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WEATHER



Evening showers with a high of 53 and a low tonight of 42.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Yachats holds annual Agate Festival this weekend
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Siuslaw pins Toledo + Winter Sports Preview
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

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THE S I U S L A W N E W S . C O M

2 SECTIONS | 16 PAGES
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'School Board Super Heroes' honored

Siuslaw recognizes education proclamations

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

At the Siuslaw School District Board meeting on Jan. 16, board members conducted the meeting under a banner reading "School Board Super Heroes" — the theme for this year's Oregon School Boards Association's (OSBA) School Board Appreciation Month. Cut-out masks, comic book style word effects and custom art by Siuslaw students also greeted the board.

Siuslaw Elementary Principal Michael Harklerode read Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's January 2019 School Board Recognition Month proclamation on behalf of Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak, who was absent for the meeting.

"Locally elected boards fulfill leadership roles and serve as the conduit through which teachers, parents, businesses and communities demonstrate the care, creativity and support that lead to student achievement," Harklerode read. "Board members build the framework that makes it possible for education organizations to teach Oregon's children."

Brown's proclamation reported that Oregon has 197 school districts, 19 education service districts and 17 community colleges.

See SCHOOLS page 8A



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS
Youth in the Angell Job Corps learn trades like forestry, plumbing, carpentry and automotive while getting the chance to earn their GED.

Angell Job Corps partners with Camp Baker to remove trees, increase camp's accessibility

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

It was when Garrett Bell started to descend the giant Sitka Spruce tree that things started to go wrong.

The teenager had been sawing off "widowmakers" for the past half hour — long branches periodically falling to the forest floor of Camp Baker, a Boy Scout camp in Dunes City. He had just cut off a long one. However, instead of falling to the ground, the branch got caught in the lower tree limbs.

As he looked down at the stuck branch, his coworkers laughed.

"You can do it, Garrett," one yelled as Bell slowly worked his way down to the problem area. The coworkers gathered in a small group, shouting encouragement at Bell as he worked on cutting the branch loose. After around 10 minutes of cutting, the big branch fell with a loud thud that echoed throughout the camp's trees.

"Nice!" a worker yelled, and the surrounding group clapped and hollered.

"Now jump down!" Another joked as everyone laughed.

But Bell had been trained well, coming down methodically. He had a big smile when he finally made it, taking off his helmet and wiping away the sweat.

"I was cleaning limbs that were hanging that could be a potential hazard and kill people," he explained. "That big one you just saw was about 40 feet. It was quite a bit heavy. We've been cutting limbs between the trees, trying to make sure it's all cleared out to make sure that when it is taken down, it won't cause any problems."

Delimiting is one of the first steps in taking down the tree, which had not fused together, splitting about half way up. The split was building pressure, and could present a potential hazard in the future, so it has to come down.

"It's a dangerous job, and not for most people," Bell said. "But someone has to do it, and I'm glad to be trained to do it safely and efficiently."

See FORESTRY page 5A

Siuslaw Valley, Western Lane receive yearly audit reports

PERS causes concern for WLAD

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Audit reports dominated January board meetings held by Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) earlier this week. The required yearly reports were presented to directors at both board meetings by Chris Mahr, CPA.

While there were similarities in Mahr's assessment of the financial situations of the two organizations, the reports were marginally different in one major regard — the ultimate determination of state compliance requirements.

The initial determination by Mahr's firm was an "unqualified" approval of the SVFR financials and a "qualified" designation for WLAD.

The terms qualified and unqualified, as used in the world of auditors and CPAs, have a different meaning than in other contexts.

According to the website Investopedia, "An unqualified audit refers to a complete audit that has been performed and researched so thoroughly that the only possible remaining discrepancies stem from information that could not be obtained by the auditor."

See AUDIT page 7A

Collard Road sink hole expands after recent rains

County fails to see emergency as road access threatened by degradation

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

There is a really dangerous curve ahead, if you live on Collard Lake Road.

Residents of the area, located north of Florence off Mercer Lake Road, have worried for years about the safety of a stretch of Collard Lake Road that has deteriorated to the point where it is clearly a significant safety hazard. The road lies outside of city limits and Lane County has responsibility for maintenance of the road.

A number of people who live or travel on the road have contacted city and county officials, on numerous occasions, pointing out the need for some sort of repair of the large, and still growing, hole in the asphalt surface and substructure of a portion of the road that twists and turns through forest and underbrush for miles.

The condition of Collard Lake Road has been and continues to be a



COURTESY PHOTO BY SKIP THOMSEN

Collard Lake Road residents have noticed a marked increase in the size of the damaged section of road.

Resident Alex Orobey directly contacted County Commissioner Jay Bozievich regarding what he perceives as a serious danger to his family and

neighbors.

"As a resident of Lane County, I am writing to bring attention to a serious concern to over 100 residents of Lane County. Our roads Collard Lake Road and Collard Lake Way are in serious degradation to the point now, it has become a safety issue," Orobey wrote in his email. "In the last few days, Collard Lake Road suffered a physical washout next to a steep slope. With the rainy season upon us soon, the road will be impassable and may possibly fail, resulting in serious injury or loss of life. I understand a few years ago in another rain storm the other road washed out and someone was killed."

Residents Skip and Camille Thomsen live in the neighborhood and have noticed a marked increase in the size of the damaged section of road since the weather has become progressively inclement.

"My wife and I walk by the spot several times a week on our walks, so we

See SINKHOLE page 5A

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