

**CAREERS** from page 1A

“Our most brand-new subject area is our computer sciences, and Mr. Mielke has done an excellent job getting that going,” Moser continued. “They’re doing programming and coding — but they also have some 3D printers and a vinyl sticker printer, where they can make T-shirts. We also have an entrepreneur class in there, and they make a bunch of cool stuff. They’re going to have that rolling.”

The community is invited to visit Siuslaw High School, 2975 Oak St., next Thursday for food, beverages and a tour of the school and its educational opportunities.

“The idea is that we really want to focus on getting our business community in there to see how we’re preparing our students to take on careers,” Moser said.

Connecting students to potential careers is also the goal of City of Florence’s upcoming Job Shadow Day on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

“This is a city-wide half-day job shadow for 11th- and 12th-graders at Siuslaw High School,” said Florence Community and Economic Development Assistant Sarah Abigail Moehrke, who led the presentation during the Noon Forum. “It’s pairing up not only our schools but our businesses and the city to get involved and create this whole thing. ... The idea is that the groundhog sees his shadow in February, and so will businesses around the city.”

According to Chamber Executive Director Bettina

Hannigan, the Job Shadow Day brings together Lane Community College, Siuslaw High School, the city and the chamber “to actually do something good” for workforce development in the Florence area.

Moehrke continued, “We need to create grassroots development of the businesses and people that are here in order to create a sustainable economy and community. That’s what we’re doing at City of Florence, so that’s how project came around through our economic development goals.”

She described a “job shadow” as a short-term career exploration, in this case just four hours, that can help students learn about a career by following a practitioner and experiencing it first-hand.

When she was younger, Moehrke participated in a job shadow at her city manager’s office. “And now I work at city hall,” she said. “It really can change the trajectory of a kid’s experience.”

Moehrke hopes to get additional participation from the community. She said the benefits include connecting local businesses with youth to show each the other’s potential and creating public awareness of what businesses do for the local economy.

“You can inspire the next generation,” she said. “My dad didn’t know he was going to be a land surveyor until he shadowed a surveyor when he was 19. You can inspire the next person to do your job because of these four hours.”



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



For information on signing up to participate in the Job Shadow Day, visit [www.ci.florence.or.us/economic-development/job-shadow-day](http://www.ci.florence.or.us/economic-development/job-shadow-day). Dec. 2 is the last day to sign up.

When she concluded, Moser stepped in to talk about the school’s perspective on the Job Shadow Day.

“This is a voluntary thing for students to do, ... the students you will get set up with want to be with you and the business you do. It will be super rewarding for not only them, but for you as well,” he said.

A final event on Thursday also featured careers and Florence’s business ecosystem, this time through

RAIN’s Florence Entrepreneurial Activation Event at City Lights Cinemas.

RAIN Coastal Venture Catalyst Ariel Ruben has been working with Eddie Mielke and his entrepreneur class at Siuslaw High School.

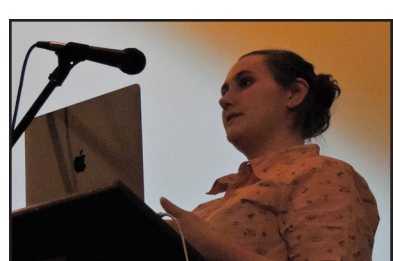
“It’s a new, spontaneous partnership that I hope will continue to grow,” she said. “I’ve come in a few times to his business class, where they also have a makerspace. ... It’s been my privilege to speak to the students there. They’re brilliant.”

Earlier this term, Ruben taught the students how to pitch business ideas.

“Pitching is about convincing influencers that your idea merits their sup-



(Clockwise from left) Sarah Moehrke presents on the City of Florence Job Shadow Day; RAIN’s Ariel Ruben introduces the speed pitching component of the Entrepreneurial Activation Event; two students pitch to an audience of 85 people; and Eddie Mielke’s SHS entrepreneur class receives a visit from Ruben.



port,” she said. Thursday’s pitches were required to be short, clocking in at only one minute. “The purpose of this pitch is to transfer incredible enthusiasm to your audience.”

Two Siuslaw students ultimately stood on stage during Thursday’s event to pitch their business ideas to the Florence entrepreneur community. Each earned applause for their business models, which included a customizable fashion store and a food delivery service for rural areas around Florence.

“Basically, my business plan is to create your ideas and bring them to life,” student Elyssa concluded.

After they pitched, Ruben said, “Wow! Two high schoolers! Thank you so much.”

Mielke, who was in the audience, said the students who attended would get extra credit.

Through experiences in CTE, job shadowing, potential internships and workshops through RAIN, the Florence area is equipping students to consider all the options for future career paths.

“I could not have been more proud to have some of the students attend our event and share their business ideas,” Ruben said. “The next generation of innovators is here!”

**DUNES CITY** from page 8A

“Part of our problems is, once we put it on a ballot, we cannot speak to it,” Forsythe said, pointing out that another ballot option, which could have allowed the city to hire a municipal

judge to rule on code enforcement issues, was also voted down by the public.

As of right now, Mills acts as both investigator and judge when it comes to issues of code violations. However, the process is lengthy, and without a large

er staff at the city, codes can go unenforced, and revenue from violations can go uncollected.

“It’s too much for one person,” Forsythe said. “There’s a simple remedy — changing the hearing to local jurisdiction. That’s all

it was, and that didn’t pass either. We’ve got to get out there and start explaining these things.”

Because the council felt bound by law to not address the ballot measures from the council, councilors never made the case for

the measures to residents in 2018.

“But we could form a political action committee, which we can talk about,” Orr suggested. “That’s not a terribly complex process.”

“Or we just hang out at Darlings [and talk to peo-

ple], Forsythe said.

“I like that. I volunteer,” Wells joked. He later pointed out that the failures of the 2018 ballot measures came down to a lack of education from the council.

“I think those kinds of things we have to do,” Forsythe said. “We need to do this differently, need to address this differently, and hopefully get some education out there on what we feel we need to do.”

**POLLINATOR** from page 1A

Ewing encouraged everyone to find books that were geared towards plants in this region as an effective way to become more familiar with all the potential pollinators in the area.

In addition, she told the group she refuses to use pesticides or fertilizers and only uses compost to supplement her garden’s natural state.

The idea Ewing wanted attendees to take with them from the meeting was simple, yet also in some ways profound.

“Gardening is more than just an activity. It is more than going out and planting something and watering it or whatever,” Ewing said. “When you go out into the garden, some of you are listening to your ear buds, listening to your book, music or whatever because this is a good time to do it. But don’t do it sometimes. Take those ear buds out and listen. Pay attention to what you hear and see in your garden.”

“Ask yourself why you are planting things here, why you are watering them today — and remember to observe. It will help you be more in touch, not only with the plants in your garden, but with all the things that live in and around the garden.”

Florence Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of each month from September to June at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101, at 1 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

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