

WRESTLERS PIN MEDALS

SPORTS — B



SPRING... ON THE ROAD

SPECIAL SECTION — C



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

DUNES CITY

Council selects Mills as admin

City also extends public comment period for septic maintenance ordinance

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

During the April 14 Dunes City Council meeting, councilors voted unanimously to offer interim city administrator Jamie Mills the permanent position.



Jamie Mills

Mills, a former city councilor, took over as interim city administrator and recorder in October after Fred Hilden retired from the position. She was one of five applicants to apply for the job.

Mills said, "I look forward to working with the mayor and councilors to establish a solid base from which the city can grow and prosper for the benefit of our citizens. My personal goals for this coming year are to focus on the city and its assets to ensure their protection through regular maintenance and repair and to develop and implement policies and procedures that ensure continued security into the future."

In other business, the council voted to extend the public comment period on Ordinance No. 228 regarding septic maintenance until April 28.

See **COUNCIL 6A**

EXPLORING THE ESTUARY



During the Siuslaw Middle School science class field trip to the Siuslaw River estuary, (clockwise from above left) students help clear away invasive scotch broom, dig and identify sand shrimp, take a clam population survey estimate and differentiate clam species.

Siuslaw eighth-graders help maintain, record estuary health

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Students from Siuslaw Middle School eighth-grade science classes helped remove invasive scotch broom and estimate clam populations as part of a three-day Siuslaw Salmon and Watershed Studies program held last week on the east end of Port of Siuslaw campground property.

The estuary studies program is in its fourth year and is funded by grants from the Grey Family Foundation and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

Retired Mapleton science teacher and program organizer Jim Grano said, "During a four-station workshop at the school on Thursday, April 7, the class learned about the functions of the estuary in terms of tide control; it being a nursery for Dungeness crab and salmon and

how it controls and filters the water, all those things the estuary does so well."

On Monday, April 11, the first hour of the field trip was dedicated to scotch broom removal on the northeast section of the port property.

Two years ago the program began the task of removing the invasive species from the property.

"Several years ago this was a jungle of 6-foot-tall scotch broom.

What we are seeing now are the re-sprouts because what we did then was just cut it off at the ground level. That was all we could do to begin with," Grano said.

This year the students dug up the smaller re-sprouts by the roots and piled them up for later disposal.

According to Grano, the scotch broom removal fits under the grant's goals of restoration.

See **ESTUARY 6A**

POLICE

Multi-agency search suspended for swimmer

Portland man disappears Friday near North Jetty

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

After 12 hours with no sign of a missing Portland man who was last seen swimming near the North Jetty in Florence on Friday night, Lane County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Coast Guard has ended a multi-agency search.



Jack O'Hollaren

According to the sheriff's office, Jack Charles O'Hollaren, a 20-year-old University of Oregon student from Portland, Ore., disappeared into the surf just north of the North Jetty of the Siuslaw River on April 15 during a beach party with friends.

Local 911 dispatchers relayed a call from the man's friend at 8 p.m. to watchstanders at U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Bend saying the man

See **SEARCH 6A**

City finalizes plans to extend access to Rhody Drive

Nearly 70 people attend open house about ODOT's shoulder extension project

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) finalized plans on the Rhododendron Drive Shoulder Extension Project that will add a walking and bike path alongside the road this spring. Nearly 70 community members attended the project's open house on April 14 at the Florence Events Center.

The Shoulder Extension Project will run from Ninth to Wildwinds streets on Rhododendron Drive. It takes the place of the "Rhododendron Multi-Use Path," designated by Florence's 2008 Recreation Master Plan to connect to the rest of the city's pedestrian paths.

"We're going to talk a little bit about how we got here today, what the next steps are, and a little about the project. Then we'll open it up for a Q and A," said Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds.

She and representatives from the city and ODOT were on hand to answer questions during



CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Public Works set up this demonstration marking the car travel lanes and the new walking and bike path on Rhododendron Drive. The gray stripes indicate the fog line and show space for signs and other markers.

the meeting.

Florence Public Works set up a model of what the roadway will look like with the addition of two 6-foot paths added to the width of the existing roadway. Two City of Florence vehicles showed the right and left travel lanes, and a bicycle helped indicate exactly how wide 6 feet looks in relation to vehicles and fog lines.

Permeable pavement will be used on the shoulders. Water will flow through it and be absorbed by the sand underneath. It is a healthier

alternative for plants, cleans stormwater and does not carry pollutants into rivers.

OBEC Consulting Engineers, based in Eugene, Ore., prepared project plans, specifications and estimates.

ODOT will manage the project. It opened the project for bids on April 14 and is set to begin construction toward the end of May and complete the project by the end of summer.

See **RHODY 5A**