

SCHOOL ZONE

A Monthly Newsletter for the Siuslaw and Mapleton School Districts and Community Groups

‘THE VOLLMAR PROJECT’

By RAMIRO RAMIREZ
Siuslaw High School Student

In English Cinema Studies, we study films and learn filming techniques to apply to videos. Early in the school year, Mr. Mielke, my teacher, said he needed a video crew to help student Nyah Vollmar film a music video. Nyah is a well-known member of the community. She has sung the National Anthem for the Oregon Ducks and she has a beautiful voice. At first, there were a couple of students who wanted to do it, but in early December, nothing was done. Mr. Mielke asked me if I wanted to take over the reins of the music video project since there had been no progress. I was ready. She would sing “What About Us?” by P!nk.

After spending a month creating a storyboard, it was ready to be put into action. The day before filming the video, my fellow student Hannah Rasmussen joined us; we both know each other pretty well. Hannah did a mini-assignment on feeling music and did very well on it, so we thought this would enhance the project.

It was Hannah who came up with the title of our production: “The Vollmar Project.” I thought it was a good name since it had a good rhythm to it.

In addition, this production was also the first time Hannah and I used a clapperboard, a device that is useful in edit-



“The Vollmar Project” production team (clockwise from lower left) Hannah Rasmussen, Ramiro Ramirez, Isabella Ramirez and Nyah Vollmar, worked with instruction from Mr. Mielke and a professional track mixed by Nate Kaplan to produce a music video of Nyah’s rendition of “What About Us?” by P!nk. The crew filmed on location in Historic Old Town Florence.

ing. When you clap it, it will show a sharp line in the editing software of the audio track to help you line up your audio. We had fun using it.

We met on Thursday to get started. With all the necessities completed and ready — camera, storyboard, clapperboard and Nyah — we set off to record the music video.

My vision for the video was to have a beautiful sunset in the background for the end of the song. Instead, it was a gloomy, grey day. Hannah and I then got new ideas

for the music video. Since the song was pretty depressing, we thought the clouds could enhance the music video’s meaning. So off we went with new ideas to film.

We decided to have Nyah on a porch looking down the river, sitting beside a tree in the middle of the mini forest in Historic Old Town Florence and walking down the street toward a beautiful heart.

After getting all the necessary clips, we called it a day.

We met again on Saturday due to the fact it got dark and

we didn’t have any lighting equipment Friday evening, so we decided to meet at an earlier time the next day.

We had to film Nyah running through Old Town and film the dance break. We decided to have Hannah and Nyah meet earlier so they could choreograph to the music. We then finalized on a low angle shot to make her look tall and powerful since, in the video, she is rebounding from a failed relationship.

See PROJECT Page 3

Siuslaw High School announces ALICE training

Dear Siuslaw High School Families,

Student safety is a primary objective for the Siuslaw School District. Part of our safety preparation includes trainings and drills for the event of an armed intruder. To best prepare our staff for emergency procedures, we must hold periodic, large-scale drills where different scenarios can be discussed with law enforcement and professional trainers.

To provide the necessary training time, the Siuslaw School District has set aside Friday, March 23rd as a staff inservice day. We are canceling school for all K-12 students.

The morning will be spent on ALICE training. The ALICE model is now the foremost approach in response to school violence. We are proud to be able to bring this to our community. This training involves school staff, the City of Florence Police Department and other local agencies.

In the afternoon, we will run a large-scale simulation. Staff will be assigned rolls to play during and after an emergency situation. This allows us to take plans from paper to action in real time and to test our communication across the entire district.

We recognize that this change in the school schedule may cause an inconvenience for many families. However, we are confident that the importance of this training coupled with sufficient notification for families will be seen as a measure of commitment to student safety.

