

SCHOOL ZONE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Siuslaw and Mapleton Schools and Florence Community PTA

PRIMARY ELECTION 2016

VOTERS PASS MAPLETON BOND, DEFEAT SIUSLAW'S

*Levy for OSU Extension Service
and 4-H programs also supported*

Mapleton School District voters approved a \$4 million bond measure for school improvements, while Siuslaw School District voters rejected a proposed \$36.9 million new high school in the May 17 Primary Election.

Lane County voters also approved measure 20-239 to support 4-H and Oregon State University Extension Service programs. The five-year levy will increase property taxes by 1.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw was the only Lane County school district bond measure to fail, with 3,169 (53 percent) voting against it and 2,801 (47 percent) in favor. Bonds for Mapleton, Junction City and South Lane school districts all passed.

Of the four Lane County school district bond measures, Mapleton School District's \$4 million bond had the highest voter approval with nearly 63 percent in favor. The last bond measure passed by the school district expired in 1961.

Mapleton voters approved a much smaller bond measure, but it has a significantly higher cost per \$1,000 property value rate than the Siuslaw district bond. Mapleton residents will see an annual increase of \$1.59 per \$1,000 of

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—JODI O'MARA
MAPLETON SUPERINTENDENT

assessed property value, while Florence voters rejected Siuslaw's projected 29-cent annual increase per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "It was great to see the community supporting the schools by such a large margin."

According to O'Mara, the district will be able to start some projects this summer, but the majority of the work will be completed over the next three years.

"We appreciate the voters' overwhelming support of the schools," she said.

In addition to the \$4 million from the bond measure, Mapleton received an additional \$4 million grant from the state of Oregon that was triggered by the passage of the bond. Mapleton will also apply for two state seismic improvement grants of up to \$1.5 million each for the high school and elementary school buildings in July.

"They are competitive grants, so those funds are not guaranteed," O'Mara said. "They can only be used to improve the seismic stability of the buildings and to create 'shelter in place' areas to be used in the aftermath of an earthquake."

The Siuslaw district will lose an additional \$4 million state grant award that was contingent upon approval of the bond.

Siuslaw Superintendent Ethel Angal said, "I feel sad that what we did in this shortened process was just not enough for our community. We had good support; we just didn't have quite enough."

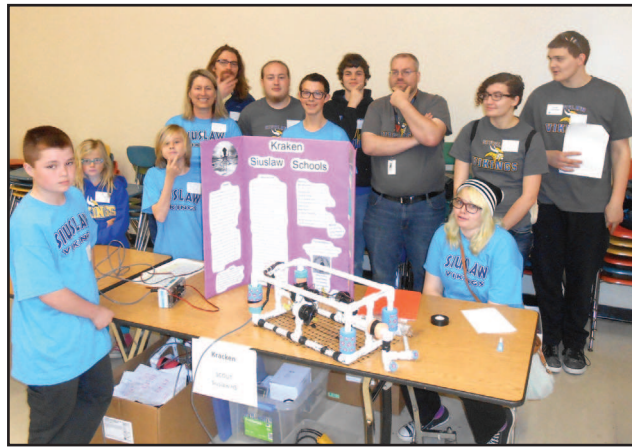
According to Lane County records, there were 368 more "no" votes out of a total of 5,970 total votes cast.

"The same problems still exist," Angal said. "We are going to have to deal with them in some way. There is not enough general fund money to provide instruction and take on huge capital projects. At some point we are going to have to bond."

Statewide, 13 of 22 school district bond measures on the ballot passed.



Siuslaw Middle and High School Lego Robotics team participates at North Bend competition



Siuslaw students who participated in the 2016 Oregon Regional MATE ROV competitors were Alex Bloomfield, Emily Bloomfield, Chandler Call, Darin Clarke, Michael Gutierrez, Dillon Hutchinson, Anthony Jojola, JessyLynn Keppol, Topher Keppol, Alex Osbon, Jon Tregoning, Nic Wilkinson and Paige Williams.

Siuslaw Middle and High School Lego Robotics team ends the 2015-16 school year with a healthy dose of competition and teamwork.

Siuslaw sent a team to the Marine Advanced Technology Education Remote Operated Vehicle (MATE ROV) competition at the North Bend High School Aquatic Center.

It was a success and students had a great time competing.

The purpose of this competition is

to simulate the real world actions of professional marine engineers, designers and technicians. The STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills students learn will be applicable in future jobs in the marine, robotics and mechanical fields.

As a part of this program, students in college will find internships in the STEM industries such as NASA, NOAA and many others.

The MATE ROV program is a great way to introduce students into this field so that they may build the skills needed in 21st century economy.

MATE ROV had students from elementary, middle and high schools collaborating and building these skills that will serve them well when they go to college, or if they decide to get a job after high school in a related field.

Advisers to the after-school Twilight program were Greg Jorgenson, Susan Hawke and Jon Hornung.

We are proud of our students for working multiple months after school to improve themselves and showing graciousness in competition. — Submitted by Susan Hawke

Stream Team completes quarter with exploration

Siuslaw Stream Team and teachers Stephanie Rogers and Susan Hawke send a hearty thanks to the Quarter 4 Stream Team parent volunteers and the volunteers with the Dunes Use area Invasive Species clean up day on April 20 for Earth Day, a visit to Cape Perpetua on May 4 and the field trip to Heceta Head Lighthouse on May 18.

A special thank you to Sea Lion Caves and Boomer for allowing Siuslaw Middle School to take one last field trip on May 18 for the sixth- and seventh-grade Stream Team students to visit the lighthouse and the Sea Lion Caves.

"A huge thank you to Boomer Wright of Sea Lion Caves who stepped forward and gifted our final field trip to the caves and Heceta Head Lighthouse. It helped complete our quarter of awesome field trips to the Siuslaw National Forest and surrounding areas of Florence," said Hawke. "Another plus goes to the Siuslaw PTA for providing grant funds for the purchase of 14 binoculars which were used to view



Stream Team and volunteers visited coastal and forest regions during Quarter 4.

Grey whales at the Light House."

The following are the parent volunteers that have made the field trips possible:

Dan Rankin
Lori Olson
Shannon Slaughter
Nichole Lewis
Brian Jefferis
Michelle Rose
Stephanie Colton
Merissa Ceridono
Charlotte Rau

Amy Galvan-Mendez
"Thank you for your continued support of Siuslaw Schools,"

Rogers said.
—Submitted by Stephanie Rogers and Susan Hawke

