THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM





VOL. 129, NO. 50 **NEWS &** VIEWS THAT **DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY** FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 64 and a low tonight of 50. Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Jon Thompson receives Tourism Ambassador Award. INSIDE — A5

SPORTS





MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Construction along the C-Row camp sites at the Port of Siuslaw is nearly completed and should be ready for rental after next month's Fourth of July festivities.

Port now ready for fireworks

Completion of major upgrades for camp sites are on the fast track

By Mark Brennan SIUSLAW NEWS

The Fourth of July is 11 days away and the race to safely stage the much-anticipated holiday fireworks display is on. The fireworks component of the annual event was in jeopardy this year when the original plans to launch the firea legal, approved staging area for the display. This decision has impacted projects taking place at Port facilities by changing the original completion dates due to the need to divert personnel from their regular duties to finish the improvements as quickly as possible.

Port Manager David Huntingworks from a barge on the river ton made the decision to otter fell through. The Port of Siuslaw space to the Chamber believing his

stepped in with an offer to provide team would be able to complete the "C-Row" installation and also prepare the space needed to meet the city requirements for the legal, safe launching of the Fourth of July fireworks.

Huntington updated Port Commissioners on the progress of the renovations and the preparation for the Fourth of July festivities

School district terminates shop teacher

BY CHANTELLE MEYER SIUSLAW NEWS

On June 19, the Siuslaw School Board met for both an executive and regular session. At the open of the regular session, the board voted to support Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak's decision to terminate the employment of shop teacher Clint Tatum.

"Be it resolved that the Siuslaw School District Board of Directors moves to accept the recommendation of the superintendent and dismiss teacher Tatum for improper conduct that does not meet the standards of the district and of the teachers' standards and practices commissions effective immediately," read Director Guy Rosinbaum.

After Resolution 061919-3 was seconded by Director Paul Burns, no further discussion was made during the regular session and the school board voted unanimously in favor.

Tatum, a licensed contractor hired by the district to work in the Career Technical Education program, was placed on administrative leave from his position at Siuslaw middle and high schools in early May after being arrested May 1 for first-degree criminal mischief and first-degree criminal mistreatment. Siuslaw News was unable to verify if Tatum was ever charged in the incident; he was released by Lane County Corrections just over 24 hours later on May 2. While Florence police said "the investigated incident was not connected to his employment and did not occur on school property," in an official letter sent to district families, Grzeskowiak stated the leave was in accordance with the policies of the Siuslaw School District and the State of Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission. A substitute teacher filled out the remainder of the school year. According to Grzeskowiak,



Florence Softball League season begins. **INSIDE** — SPORTS

RECORDS

Emergency response logs **Crime report** Inside — A3

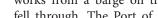
SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices Inside — B5





See PORT page 9A

City Council approves Block Party street closure

The approval was just one of several agenda items approved

By Mark Brennan SIUSLAW NEWS

The June 17 City Council Meeting covered a wide array of issues including approval of a street closure related to the 2019 Community Block Party, consideration and adoption of a resolution to amend the city budget and a request from City staff to renew an expiring service agreement with the Florence terference with first responders the

Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting opened with public comments from three individuals that reside in Florentine Estates. These residents were requesting the council to intercede on their behalf to limit estate sales within the Florentine property. The complaints centered around excessive traffic and noise associated with the estate sales and the possible in-

sales might create in the case of an emergency.

Mayor Joe Henry, while acknowledging the concerns of the speakers, suggested the council was not the best entity to address the issue.

"Normally we don't respond [to public comments]. But I will provide a brief response. Number one,

See COUNCIL page 8A

See TATUM page 9A

Learning about life untethered from electronics Watershed Exploration Camp offers a view of nature through hands-on experience.

By JARED ANDERSON SIUSLAW NEWS

Last week, the Siuslaw Watershed Council's (SWC) five-day Watershed Exploration Camp was held, teaching children throughout the region what the watershed has to offer — all beyond the hustle and bustle of main street and the allure of electronic devices. In a bid to get children outside and interested



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

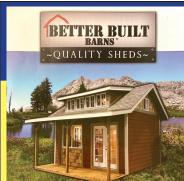
Devon, one of the participants in last week's Watershed Camp, shows off his "duck."

in the world surrounding them, the camp has been a chance for generations of Siuslaw children to learn and experience the traditions of the Siuslaw.

"We work on restoring

our watershed," SWC Executive Director Eli Tome told the campers about the council at the start of the camp. "That means projects helping salmon habitat and restoring the river. And we want to make sure we want to have fun doing it, so that's why we have camp - soyou can actually go outside to show you what we do, and teach you

See CAMP page 10A



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We have expanded our Pacific Metal Storage Buildings, Better Built Barns and Sheds, moving helpers service and moving equipment rentals, Iron Eagle and Premier Plus Trailer Sales. Our shop has expanded to offer FULL REPAIR SERVICE on truck, auto diesel and gas, transmissions, trailer repair hitches, welding and electrical plus detailing. We are OFFERING UNBEATABLE prices, payments and terms on USED CAR SALES to meet your budget or suit your needs, especially for VETERANS and RETIREES. Check out our consignment sales on RV's and Auto's! You'll be glad you did! ~ Jim Johnston



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