ADVENTURE from page 1A

Unfortunately, the future of the program is somewhat in doubt.

Drastic cuts to the block grant that funds the Outdoor Adventure Camp through the "Twilight Education Program" has forced the district to reduce the services offered to students after school. This has led to an elimination of meals and supervised activities for students that wish, or need, to stay at school after classes have ended for the day.

"It costs somewhere between \$10-15,000 dollars to hold the camp, depending on what activities and other things, like meals and transportation, we include," Wells said. "And the school district has some work to do."

Wells will meet with Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak this summer to discuss possibilities for the program.

"After camp wraps up this year, the planning team is going to look at our finance reserves from our donors and figure our best approach to meet the needs of the students," Grzeskowiak said. "There is quite a bit of interest in the community to return to an outdoor education program that has the overnight component. So many people speak of that week from their middle school days as one of the greatest experiences of their 99, outdoor school funds can be lives."

On the positive side of the ledger, voters approved Measure 99 in 2016, which takes four percent of the state's lottery funds and dedicates them to creating an Outdoor Education Fund. This revenue stream has some restrictions as to its use and while voters overwhelmingly approved measure 99, the specifics of obtaining and utilizing this money is still being worked out.

According to Grzeskowiak,

WATERSHED from page 1A

The islands are the remnants

of a more extensive forest that

once covered the dunes, which

has been lost through erosion

over time. The remaining is-

lands are hubs for vegetation

and wildlife, including a ro-

bust population of fir and





the future.

"With the passage of Measure spent for fifth- or sixth-grade students for either a day or overnight educational experience," Grzeskowiak said. "We cannot continue with our current format building relationships between fifth- and seventh-graders to ease the transition to middle school and use the M99 funds to cover all of the program costs."

Historically, Siuslaw's outdoor school has been a sixth-grade

"Since our current fifth-grad-

there will more than likely be ers have had Outdoor Advensome changes to the program in tures this year, the program at sixth-grade would not be eligiany M99 funds this year on camp, since the measure's funds will not cover any costs related to seventh-graders. So, we are caught in the middle of a legislative gap if we move the program back to the middle school," Grzeskowiak said.

> He clarified that the program would not necessarily go away.

"The format may change as it moves back to the sixth-grade level. There has been too much work done by staff, students and people in the community

to not bring outdoor camp back for Siuslaw students," Grzeskowiak said. "We are just having

ing how to set up a campsite and cook food on an open fire are all lessons taught by qualified volunteers at the Outdoor Adventure Camp. In addition, cooking, beadmaking and tie-dyeing options were available, as well as

canoeing, hiking and learn-

PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Archery, kayaking and

possible transition back to the middle school level."

lessons about native cul-

Wells also wants community ble for M99 funds if we spent to wrestle with the funding remembers to know that they can quirements of the state and the donate to Siuslaw School Dis-

trict to specifically support the Outdoor Adventure Program.

"People interested in donating to the program can contact me, Mr. Dougherty or Ms. Barnard, the team leaders from the fifth- and seventh-grade," Wells said. "We do a lot of teamwork and they put in a lot of hours to make this happen. There is an Outdoor Adventures account set up at the middle school and we can help them with their donations."

The enthusiasm exhibited by Wells and the teachers and volunteers who participate in the camp is reflected by dozens of students swirling around the adults, laughing, talking and, yes, learning. It is a much different level of energy and excitement than at a typical school function.

Wells believes the reason is simple: people, and especially kids, love being outdoors.

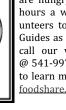
He also wants to thank Florence residents for helping to make this year's camp a success.

"I just want to say thanks. Florence has been so good to us. This our fifth year of Outdoor Adventures and hopefully it won't be our last," Wells said. "And if one student, because of what we did here, has a better or more productive year, it makes all the work, money and time



Florence

Florence Food Share provides food to those who are hungry in our community. If you have four hours a week available, we are in need of volunteers to staff our Front Desk and also act as Guides as clients walk through the pantry. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Sarah Lovejoy, @ 541-997-9110 (Monday - Friday, before noon) to learn more about volunteering. info@florence-



foodshare.org 2190 Spruce Street.

