maintain our existing assets.”

In other business, port administrative assistant Dina McClure reported that the port’s current balance sheet shows \$126,000 more in reserves than the previous year.

In addition, McClure said, “In the profit and loss previous year comparison, you will note that this year to last, we are \$20,000 ahead in income and we have spent \$30,000 less.”

During the regular meeting, commissioners also heard a report from port Maintenance Supervisor Jason Wagner on erosion concerns behind and beneath the campground bulkhead located along the Siuslaw River.

Maintenance and eventual replacement of the bulkhead was one of the future expense items mentioned by Leskin.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Under the theme, “The Sky’s the Limit!,” Florence Rotarians and community members dress in costumes from around the world.

For the 2016 Rotary Auction, the sky was the limit!

Extravagant costumes fit the travel-the-world themed auction March 12 at the Florence Events Center, with more than 300 people

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

dressed to match the destination of their choice

— from Italy to Ancient Greece to post-apocalyptic Australia to Hawaii, and many more.



Guests bid on hundreds of silent auction items, desserts and 50 live-auction items. Rotarians Kim Erickson and Kevin McMullen co-chaired the event. “Everyone pitched in,” said McMullen. “Rotary volunteers provided lots of details, which made the event go great.”

Erickson praised the 16 Rotary Interact students from Siuslaw High School who volunteered during the auction: “Ultimately, this event is about raising money for scholarships for our students. It’s great knowing that our youth are willing to help with this goal.”

Rotary Club of Florence plans to announce the total amount raised at its Tuesday, March 22, meeting. Last year’s event exceeded \$100,000 raised for local student scholarships.

INSIDE Classifieds . . . . . B7 Religion . . . . . A5  
Coastal Events . . . . . A10 Side Show . . . . . B6  
Obituaries . . . . . A9 Sports . . . . . B  
Opinion . . . . . A4 Word on the Street . . . . . A8

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER  
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY  
55 49

SUNDAY  
56 49

MONDAY  
53 45

TUESDAY  
53 43

SIUSLAW NEWS  
2 SECTIONS | 24 PAGES  
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