

Siuslaw News

Coast Life

SENIOR NEWS
CALENDAR

INSIDE — 8B

F
U
N



R
U
N

PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



Florence Community PTA hosted a Color-A-Thon 5k fundraiser on Nov. 5 at Siuslaw Middle School. Promoted as the first ever Color-A-Thon in Florence, the event was held in the rain. It didn't seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the hundred or so students and parents that participated in the colorful fun. The 5K was followed by a Fitness Fair in the middle school gym to promote healthy lifestyle choices and healthful family activities.



Community members help refurbish club vehicles

Director Chuck Trent of the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County has announced the completion of the repair and renovation of the two vehicles that the club uses to transport its participants to and from events.

The vehicles both had well over 100,000 miles on them and they were unfit for use.

Trent said, "Those vehicles had been parked for almost a year. There were so many problems — they were not in running condition or safe. So we just left them there until we could get the money to fix them."

The vehicles may never have been used again if it wasn't for a local couple recognizing the problem and stepping up with a solution.

"We had benefactors, John and Patricia Hardison, who saw that the condition of the van and bus were just not safe for kids. They gave us \$10,000 to complete all the necessary repairs on the vehicles," he said.

Because the club now has working vehicles, the opportunities that members can take advantage of have been greatly

enhanced.

"With the bus being repaired now, we can take it on field trips. We have nine different field trips during the summer and we go all over the place," Trent said. "And that's with 60 to 80 kids. If we didn't have it, it would be impossible to go on any field trips."

The mechanical repairs were one aspect of the refurbishment, another was the exterior.

Trent said, "Mike Gutierrez from Mike's Auto Detailing, Bernie Cunningham from The Copy Doctor and Patrick Toomey, from The Sign Shop, saw the need for the vehicles to look as good as they ran, so they donated the time and materials to make that happen. And the results were great."

He added that the ability to transport young people is important but secondary to the safety of all their participants.

"Before the repairs, the middle schoolers had to walk to the club in the rain and cold. There is also the safety thing, because we have had some issues from time to time, so this allows us to make sure the kids get here safely.



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County members stand with their newly refurbished club vehicles at the club on 15th Street.

ly. Now we pick up 25 to 40 kids from the middle school and the high school and bring them here safely," he said.

Trent emphasized that repairing the vehicles isn't the only way in which the Hardisons have assisted the Club.

"They helped us pay off much of our past debt, they paid off the line of credit we have had for years and they gave us funding to help with staffing while we get back on our feet," he said.

Trent encourages anyone in the community that is interested in helping in a volunteer capacity or with a financial donation to contact him at 541-902-0304.