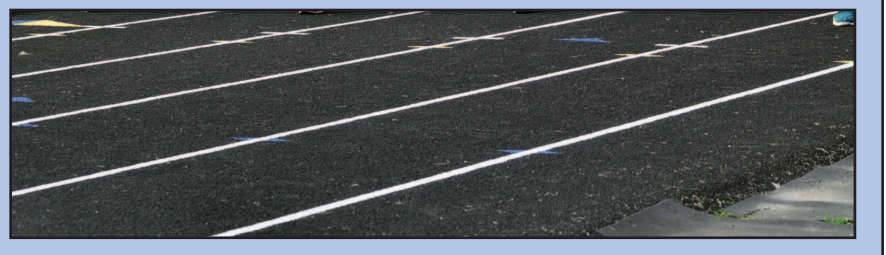


COMMUNITY VOICES

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SAILORS SPRINT INTO TRACK SEASON

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# Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 21

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## PORT OF SIUSLAW HIRES DAVE HUNTINGTON AS INTERIM MANAGER

*Port commissioners, deadlocked on hiring a new manager, vote to extend search in near future*

BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

The Port of Siuslaw has named current Port Commissioner David Huntington as interim port manager after the commission decided to reopen the search for a new manager.

The position became open after cur-

rent Interim Port Manager, Dina McClure, accepted a position at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District. Her last day will be Thursday, March 15.

“We have reviewed and interviewed the current applicants for the manager position and we have come to an impasse that is not going to be

resolved,” Commissioner Terry Duman said during a public meeting Monday night, following an executive session. “At this time, the board would like to close its search and terminate the applications we have. They have the right to reapply, which we would encourage, at a later date to be determined.”

Later in the meeting, Duman

stressed that the candidates the commission interviewed were equally good, but that the board was unable to gain a majority vote on a final applicant.

Huntington, who has served on the commission for three years, did apply for the position in the current round of applications, and recused himself from

any discussion or vote regarding the matter.

“I wasn’t involved in any of the executive session meetings on the position, so I was surprised and honored that the board had confidence in me at this point to give me this interim position,”

See **PORT 11A**

## Alzheimer’s Association offers free classes

*Workshops offer info on aging, memory loss and planning*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

The Alzheimer’s Association Oregon Chapter Cascade Coast will hold two educational workshops, both of which are open to the public and free of charge, on the subject of aging and memory loss today in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St.

Regional Coordinator Abby Gershenzon, who works in Lane and Douglas counties, said that the seminars being presented are among the most meaningful that her organization offers to the public.

“These are two of my favorite classes, out of the 15 different education programs that we present,” Gershenzon said. “Once people gain a deeper understanding about this disease, they are able to make better decisions, which can provide greater quality of life for both for their loved ones and themselves.”

The first workshop, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is “The Basics: Memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.”

This 90-minute class will discuss the differences between normal aging and dementia, the basics of the disease, the diagnostic process and management strategies.

There will also be information that will offer ways for caregivers and family members to help those with Alzheimer’s.

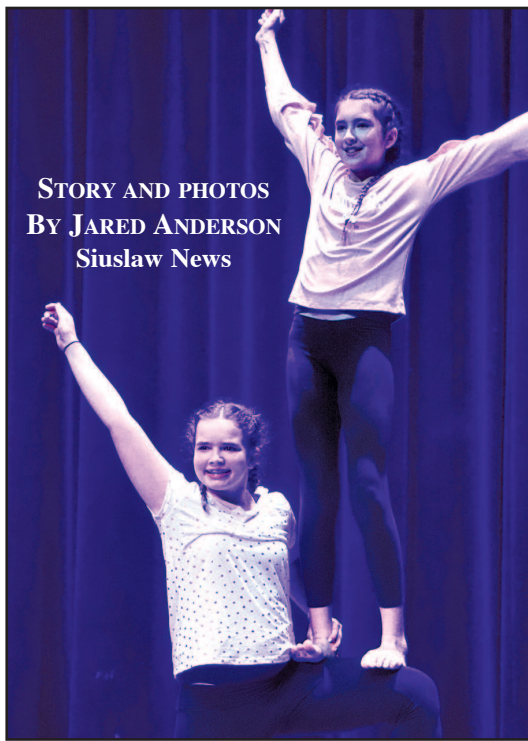
The second workshop, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., is titled “Dementia Conversations.”

