

NEW TOURNAMENT BEGINS FRIDAY

SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT Auction and raffle raises more than \$30,000 for Malakai Kirk

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

On Saturday, June 10, hundreds of Florence residents turned out in support for the “Gifts of the Heart Auction: An Evening of Giving,” held at Siuslaw Middle School, and raised \$30,886.

The event was created by concerned teachers and community members to assist the family of Siuslaw fifth-grader Malakai Kirk, 11 years old, in preparing for the expenses associated with the youth’s

upcoming bone marrow transplant operation.

In a statement, Malakai’s mother Laurie Stone said, “You know that saying ‘It takes a village to raise a child?’ I had no idea that in moving to Florence, I would gain the most amazing village to help raise my children. I’m so blown away by the incredible generosity of our community and its commitment to helping those in need. What we have here is so special and we’re so honored to be part of it. Facing this challenge in our lives is stressful enough.



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Not having to add financial stress relieves us of a huge burden.”

Siuslaw Middle School Principal Andy Marohl was a member of the steering committee for the event and instrumental in obtaining the use of the middle school gym for the auction.

“The outpouring of support for this is very humbling. We

live in such a great community,” he said.

The fundraiser was a combination silent auction, raffle and bake sale. There were more than 200 items donated by retail establishments, artists and craft people from the area for the silent auction.

See GIVING 8A

Eleven-year-old Malakai Kirk attended the “Gifts of the Heart Auction” Saturday in his honor. Community members banded together to plan the event and raise more than \$30,000 towards Malakai’s bone transplant fund.

Florence adopts first biennial budget

Council also decreases planned unit development lot size from 5 to 2 acres

During Florence City Council’s June 12 meeting, councilors voted to adopt the city’s first biennial (two-year) budget, to begin July 1, in the amount of \$55,370,862.

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

City Manager Erin Reynolds said, “We are asking for the council to adopt a little bit smaller budget in total. Instead of the \$56 million that was originally proposed, a \$55.4 million budget — a little bit less, primarily in the waste water fund.”

Councilors approved a proposed change to the city’s Planned Unit Development code to reduce the multi-single-housing tract size from the current five acres to two acres to allow contractors more flexibility in smaller developments.

Councilors also approved four expense proposals totaling \$384,088.

The four include \$27,500 to purchase two tax lots from the Port of Siuslaw, totaling 3.1 acres and located between the Siuslaw River and Rhododendron Drive, just west of the city’s waste treatment plant. The city plans to develop the property into the Siuslaw River Beach Park.

According to Reynolds, an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant and a federal grant will cover all but \$55 of the cost of the land acquisition.

Councilors approved a bid for \$191,000 from 2G Construction to remodel the 2,700 square-foot Florence Justice Center round room in preparation for moving the city’s administrative offices into the building while City Hall is being remodeled this fall.

The Florence Police Department will use the remodeled round room space after the Florence City Hall remodel is completed.

See BUDGET 6A

Siuslaw and Mapleton graduates take next step



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Nine graduates from Mapleton High School (left) and 88 graduates from Siuslaw High School attend ceremonies June 9 and 10.

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Senior students graduated from both Siuslaw and Mapleton high schools this weekend. Siuslaw’s graduation was held on Friday evening and Mapleton’s was held on Saturday afternoon.

Siuslaw’s event honored 88 graduates. The event was held in the school’s gymnasium, with family and friends of the graduates filling the bleachers and upper seating areas.

Siuslaw High School Principal Kerri Tatum said this class in particular will move into the post high school world well prepared for the challenges that await them.

“The Class of 2017 has been an amazing class to work with. They are not just academically gifted, but civically and athletically gifted as well. Our three valedictorians are not only exceptional scholars, all above a 4.0 GPA, but each of them



is also an individual state champion,” Tatum said.

SHS had three valedictorians this year, Cecelia Mans, Carissa Oliver and Destinie Tatum.

The Mapleton High Graduation, also held in the school’s gym, was a more modest affair, with nine seniors matriculating.

The Mapleton crowd, while smaller, was no less enthusiastic in support of the graduating seniors.

Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O’Mara said the size of the graduating class allows the school to tailor the ceremony to the fit the students. “Each year we are lucky enough

to have graduation take on the personality of the graduating class. From the decorations, the guest speaker they choose, to their slide show songs and comments, all of it is representative of our nine amazing graduates,” O’Mara said. “Being able to present the graduates with their scholarship awards during the graduation ceremony creates a focus on achievement and honors the graduates who elect to continue their education beyond high school.”

Mapleton’s valedictorian was MacKenzie Cleary and the salutatorian was Dana Halverson.

The happiness of the graduating students and family members was evident in the hundreds of smiling faces apparent in the crowds at both ceremonies.

Student speakers at both Siuslaw and Mapleton were well received. Members of the staff and administration added comments of support for the students and pointed out the many possible obstacles and successes that lie ahead.

“This class is full of leaders that will do great things in our world. I am so pleased that I was able to work with them for their four years of high school,” Tatum said.

She said she believes the Class of 2017 has all the tools needed to succeed at the next level, what ever that might turn out to be.

Overall, the weekend was a time of celebration of high school days, favorite classmates and inspiring teachers, with an eye to the future.

Go to 9A for more photos.

COOL PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

SPECIAL FEATURE: This summer we are highlighting unique spots that make the central Oregon coast one of the coolest places to live and play. A new location will be featured each week.

Oregon Coast Military Museum

2145 Kingwood St., Florence | 541-902-5160

AT A GLANCE: The Oregon Coast Military Museum, a 501c3 nonprofit, opened its doors on the Oregon coast, on July 4th, 2015, after a seven-year effort by locals to build a museum to honor the more than 20% of Florence-area residents who are veterans. Intended to honor all eras of military heritage and all disciplines of military service, the 3,000-square foot display space is filled with life-sized dioramas depicting scenes from WWI to Vietnam, plus a scaled diorama of a typical Iraqi village depicting a US military convoy traveling through.

The museum’s mission is To Honor Our



COURTESY PHOTO

Veterans by Educating Our Public.

In addition to a gift shop, the Museum also features a small theater showing military documentaries, a USO Canteen and a lending library.

OREGON COAST MILITARY MUSEUM JEEP JUNCTION

A celebration of the birth of the jeep in WWII and the iconic vehicle it has become today!

Saturday, June 17th, 2017 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Johnston Motor Co. on Hwy. 101

Sponsored by Banner Bank & Johnston Motor Co.

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
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