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BEAT**

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CROW's
“The Wiz”**

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WEATHER



Rains and wind with
a high of 53 and a
low tonight of 50.
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**Veterans Memorial
Wall offers ‘hands on’
history lesson**

*Replica of ‘Wall That
Heals’ arrives in Florence*

History lessons can come in many forms. One way is to read a book or watch a film that depicts events from an earlier time. The most common way that students learn about history is by listening to a lecture from a teacher or reading pages from a textbook. For many students, it isn't always a compelling combination for learning, but that presentation of facts was replaced this week by a thought-provoking granite tribute to those who died in a war that took place half a century ago and half a world away — a tribute that students could see, touch and



Students from Siuslaw School District get the chance this week to explore the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall at its location at Siuslaw Middle School. The wall is open to the public through the closing ceremony at 2 p.m. Sunday.

**STORY & PHOTOS
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS**

experience for themselves. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., draws millions of visitors a year to look at its polished granite surface, covered with the names of those that died during the controversial conflict. A three-quarter scale replica of the memorial wall currently stands in the field behind Siuslaw Middle School, offering an up close and personal history lesson to anyone interested to stop there until it closes Sunday afternoon, April 7.

See WALL page 7A

Restoration of the Siuslaw

Siuslaw Watershed Council looks to past to build up watershed for future

**BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS**

“People have different ties to this region for different reasons and lengths of time, but we're all working together toward this common goal of restoring the Siuslaw,” said Siuslaw Watershed Council Executive Director Eli Tome. “One reason I love working in watershed restoration and health is because rivers connect us, and we're all downstream of someone else. Water is just a really important part of being a human.”

Tome was speaking at “Stories of Restoring the Siuslaw” on March 27 at City Lights Cinemas as the watershed council debuted its series of eight short films explaining restoration efforts throughout the Siuslaw and coastal lakes watershed. The films are part of the council's process to update its website, logo and newsletter and introduce the Siuslaw to the digital world.



“Part of our mission as a watershed council is to build community, a really cool part of our mission that is abstract and sometimes hard to do. We're out there doing a lot of restoration projects with heavy equipment, or out in the woods by ourselves a lot, and that's not really community building,” Tome said. “We have a great partnership here in the Siuslaw with the diverse amount of people and organizations who are working together to make us a strong fishery again in the future. We wanted to tell that story.”

Working with dozens of partners and funding from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the council created the films with videographer Brian Kelly and photographers Sean Gutierrez and Morgan Heim. The films were made in the course of one week last September as a “snapshot” of the many projects happening concurrently in the watershed.

“My background is in geology, geography and community planning, so I've never learned anything about film or com-

munications strategies,” Tome said. “I had this idea to make like a 20-minute documentary about the Siuslaw. Luckily, Brian had the wisdom to tell me that nobody would want to watch that. ... He steered us in a different vision and a different direction. That's how we chose to tell the story of restoring the Siuslaw and the coastal lakes through a character-driven narrative.”

The first video was released on Feb. 11 and featured Jesse Beers, cultural director for the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. The next six videos — featuring Johnny Sundstrom, local rancher and conservationist; Seth Mead, watershed restorationist at Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District; Bob Bateman from Bateman Forestry Management; Kyle Terry, program manager with Siuslaw Watershed Council;

See WATERSHED page 9A

**Emergency
Shelter gives
end-of-season
report**

*Number of nights open
increased, usage
decreased & community
gave support*

**BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS**

The Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter gave its end of the year report this week, detailing the numbers of people they served, giving an overview of the patron demographics and providing an update on two clients that were featured in a Siuslaw News series about the shelter, which was published in February.

“It was a good year,” said Pastor Greg Wood, who is also president of the shelter program. “We did what we were supposed to do. We were open on the coldest nights and we provided good food and a safe place to be. That's our mission, and that's what we did.”

See SHELTER page 5A

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