THY Habitat for Humanity®

Volunteers needed for new home construction, home repairs, general office work, public relations and program administration. Join an operating committee and help Habitat help others! Call 541-902-9227 or e-mail to florencehabitat@gmail.com Office located at 2004 HWY 101, Florence www.facebook.com/restoreflorence

Annual Ice Cream Social July 21 at Florence Events Center

Meet 1st Wednesday of every month Luncheon Meeting (\$8.50) 1451 Spruce St 541-991-3209 or sgelmstedt@gmail.com



Memory Care Respite Florence

Your Memory Care Respite Center needs you! Seeking volunteers for our Coffee Club: Conversation & companionship in a caring setting while providing respite for caregivers. Contact us at memcarerespite@gmail.com



Volunteer

Get involved

Donate

Do your part and

volunteer today to help support these local non-proft organizations in our community!

spruce trees. danger of being overrun by be out there stand up paddle It's good to introduce those two

the edges of the islands. "Sand Dunes Frontier will

take the students on sand buggies out to the tree islands and work with campers and forest service folks to remove the invasive species," Terry said. "We'll also have someone doing a history of the dunes and dune ecology."

After learning about and caring for the tree islands, students will be taken to Sand Master Park where they'll be given lessons on sandboarding.

"It's a good experience for them to see recreational opportunities that they haven't had before. And along the way, teach them that if you're going to recreate out here, it's great to keep in good shape," Terry said. "It'll be a heck of a day and really cool."

One day will find the students at lakes south of Florence, such as Siltcoos and Cleawox, where students will discover birdwatching and how the region's delicate ecosystem supports habitats. That will then lead to the dunes, where students will learn about the Western Snowy Plover, a threatened species that is just recently beginning to reestablish its population on the coast.

Another day will find the

students at Sutton Lake. "We'll do invasive species monitoring," Terry said. "We'll walk the creek with some of the kids and actually map where the invasive species are, patches of Japanese knotweed or parrot feather, and we'll be going with a botanist from the National Forest Service."

That day will also include the representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, which will do a canoe toration. pull with the students.

Other activities include paddle boarding and horse rides at C&M Stables.

Terry hopes that local youth are a lot of jobs in restoration will look beyond the usual and other fields right here in summer activities.

summer, and you're playing specialists to see what rural But the tree islands are in video games, you could also youth are actually interested in. invasive species like Scotch boarding. There's entertain- groups." broom, which are growing on ment today outside in the natural environment. They'll be exposed to recreational opportunities in their own backyard that maybe they wouldn't have tions, will run from Monday, access to otherwise," he said.

> Beyond recreation, Terry hopes that the experiences will give youth the opportunity to explore future employment opportunities in the field of res- call 541-268-3044.

"The students can see that this is a viable future," he said. "They can say, 'If I enjoy what I'm doing out here, this could By doing these activities, be a viable job for me.' There the Siuslaw region. And it's "If you're at home in the great for the natural resource

> The camp, which is being funded by The Ford Family, Western Lane Community and Mapleton Community founda-June 25, to Friday, June 29.

> The cost of the camp is \$75, but scholarships are available. For more information, vis-

it www.siuslaw.org/camps, or

Get Results...List With Ed.

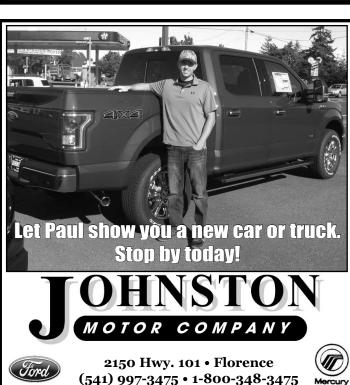


Ed Kopilec Principal Broker 541 991-8630





113 Pine Tree Lp - Beautiful Florentine Estates home. 2 bdrms, 2 baths, plus office. Recently updated bathroom with free standing soaking tub. New flooring throughout. Energy efficient furnace and many more updates. Garage has front and back oversized doors. A must see! \$279,900.





Volunteer

Get

involved

Donate

Do your part and

volunteer today

to help support

these local

non-proft

organizations in

our community!

Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers. You will find an area of interest in a caring organization.

Peace Harbor Volunteers

400 9th Street, Florence, OR 97439 541-997-8412 ext. 2218



SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM Offering Café 60 & Meals On Wheels

or advanced age and who are not eating properly, egardless of income. Cafe 60 is available for those who prefer to make new friends in a dining room

Meals on Wheels are available to people over the 1570 Kingwood • PO Box 2313, Florence age of 60 who cannot get out much due to illness 541-997-5673

laneseniormeals.org Operating Monday, Wednesday and Friday



Saving men one PSA test at a time. 541-997-6626 maribob@oregonfast.net

Someone to talk to ... who understands!

To include your organization in this directory, please call us @ 541-997-3441