

## Superintendent speaks about priorities



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

**S**iuslaw School Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak (right) spoke to the Florence Area Community Coalition about the district's priorities for the 2016-17 school year, including its plan to reduce chronic absenteeism and improve high school graduation rates. During the Sept. 7 meeting, Grzeskowiak said, "Kids struggle to graduate not because they miss school at the high school level — they have been missing school since the first and second grade. That is when those patterns are established." He then explained new protocols the district has put in place to reduce absentee rates, such as requesting that parents only keep students home if they have a fever or nausea within the past 24 hours. Office staff will explain to students' parents the difference between an excused and an unexcused absence. "I don't feel good' does not qualify as an excused absence," Grzeskowiak said.

## KXCR features Mann's return to Florence

New York singer and songwriter George Mann is returning to Florence on Thursday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m., in the Bromley Room of the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Musician George Mann will perform a free concert Sept. 22 as a guest of KXCR 90.7 FM.**

From his unique labor background, Mann has traveled the country singing songs from the rich history of the 20th century U.S. working class. His concerts are part sing-along, part history lesson — but don't be surprised if he strays into plenty of old classic folk, and even some "pop" favorites.

KXCR 90.7 FM invites music fans to come for a free evening of fun, food and com-

munity. The suggested \$10 donation will go entirely to the artist, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

There will be a reception and snacks at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call 541-997-2997.

Denyse, Shelby, Trudie, Lalitha, Melissa

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## Western Lane pursues levy in November

Western Lane Ambulance District is seeking renewal of a five-year local option levy to maintain services for the district. Voters first approved the five-year levy in 2012 to fund the district's operations costs. That levy is set to expire at the end of 2017.

In anticipation of bringing a renewal measure to voters, the district conducted an informal survey of local residents. Over 1,000 people completed surveys, and showed overwhelming support for a renewal measure.

The measure before voters this November asks "Shall the district renew existing 45 cents per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2017-2018 for emergency medical operations?"

Interim District Manager Brian Burrigh said, "This levy renewal will allow us to continue to provide the same level of quality emergency medical

services to the over 20,000 regional residents we serve. We have 14 full-time, highly trained and skilled paramedics. We run three ambulances 24 hours a day to meet the growing need of the communities we serve. Medicare reimbursement rates continue to decline, while our call volume has increased by over 24 percent since 2012."

The levy renewal will not increase taxes or fees for residents in the service district and would allow the ambulance district to keep pace with the growing demand of the vital services it provides.

With five licensed ambulances and 14 full-time paramedics, the Western Lane Ambulance District serves over 20,000 residents in Florence, Dunes City, Mapleton, Deadwood, Swisshome, Canary, Sutton, Clear Lake North Fork, Ada, Green Leaf and Cushman.



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Submitted by Dan Clements



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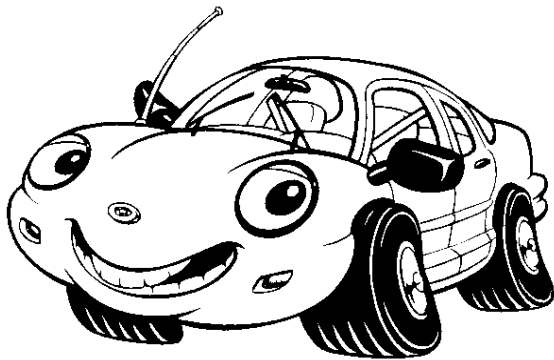


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