

Siuslaw News



SAILORS SINK PIRATES
SPORTS — B

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HOME OF THE SAILORS *Mapleton High School set to complete remodel in time for new school year*

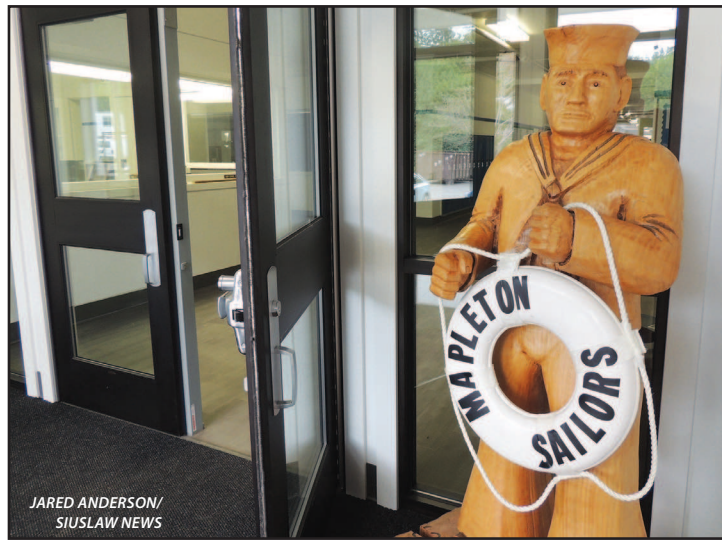
BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

“This is a special place,” Jeff Greene said. “The students talk about how different Mapleton is from bigger schools. Every school has their issues, negatives and positives, and so do we. But one of the things students always say is, ‘You guys are so close. You know each other so well.’ The kids get to know us, and we get to know them at a deeper level. You know these kids through and through, like

they know you.”

Greene, the physical education teacher for the Mapleton School District, stood in his newly remodeled classroom at Mapleton High School. Freshly purchased chairs were still resting atop the student’s desks, the walls bare. He was busy setting up his classroom for the school year that will begin next week.

The entire school was remodeled over this summer, with new hallways, locker rooms, a student common area and a courtyard, among



JARED ANDERSON/
SIUSLAW NEWS

When students at Mapleton High School set foot on campus on Tuesday, they will enter a renovated building with updated student spaces, classrooms, outdoor areas, locker rooms and gyms.

a whole host of other improvements.

“This place looks incredible,” Greene said. “It’s like we’re a kid in a candy store over here. This is huge for education and learning. It’s going to change the students as individuals for the better. We’re excited for this year.”

Built in 1948, Mapleton High School had never gone through a major remodel in its 70-year

history. Paint was peeling off the walls and there were holes in the floors.

“There was a real ‘poor’ feeling to it,” said algebra teacher Elisa Gray. “It created an attitude of, ‘We don’t get good things.’ A lot of the rest of the world has a really bad attitude about people in poverty, that

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New cell phone towers increase coverage area

Sutton, Mercer Lake areas get service upgrade

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Cell phones have become an essential part of the human experience.

Statista, a company that collects and analyses data from more than 20,000 sources, reports that 87 percent of Americans under 70 have a cell phone.

That number rises to 96 percent when considering individuals under 29 years of age, while global mobile phone usage topped 62 percent in 2016.

These numbers indicate that more than 5 billion people will be using cell phones by 2019.

The convenience of mobile phones, combined with improved ease of use and the lowering costs of equipment and usage plans, have made the technology affordable and ubiquitous.

There remains one major limitation to the use of cell phones and that is the “coverage” areas available to consumers.

The coverage area is determined by the availability of a cell site, usually mounted on a tower, that allows consumers to connect with receivers and transmitters on the tower to send a signal from a particular phone to another tower and eventually to another phone.

The progression cannot be completed if there are no towers or cell sites available in the transmitting or receiving phone’s geographic area.

This situation has unfortunately limited some local cell phone customers’ ability to connect to a network on the outskirts of Florence.

Many people are familiar with the “No network available” message sent from our phones when they are out of

range of a cell tower, usually in the outskirts of Florence.

Fortunately, there are two new cell towers, one completed and operational and one in the final stages of assembly, that will address the “No network” problem for many residents of the Mercer and Sutton Lake sections of town.

Rebecca Fain and Rick Olson live in the Mercer Lake area and have recently entered into a long-term agreement with Verizon to lease the company a plot of land on their property on Spindrift Way, specifically for the placement of a new cell tower.

“About two years ago, a guy was up here wandering around on the roads, looking for a spot for a potential tower. He asked if we would be interested in leasing them some space for the tower and we decided to go ahead and do it,” Olson said. “They were going to put it in a more obvious place and I said, ‘Let’s put it up in the trees because it is kind of a large edifice.’”

He said the tower is 140 feet tall and the base took 17 truckloads of concrete, equaling approximately 170 cubic yards of cement, and 13 tons of rebar — all within the 45-by-45-foot base.

The process involved in the placement of a cell tower is challenging from both technological and geographical perspectives, as there are many factors that have to be taken into consideration to install a functioning and safe structure.

The functioning range of a cell site is not fixed, but dependent on a number of variables including the height of the antenna over that of the surrounding terrain; frequency of the signal in use;

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PHOTOS BY RICK OLSON & MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

On Thursday, crews from M&A Construction completed preparation and preliminary installation of Verizon Wireless’s new cell phone tower and base on Spindrift Way, between Mercer and Sutton Lakes north of Florence. The property is being leased by a local couple to the company in a long-term agreement.



SVFR, WLAD joint special meeting discusses financials, future

Board committee to decide effectiveness of IGA

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) board members held a joint meeting at SVFR Station 1 on Thursday evening.

The special meeting was held to give the directors from both boards an opportunity to chart a clear path forward as they face uncertainty regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for administration between the two entities.

The impending departure of Chief Director Jim Langborg and the recently reported \$500,000 financial shortage facing SVFR were the impetus for the timing of the meeting, which comes on the heels of board meetings held separately by both entities in the last weeks.

During the public comment period, Lori Severance, coordinator of SVFR’s Community Support Team, spoke in defense of the work done by Langborg in the face of what she perceived as hostile and disrespectful treatment of the chief in the regular SVFR board meeting on Aug. 15.

“I’ve worked under a number of administrators over the years and I have to say that working for Chief Langborg at this late stage in my career has been a very satisfying experience. I have never worked for anyone in all my years who has been as fiercely devoted to his staff and volunteers and the community in which he serves,” Severance said. “I attended the last board meeting and, to use a term that was thrown around quite a bit in that meeting, I was pretty appalled by the amount of outright hostility and disrespect shown to Chief Langborg.”

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

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SUNDAY
68 50

MONDAY
66 49

TUESDAY
65 49

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JIM HOBERG
Broker/Owner

Jim Hoberg is a Florence native, and has been working in Real Estate since 1989. He has served as a Principal Broker for 29 years. He has obtained several designations that require continuing education, which keeps him on the cutting edge of the industry and he is constantly looking for ways to expand his areas of expertise. Jim enjoys helping people find solutions to their real estate needs and discovering why Florence is such a great place to live.

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