This class will provide information to caregivers and individuals suffering with dementia so they can develop plans for dealing with potentially contentious issues, such as when to stop driving and when to

See **ALZHEIMER’S 7A**



## Superstars shine



STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

## PTA holds annual Siuslaw Superstars Talent Show

A plethora of youth talent was in full force on Thursday as the Florence Community Parent Teacher Alliance (PTA) held its annual Siuslaw Superstars Talent Show to a packed house at the Florence Events Center (FEC).

“The evening was a huge success,” PTA President Tiffany Holdahl said. “We are very proud of all the kids who performed, the parents and teachers who supported them and all of the fans from our community who came out to cheer them on.”

Elementary students sang, danced and joked their way throughout the night, which was hosted by Siuslaw Elementary Principal Michael Harklerode.

See **TALENT and more photos 7A**

## Mapleton to hold community fair

*Suicide, substance abuse and home safety to be discussed*

Substance abuse, suicide, gambling prevention and internet and electronic safety will be some of the topics covered as Mapleton School District hosts the Community Awareness Health Fair and Dinner tomorrow, March 15.

BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

The event, which will bring in a whole host of community leaders from around the county, looks to educate parents and youth in Mapleton and beyond about some of the issues facing youth today.

“It started with a conversation around suicide and the need to support families, schools and kids about suicide prevention,”

Mapleton School District Superintendent Jodi O’Mara said. “From there, we branched out.”

Multiple issues can factor into a youth’s risk for suicidal behavior, which led to broadening the scope of Mapleton’s discussion.

See **MAPLETON 10A**

## ‘Get Wild’ with new Vision Quest

*Initiative to explore outdoor aspects of coast, upriver*

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Education and outdoor adventures are two aspects of the Siuslaw Vision 2025’s Vision Quest, which opens its Get Wild series this weekend during coast-wide whale watching season.

On Saturday, March 17, “Gray Whales of Oregon” will feature a talk by marine biologist Carrie Newell at City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101, at 3 p.m. Then, on Sunday, “The Art of Whale Watching” will take people to Cape Perpetua at 10:30 a.m. for a how-to with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Interpretive Ranger Luke Parsons.

Vision Quest Coordinator Dina Pavlis said, “The idea of this Get Wild program is that we have an indoor session that teaches you, and then the next day we’re going to put our boots on the ground and put in action what we’ve learned.”

People can attend one or both of the events — and they are free and open to the public, though some Get Wild programs may have nominal parking fees.

“Our goal is to make everything accessible to the community,” Pavlis added.

That includes a variety of times, dates and locations to make sure people can attend the events.

Russ Pierson, dean of Lane Community College (LCC) Florence Center and the administrator for the Siuslaw Vision, talked about the organic process of the Vision up to this point.

“The Vision Keepers are a group of volunteers just interested in connecting the dots,” he said.

See **GET WILD 11A**

## Continuing the conversation

BY JARED ANDERSON  
Siuslaw News

Healthy Directions, an area prevention and health promotion coalition that was formed through Lane County Public Health, celebrated its first annual celebration last

week as the initiative reviewed the progress it has made thus far, and the plans it has for the future.

The goal of Healthy Directions is to bring about awareness of, and attempt to lower, teen alcohol use in the Siuslaw region.

The prevalence of alcohol use in Florence among teens is high, more so than other intoxicants like marijuana.

The coalition polled 11th-graders from Siuslaw High School, asking about their use of addictive substances within the past 30 days.

While 21 percent of respondents stated they had used marijuana, 34 percent stated they had at least one drink in the past 30 days and 22 percent had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row during one drinking session.

“That’s very concerning

*Healthy Directions celebrates 1 year of curbing teen alcohol use in region*

because when we look at what kids are drinking, they’re not drinking beer or wine so much as they are drinking hard liquor,” said Lane County Community Health Analyst Emily Buff Bear, who is one of the main leaders of Healthy

Directions. “The keggers that used to happen are not what we’re seeing anymore. We’re seeing them using vodka, rum and all kinds of hard alcohol. That’s especially concerning when you’re

See **DIRECTIONS 10A**