Thank you,
Kerri Tatum
Siuslaw High School Principal

‘Eye’ on the prize

Florence Elks Lodge 1858 holds annual Eye Injury Prevention Poster Contest

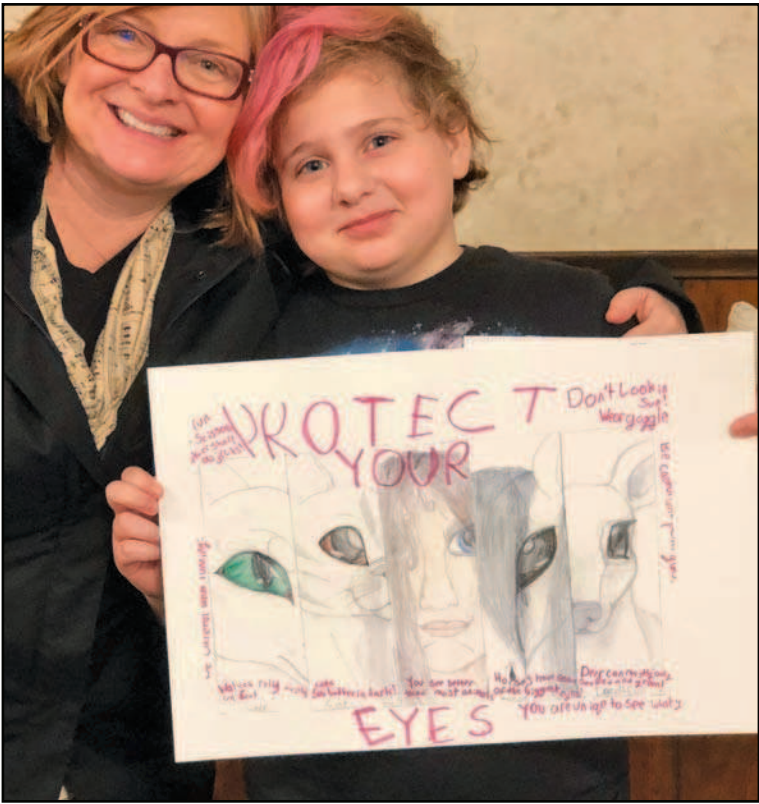
Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Siuslaw Elementary School participated again in the annual Elks Eye Injury Prevention Poster Contest, concluding at the end of January.

Nearly 100 students entered their artwork to the Florence Elks Club. Bob Catterton, from the Elks, oversees the project, working together with the school teachers to set the parameters for the program.

This year, the Elks announced three winners:

- 1st place: June Dee (pictured), from Mrs. Riggs’ fifth-grade class
- 2nd place: Addison McNeill, from Mrs. Halpin’s fifth-grade class
- 3rd place: Darcy Edman, also from Mrs. Riggs’ fifth-grade class

The winners and their families were honored at a dinner and award presentation at the Elks Club on Feb. 15. Cash prizes were awarded to each of the three top winners. — Submitted by Diane McCalmont



ASPIRE makes directory

Siuslaw High School ASPIRE is creating a Florence Community Career Exploration Directory to offer students opportunities to interview, job shadow and intern at various businesses. At the January Florence Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, ASPIRE was able to invite members to participate. ASPIRE team members would like to extend the scope of this directory to cover a variety of fields, so are requesting that members of the Florence community sign up to be available to students to learn about their work and its value in this community. Go to the Siuslaw High School Counseling and Student Services webpage and fill out the “ASPIRE CAREER EXPLORATION” form, or contact us at ASPIRE@siuslaw.k12.or.us. — Submitted by ASPIRE Team Leader Bou Kilgore

Spring Field Trip volunteers wanted

Help students get acquainted with the South Slough Estuary in Coos County by volunteering for the Spring Field Trip season, March 20 through June 15.

- Most school groups are third- to fifth-grade, but some are middle school groups
- Typical schedule is 8:45 a.m. until noon or 1 pm
- Volunteers should be able to help one to two days a week, Tuesday through Friday
- Roughly 80 percent of the spring bookings are for the Tide Flats Program at the Charleston Marina/Portside Restaurant area. Roughly 20 percent are Watershed Hikes at the Interpretive Center.

Volunteer training this spring will focus on the Tide Flats Program with the option

to pick from the following areas:

A) Wrack Line Inhabitants – learn about all the amazing assortment of creatures that call the intertidal zone home. Special emphasis is placed on adaptations and challenges

B) Eel Grass and Dock Study – learn about the colorful fouling community organisms that live on the docks in the Charleston Marina, as well as eel grass and the huge variety of organisms it supports.

C) Mudflats Study – take a closer look at the organisms that call the mud flats home and their special adaptations to live and avoid predators in this mucky home.

Go to www.oregon.gov/dsl/SS/Pages/VolunteerApp.aspx to apply.

For more information about this event, call Deborah Rudd at 541-888-5558 x158 or deborah.rudd@state.or.us

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

Be a part of School Zone, a monthly newsletter for students in the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.

Email Siuslaw News Features Editor Chantelle Meyer at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com