



# SEASON ENDS AROUND DIAMONDS

SPORTS — B

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**  
MAY 6-12, 2018



# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## RHODY RENDEZVOUS HONORS FIRST FIRST CITIZEN

*Festival Grand Marshal Dr. Al Brauer reminiscences on his experiences in Florence*

BY JARED ANDERSON  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Dr. Al Brauer wasn't expecting to be named the grand marshal of the 111th Rhododendron Festival Grand Floral Parade this year, which runs Sunday, May 20, on Highway 101 and down to Historic Old Town Florence.

"Shocking," he said. "I had no idea. I've been here almost 60 years. I guess at this point in time I'm an oldtimer."

Over that 60 years, Brauer established a medical practice, helped build new hospitals and clinics, developed Summerset Estates, was a board chairman for Oregon Pacific Bank (OPB), helped initiate the New Life Lutheran Church and served on the Lane Community College Florence Center board for 12 years.

"I can't say I did anything," Brauer said. "I just helped."

Brauer first arrived in Florence in 1958 with his wife, Alice. They had both attended school at the University of Oregon and would take trips out to



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

**Dr. Al Brauer was selected as the Florence community's 1967 First Citizen when he was just 38 years old.**

different communities in the region, looking for a place to settle down.

"I wanted nothing to do with the Portland area," Brauer said. "I'm a wide open, country guy."

When he was stationed in Hawaii as

a medical officer for the Marines, Alice had received a call about a doctor who had just passed away in Florence, and the newly built hospital was looking for a new physician. The city lobbied for Brauer to be released from his

service, so he could quickly come to the community. He purchased a clinic across the street from the old hospital on 12th street.

See REMINISCE page 6A

## Dunes City announces legal action against State of Oregon

BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
FOR THE SIUSLAW NEWS

On Wednesday, Dunes City announced its intention to take legal action against the State of Oregon.

After a special session on May 7, in which Dunes City councilors listened to legal counsel and public opinion, the council "gave direction to the city administrator to contact the League of Oregon Cities to give them our intent to take legal action against the state and the Building Codes Division (BCD)," said Dunes City Mayor Robert Forsythe.

The city's move is in response to new rules handed down by the BCD last month which re-strict cities from contracting with third-party building inspectors. Oregon cities in violation of the new rules were issued notifications that they must hire building inspectors as city employees by July 1 or else hand over their building programs to county or state control.

Only cities with programs up for renewal this July were notified, though many more are thought to follow. Dunes City and Florence were among the first wave.

"This process in our opinion is draconian and overreaching and it really needs to be stopped," Forsythe said at Wednesday's City Council meeting.

Stopping the process through litigation would require substantial backing. Although at least 32 Oregon cities have been notified of being in violation, it is yet unclear how many are willing to join Dunes City in taking legal action.

"We are the only one that I am aware that has actually voted to pursue litigation," said Dunes City Recorder Jamie Mills. "We can't take on the state all by ourselves. We're only willing to do this if a number of other cities are willing to do this as well."

Florence has yet to announce a decision.

See LEGAL page 8A

## Food Backpacks for Kids grows, receives statewide recognition

*Nutritional support program for region expands past 80 kids*

STORY BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The specter of not eating at all today is remote for many residents of Florence. However, some of the community's youngest citizens face the fear of hunger on a daily basis.

One program that has been directly addressing this painful reality is the Food Backpack for Kids (FB4K) program, created and coordinated locally by members of Cross



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

**Volunteers gather at Cross Roads Assembly of God to assemble bags of food that will be distributed later in the week to students in the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.**

Road Assembly of God, 1380 10th St. FB4K is a registered 501(c)(3) and all donations made are tax deductible.

The FB4K program began in 2012 with a simple goal: to make sure no students in the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts would be hungry.

See NUTRITION page 7A

## Siuslaw School District finalizes facilities plan and requests bond support

*\$108.7 million is needed to meet codes, replace inadequate high school building and ensure student safety now and in the future*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw School District Board has decided to ask the community to support a bond measure that will fund a replacement for the district's high school and major upgrades to the elementary and middle schools. The bond request will be for \$108.7 million.

During a school board meeting on May 9, directors appointed a Bond Advisory Committee to engage in outreach designed to inform the public about the current state of district facilities.

The vote to move forward with the bond request was supported unanimously by all seven Siuslaw School Board members.

At the May 9 meeting, the board members decided to approach at one time the issues of seismically unsafe buildings, inadequate classroom capacity, structural deficiencies, liability concerns and outdated heating and electrical systems by asking residents to help the district deal with the many facility related problems now, rather than later as costs continue to rise.

The total dollar amount and the manner in which that sum will be used,

if the voters approve funding, was reached after a full year of work. The process was multi-faceted, incorporating feedback and suggestions from educators, administrative staff, an architectural firm, a steering committee, technical, engineering and mechanical professionals, community members and financial consultants.

The task of coordinating the effort to upgrade the district's facilities, while overseeing the ongoing education of more than 500 students, is the responsibility of Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak. He said he believes the district faces con-

siderable issues regarding the safety, comfort and education that students in the district will face if the decided upon modifications are not undertaken.

He pointed to the looming issue of deferred maintenance, now approaching the \$40 million mark, and the possibility of a structural failure in the event of a natural disaster as major contributing factors underlying the funding request.

"The total amount the board will be sending to voters in November for bond approval is for projects at all three school sites across the district," Grz-

eskowiak said. "The goal is to reset the clock on major deferred maintenance projects and expenses, while bringing all facilities up to current codes and providing students a modern learning environment that reflects current best practices in education to prepare students for their futures."

The decision to move forward with a more inclusive approach to the numerous problems identified by the Pivot Architecture was based on assessments of the current state of the district facilities with an eye toward the future.

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- BeauxArts Fine Art Materials & Gallery | Frames of Florence
- Oregon Coast Military Museum | Digital Dunes Photography

