

Wild from 1A

One of the hopes for “Get Wild” is for participants to learn new information about an aspect of the natural world and then to take that knowledge with them to enhance the experience of being outdoors.

Pavlis said she feels this weekend’s event was an excellent example of her group’s philosophy.

“The mission of our team is offering programs and experiences that reflect the wealthy diversity of the Siuslaw region’s natural environment. I think ‘experiences’ is a key-word. There are plenty of programs where people can sit in a room and hear about the area, but we wanted to take it up a notch by following each

indoor event with an outdoor experience that would complement the former. Sort of like, ‘Come learn something awesome one day, then live it the next.’”

Sunday’s field trip was the action part of the “Get Wild” equation, as attendees met that morning at the Siltcoos Recreation area for a hike and bird identification session.

According to Pavlis, 35 people attended the “Birdwatching for Beginners” event with U.S. Forest Service Ranger Vicki Penwell and experienced birder Shel Neal.

“They guided people along the beautiful Lagoon Loop Trail. We were treated to an osprey, a bald eagle and other exciting birds,” Pavlis said.

The “Get Wild” events will continue in May with an opportunity to explore the Oregon dunes and in June with a chance to participate in “Hidden Hikes of the Siuslaw Region.”

“A major recreational opportunity for people in the Siuslaw region is the Oregon dunes,” Pavlis said. “When you look at them, they look fairly barren and devoid of wildlife. In actuality, over 400



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A presentation by The Cascade Raptor Center highlighted the Saturday portion of the “All about Birds” event at the Siuslaw Public Library.

people to experience before the hike or for those who would prefer to see the dunes from above.

Many of Vision Quest’s events are geared toward people of all ages and abilities.

“We are lucky to live in a location where we have just about everything — rivers, beaches, dunes, mountains and lakes. There is something intangible you feel inside when you step out into a wild place and you cannot get that same feeling while learning in a room,” Pavlis said. “We want to create opportunities for people to experience that. We want people to walk away feeling like they are part of something big and wonderful, because they are. They are part of our region’s beautiful natural environment as well as part of our Siuslaw community.”

For more information on Vision Quest or the Siuslaw Vision, visit rivercal.org.

species of wildlife call the Oregon dunes home. So often all we get to see are their tracks in the sand.”

Vision Quest organizers hope the public will take advantage of its free opportunities to add to their knowledge of the area where they live.

“We are very excited about our May events,” Pavlis said.

On Saturday, May 12, at 5:30 p.m., “Dinner on the

Wild Side” will take place at Lane Community College Florence Center. Smokin’ Pops Carolina BBQ will be on hand serving delicious food. Attendees can purchase a dinner as they enter, then sit down and enjoy their meal while being treated to the presentation, “Wildlife of the Oregon Dunes.”

The next day, the U.S. Forest Service will have rangers at the Oregon Dunes

Day Use Area, 10 miles south of town at mile post 201, that will take participants on a guided “tracking hike” to hunt for animal and bird tracks.

Rangers will discuss the tracks they encounter and talk about the various habitats that exist on the dunes as well as about the animals that inhabit them.

Hands-on, interactive displays will be available at the dunes overlook platforms for

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Market from 1A

“Perhaps the greatest challenge for the market team was finding a suitable location,” she said.

Factors including selecting a site with good visibility and plenty of parking, easy access for locals during tourist season and easy on and off loading for vendors.

“Owners of the beautiful lot next to the Veteran’s Park generously offered use of their property until they are ready to build, which is a few years out,” Shaw said. “It is a perfect size for the new market which will feature no more than 10 food or flower

products.”

The Florence Farmers Market is an initiative of Siuslaw Vision 2025. The proactive group determined through a series of public surveys that residents especially wanted the option of a weekly, locally sourced market.

That was the genesis of the idea that will result in the opening of the Florence Farmers Market next month.

Florence resident Lia Rousset has been hired to manage the new market. She said she feels the community is ready to purchase their food directly from local farmers, on a regular basis.

“The new Florence Farmers Market is partnering with a growing number of farmers and producers within the Siuslaw Region, including Fog Hollow Farm, Fair Valley Farm, Maple Organic Farm, Morning Glory Farm, The Up River Collective, Ambrosia, Clear Lake Blueberries, L’Etiolle and more,” Rousset said. “We are also excited to be hosting a community booth for the Master Recyclers as well as Mapleton 4H.”

Organizers said that having the market at a central location will not only benefit buy-



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From left, Carina Robicheaux, Lia Rousset, Northwest Farm Credit Services Branch Manager Margaret Fabrizius, Mary Shaw, Suzy Lacer and Stephanie Sarles. The new Florence Farmers Market leadership team recently received a donation from the Northwest Farm Credit Services Rural Community Grant Program to purchase equipment. The market will operate from May through October on Bay Street in Historic Old Town.

ers and sellers, but will also provide an additional social component to the shopping process.

“Not many people are willing to drive for 45 minutes to an hour for locally produced food, but how about bringing the food and the producers to a central location once a week? This is not only more convenient for everyone but it makes a community gathering

place. It’s free and it is festive,” Shaw said.

“And as the season progresses, be on the lookout for cooking demonstrations and activities for kids,” Rousset added.

The market will be expanding over the season, adding weekly music from local artists, youth participation and more.

Shaw and Rousset are excited by the possibilities they see for the market, and they want to encourage any one with the time or inclination to join them.

They also wanted to thank Northwest Farm Credit Services Rural Community Grant program for a large donation which will be used to purchase equipment for the market.

On Monday, the Florence Farmers Market Team received the check at the market site, on the corner of Bay and Kingwood streets west of the Siuslaw River Bridge. The funds will be used to buy canopies and tables.

Shaw said, “The Community response to the soon to be launched Farmers Market is tremendous and shows that the Siuslaw Vision process is successfully meeting the needs and desires of the community.”

The Florence Farmers Market will be holding an introductory open house on Tuesday, May 1, at 5 p.m. at the site of the market. There will be a celebratory pot luck at River Roasters Coffee at 5:45 p.m. following the open house.

For more information about the Florence Farmers Market, email contact@florencefarmersmarket.org or visit rivercal.org.

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A Collection of Fabric Woven by Alice Peckham of Swishome and a demonstration of the antique 4-harness floor loom used in the Peckham family for 3 generations.

A 4-harness direct tie-up counterbalance 1951 Allen Loom, built-in Milwaukie, Oregon, and woven on by three generations of the Peckham family of Mapleton, was donated to the Pioneer Museum by Peckham with the hope that it might inspire someone to weave.

The warping process will continue every Saturday at the museum (noon to four) until the job is done and weaving commences. All weavers are welcome to come and help or share ideas, including (1) what we could do next and (2) what commitment we can collectively make to assure that the loom remains an active, interactive, part of our community. That four-hour window offers a good opportunity for Florence area weavers to get to know each other.

Spinners, there is room on the same floor of the Pioneer Museum to bring your spinning wheels to share your craft and maybe inspire some new spinners too. The museum has a few spinning wheels, none near operational.

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