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ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

SPORTS — B

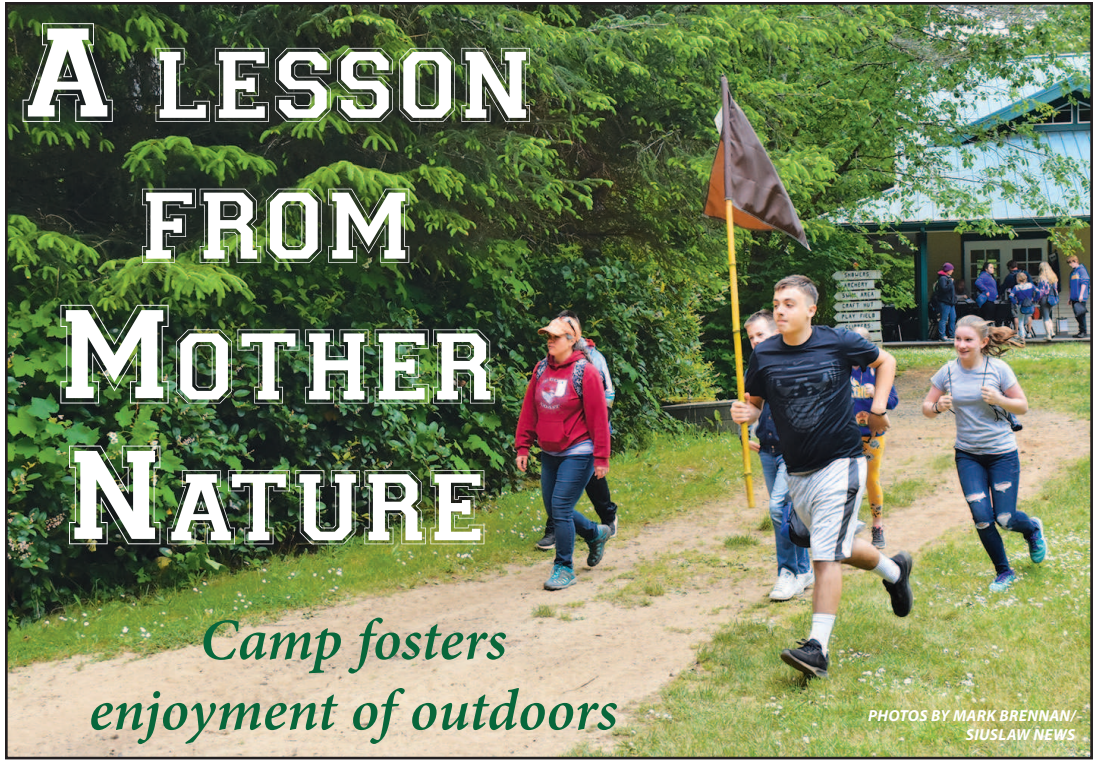


Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 44

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A LESSON FROM MOTHER NATURE

Camp fosters enjoyment of outdoors

PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw fifth- and seventh-graders participate in this week's Outdoor Adventure Camp at Camp Cleawox. This annual tradition is a chance for youth to learn about the outdoors.

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw School District gave students the opportunity this week to get out of the classroom and take a lesson from Mother Nature at the annual Outdoor Adventure Camp.

This is the fifth year the event has taken place at the Girl Scout Camp on Cleawox Lake.

Program co-founder and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering

and Math) instructor Ben Wells is happy with the turnout of both students and volunteers for this year's camp.

"We have about 230 kids taking part in camp this year and close to 70 volunteers helping to pull this off," he said. "We are lucky to have so many people from the community, including members of the Coast Guard and the National Forest Service, and people who just have a passion for being outdoors. They all want to share what they know with our kids... and it's awesome!"

Students at Outdoor Adventure

Camp spend the day participating in a number of activities that connect them to the natural world in a more interactive way than traditional school activities.

Archery, kayaking and canoeing, hiking and learning how to set up a campsite and cook food on an open fire are all lessons taught by qualified volunteers.

"These are people with high levels of outdoor oriented skills. They are not going to be making copies in the office or helping in a classroom. They have a passion for the outdoors and they want to share their knowledge

and experience with the students," Wells said. "This is a great opportunity for people in the community to be involved with the school district in ways that are outside of the classroom."

This year also included classes to familiarize students with skills used by native cultures to identify and gather plants that have nutritional or medicinal properties. Cooking, beadmaking and tie-dyeing options were available, and students were encouraged to participate in as many parts of the program as they wish.

While learning outdoor skills

and having fun are the focus of the Outdoor Adventure Camp, there are some less apparent benefits to students who attend the four-day camp.

"We have a number of goals for the week, one of which is to give our fifth- and seventh-graders an opportunity to spend a week together, undergoing a number of challenges, to forge stronger relationships with the older students, so the transition from elementary to middle schools won't be so difficult," Wells said.

See ADVENTURE page 8A

A change in command

Station Siuslaw River bids 'fair winds and following seas' to Tregoning, welcomes Nilles as officer in charge



Master Chief Tim Tregoning and his family

U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River held a change of command ceremony Friday as outgoing Master Chief Timothy N. Tregoning received new orders and incoming Senior Chief Joseph J. "Jay" Nilles accepted command.

"The change of command ceremony is a revered military tradition, which formally restates the continuity and authority of the command," said Chief Petty Officer Kevin Smith, the master of ceremonies. "It is a for-



Senior Chief Jay Nilles and his family

mal custom conducted before the assembled crew and confirms to the men and women of the unit that the authority of the command is maintained. The ceremony is a transfer of total responsibility, authority and accountability from one individual to another."

The event was full of symbolism, with several back and forth moments between then and now, former and current. Through it all, the Station Siuslaw River crew remained standing.

Captain Michael Mullen, commander of Sector North Bend, presided over the service.

See COMMAND page 7A



Stewarding the outdoors

Siuslaw Watershed Council gears up for another summer of camp

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Restoration, education and recreation are the key components of the Siuslaw Watershed Council's (SWC) annual summer camp, which will run for five days at the end of June for students in fourth- through 12th-grade.

"The importance of tying all those together is, you're not able to recreate in any outdoors unless you're also a steward of the outdoors," said SWC's program manager, Kyle Terry. "That's a connection that we try and get them to understand. If you want to recreate in this beautiful area, then you also have to be a steward of this beautiful area."

SWC will introduce students to a wide variety of different areas in the region and show how the three components work in tandem to create its unique environmental and economic ecosystem.

For example, students will be brought to one of the many tree islands that dot the Oregon coast landscape.

See WATERSHED page 8A

INSIDE

Classifieds	B5	Sideshow	B4
Community	A3	Sports	B
Opinion	A4	This Week on the Coast	A7
Records	A2	Weather Data	A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY
66 49

SUNDAY
58 48

MONDAY
59 47

TUESDAY
59 47

SIUSLAW NEWS
2 SECTIONS | 20 PAGES
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