

DREDGE from page 1A

This is a more difficult procedure than might be expected due to the shifting tides and the accumulation of years of river and ocean debris being deposited on the river bottom near the port.

The completion of this aspect of the process is dependent on the timing and level of the tides in the estuary. It can also be delayed by weather, both of which have played a part in the minor delays in starting to actually “move mud,” as the workers said.

This week, crews from the International Port of Coos Bay have been placing the refuse pipes from locations in the marina to the area



Workers from the International Port of Coos Bay maneuver the dredge Laura into place to begin dredging the Siuslaw River bottom below the docks, navigational channels and slip areas of the Port of Siuslaw. The project will take approximately two weeks and should remove hundreds of tons of debris, which is an impediment to safe boating in the estuary.

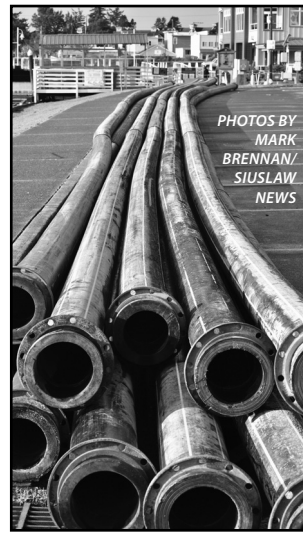
that will serve as a way station for the waste drawn from the river.

Siuslaw Port Manager Dave Huntington says the process of prepping the port waters is progressing well and the actual removal of

debris will begin soon.

“Right now, they are laying the pipes from the area where they will be dredging, to the back part of the port where we will be pumping the mud and dirt,” he said. “They brought a small crew

from Coos Bay and with this weather it’s taken a little longer that we thought to get everything ready to dredge. Yesterday we moved the dredge to the dock by Novelli’s and the pipes should be in place by the end of



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MARK
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NEWS

the day, which means we are really close to starting to remove the mud from the area.”

People can expect to see the dredge in action on Monday, circumstances permitting.

EXPO from page 1A

What started as more of a tour of classrooms and student projects soon morphed into the chance to highlight not only the Siuslaw and Mapleton schools, but the other area organizations who serve the families and youth of the Siuslaw region.

“We realized what we could really do with this is have the school be a gathering point for lots of different ways that organizations educate in the community,” Orr said.

More than 60 organizations have already signed on to partner with or attend the event.

“There was a lot of interest,” he added. “It’s something that hasn’t been done before, to our knowledge.”

Plus, Orr said there are still several groups he hasn’t approached about including, but would be more than

welcome to contact him about participating.

“We have a lot of different organizations that we hope will be of interest to the whole community — every age group, every constituency,” he said. “We’re having all of these organizations all in one place, at one time, and people can just wander and talk to representatives.”

Groups from both within and without the region will attend, including the expected child-focused groups such as Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County, Shoreline Christian School, Wildflower Montessori School, Head Start and area preschools, and that less expected groups, namely, the Siuslaw Rod & Gun Club, would also set up a table, possibly with safety demonstrations.

“They’ll likely be talking about gun safety, which is very educational and very

important,” Orr said.

The partners also include regional organizations, such as Siuslaw Public Library, the Siuslaw Vision, Western Lane Ambulance District and others who serve the entire population, including the upriver communities. Orr also hopes to add more Mapleton representation.

“As the ASPIRE program has expanded to Mapleton High School, we have more connections,” he said. “The two communities are pretty closely linked in a lot of ways.”

Dunes City is also a partner, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians will be in attendance.

“We really hope that we get a large turnout of people from the whole community who just come to see what the educational opportunities are,” Orr said. “A lot of these clubs and organi-

zations might not be in the forefront of everybody’s minds, but I’m hoping that people will be able to come in and find an organization they are particularly interested in and sign up to join or participate in some way.”

The expo will feature tables set up for up to 75 organizations in the SHS commons, gymnasium and library. Additional rooms will be open throughout the school as students help lead tours.

The middle of the expo will feature comments from several community notables, such as Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak, Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O’Mara, Florence Mayor Joe Henry and Dunes City Mayor Bob Forsythe. Other dignitaries may also attend.

Throughout the event will be performances by Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW), Coastal Fitness and the music programs of Siuslaw School District. The Siuslaw culinary class will make cookies and there will be activities for youth who attend.

“We want people to bring their children,” Orr said. “It’s definitely a family event, it’s definitely a community-wide event. It certainly seems like people have caught on, just from the number of sign ups.”

Vehicles from emergency service groups will be out front, as well as the operating station of the Central

Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Students will be involved in a number of ways, especially as the National Honor Society at SHS has been working to help plan the event. Other student participants will come from Leadership, Rotary Interact and Key Club. In addition, Eddie Mielke’s Business/Design Crew at SHS will make the Siuslaw Education Expo signs and posters that will soon be visible around town.

In the next month and a half, Orr will visit more community groups to garner interest about the Siuslaw Education Expo and the other educational causes he champions.

“People said, ‘You’ll get involved in lots of things, and then you’ll have to scale back,’” he said. “My problem is, I can’t scale back. It’s too much fun.”

The participants seem to think so, too, as more groups confirmed their attendance this week.

“We want the whole community there,” Orr said. “The education expo is experimental, as we’ve not tried it before, but I think it’s going to be a lot of fun and just a great way to have people come together about education.”

For more information about the expo, visit <https://bit.ly/siuslaweducationexpo> (must enter whole address; case sensitive) or facebook.com/siuslawexpo.

Orr can be contacted at learn@educationexpo.org.

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