





Education Expo

Florence, Oregon
February 29, 2020
Sponsored by the Siuslaw School District

Siuslaw High School

What's
happening
in the
Siuslaw
region

INSIDE — A6

Urban Renewal authorizes \$400,000 for ReVision monuments

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) met Feb. 26 at Florence City Hall with a short agenda but faced a decision on whether or not to spend thousands of dollars for two gateway monuments on Maple Street, as one of the final pieces in this phase of the ReVision Florence Streetscaping Project.

The agency began the meeting with Chairperson Bill Meyer welcoming new member Mark Tilton to FURA. The attention of the group was then directed to issues related to the ongoing ReVision Florence project.

The original ReVision Florence called for monuments to be built

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PTA's brave kids earn 'bravos'



PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Community PTA hosted its annual Brave Kids Talent Show for Siuslaw students on Wednesday and Thursday at Florence Events Center. This year featured 31 acts between the two nights, including "Don't Stop Me Now" by some very brave teachers.

Siuslaw Elementary music teacher Amanda Sarles coordinated the event, including student auditions, music arrangements and the volunteers who help put the event on each year.

According to PTA Treasurer Diane McCalmont, "It took a lot for some of the kids to get up on stage at the FEC. What we were most impressed by was the kids' own ideas of self expression.



the FEC that supports our kids. It was a big deal for them," McCalmont said.

The next PTA meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10, at 4:30 p.m. at Siuslaw Elementary School Library. It is open to the public. For more information, visit www.florencepta.org.



They only needed a little coaching before they performed."

Florence Community PTA thanks the performers, audience, volunteers and the event center.

"Everything was so wonderful and just a great experience. We are blessed to be able to have

Three Rivers Foundation awards statewide grants to 46 nonprofits

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Three Rivers Foundation held its annual Grant Awards Luncheon on Feb. 27 at Three Rivers Casino Resort in Florence.

The Three Rivers Foundation was established in 2011 to serve as the charitable arm of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians in order to provide funding to a wide array of charitable organizations determined to play important roles in the future wellbeing of Oregon.

Some of the areas the foundation provides funding for include education, health, public safety, arts, the environment, historic preservation, and various cultural activities.

There are some eligibility requirements that interested organizations should be aware of when applying for a grant, which include being registered as a 501(c)3 and requesting funds for project within the state.

The luncheon began at noon with a warm welcome given by Three Rivers Trustee Mark Petrie. Petrie is involved with a number of organizations in addition to his work with the foundation, including Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, The Pregnancy and Planning Center, Friends of Trees and the Oregon Coast Youth Symphony.

Petrie is noticeably younger than many of the individuals involved in the luncheon and his enthusiasm was evident in the short but serious introduction he gave to attendees. He also recapped the numbers involved in this year's awards.

"A total of 46 organizations received funding this year, and more than 700,000 volunteer hours were



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Three Rivers Trustee Mark Petrie welcomes attendees to Three Rivers Foundation's annual Grant Awards Luncheon.

donated by members of these organizations," Petrie said. "More than 400,000 people were helped by those organizations."

At this point, Petrie introduced members of the Tribal Council and the Trustees of the Three River Foundation, which included Lane County Commissioner Pat Farr.

See THREE RIVERS page 9A

State, local agencies address virus concerns

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

As fears of the coronavirus COVID-19 begin to spread across the globe, local and state officials, including PeaceHealth Peace Harbor, Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD), Siuslaw School District and the state of Oregon are preparing for a possible outbreak with one clear message — be prepared and don't panic.

"Let me be clear," said Oregon Gov. Kate Brown in a statement Friday. "As of today, there are zero confirmed cases of coronavirus in Oregon, and the risk to Oregonians of contracting the coronavirus remains low."

"At this time, we have no confirmed cases at any PeaceHealth

See VIRUS page 8A

The voices of Mapleton HS

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

On Feb. 12, a group of 20 students at Mapleton High School gathered to discuss the state of the school district. The discussion was completely student run, with the students separated into groups of five to go over a variety of issues, from absenteeism to the behavioral and emotional needs of students.

The purpose: students were to weigh in on how the district should spend over \$200,000 it will be receiving from the Student Success Act (SSA), a piece of legislation passed by Oregon lawmakers late

last year. One of the stipulations of receiving the funds is that districts across the state hold public meetings to give input on how the funds were spent. One of Mapleton's first meetings was held to gain student input in an open, honest and non-confrontational way.

In the past two editions of the *Siuslaw News*, the results of those conversations have been looked at, from Mapleton student's feelings on Friday school, to the state of school lunch. There were also a number of issues that could not be directly fixed by the funds, including topics ranging from school bullying to state testing. In this final part of this

series, the students give their feelings on the relationship between students and teachers in the district.

By the time the students had gotten to that topic, they had already been through two rounds of discussions. Each group was led by a student, in this case junior JJ Neece. On the topic of academics, he was joined by students Phillip Burnett, Micayla Flansberg, Opal Burruss and Stewart Clifton.

But before the discussion began, Sue Wilson from Lane Education Service District (ESD), who helped organize the student discussion and is helping the district facilitate SSA

conversations, shared an observation.

"I just have to say I love students," she said. "Two different tables acknowledged that the group here, while maybe representative of the school, maybe doesn't include some voices that probably need to be here to answer this question. And that's deep feedback."

She stated that it was the responsibility of the students involved, and of the community in general, to get the opinions of those unheard voices to the district.

"Take these questions to them and ask, 'What would you say?' And then share their voice forward.

See VOICES page 7A

Part II — Forum allows students to discuss district's bug issues

Siuslaw News

NEWS &
VIEWS THAT
DEFINE OUR
COMMUNITY

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Full forecast on A3

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Stunning photos on display at OPB

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SPORTS



Bowlers place at state

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