

Community News

Siuslaw School District receives grant from First Book, Lego

In August, Siuslaw School District Business Manager and first-grade teacher Shannon Graham announced that the school district received a generous grant from First Book, CDW-G, Intel and Lego.

“Siuslaw School District was one of only 45 school districts in the United States to be chosen to receive this incredibly generous grant,” the two announced in an official press release.

A recent survey found that 40 percent of children do not

have reliable internet and almost 40 percent are without access to functioning devices.

The closure of schools in March exacerbated an existing crisis in education for children in poverty, millions of whom do not have access to enable virtual learning. These children are isolated without educational support and are falling further behind.

To help address the widening digital divide, education and technology companies

came together to announce a first of its kind grant: Creating Learning Connections (CLC) grant. The grant aims to provide a holistic learning experience to students in the U.S., most notably those impacted by COVID-19.

“We are so excited to announce our district was awarded 350 fully configured Chromebooks and 20 sets of LEGO Education learning solutions, which teach students STEAM concepts with LEGO bricks, and a \$4,000 stipend to help subsidize the cost of the internet for families we serve,” Blake and Graham stated.

The 20 new Lego Solutions kits will provide the district with the ability to send kits home for all kids enrolled in Siuslaw Middle School’s Lego Robotics program. The students will be able to participate in STEAM education through comprehensive distance learning.

“We feel that this is an incredible gift to the students and families in our school district, which is also how we are able to ensure that every single student in our district will have access to a Chromebook to help make distance learning online more attainable for all,” the two said.

As part of the CLC grant, underserved families in 17 states will receive support, with nearly 15,000 devices and 7,500 LEGO Education solutions being delivered to 45 School Districts.

“This grant illustrates the critical need for, but also the power of teaching with, technology and hands-on solutions to engage and inspire students wherever and however they are learning. It’s never been more important to provide as many students as possible with playful learning opportunities that can help build their confidence and ultimately inspire

a lifelong love of learning,” said Esben Stærk, president of LEGO Education. “We look forward to seeing all that these well-deserving teachers and students are able to achieve with the resources provided through this program. From making a mistake and trying again, to overcoming challenging circumstances, kids teach us the important lesson that with creativity and resilience, you can always rebuild, thrive, and succeed.”

Learn more about the CLC initiative at www.firstbook.org/creatinglearningconnections.

Register soon for fall term classes at LCC Florence

While Lane Community College continues to conduct classes and provide services for students, all campus locations, including the Florence Center, are still closed to the public.

In Florence, the school is winding down its summer classes and getting ready for its usual summer break — Aug. 14 through Labor Day — but online services through the main campus in Eugene will remain avail-

able. Visit www.lanec.edu/covid19/service-availability to see which services are available and when.

For the fall term, all classes will continue to be offered via remote instruction (with a few exceptions), meaning live-streamed, interactive online instruction, traditional online classes or a combination of the two.

Registration for fall credit classes is open now.

New student services,

including placement testing, advising services and financial aid assistance, are all available online. To learn more about getting started at LCC, visit www.lanec.edu/admissions/online-information-sessions to sign up for an online informational webinar.

Registration for LCC’s Continuing Education classes begins Sept. 8. The fall class schedule will be available in the Sept. 5th edition

of the *Siuslaw News* and will be available online — just follow the link at www.lanec.edu/ce to browse class listings.

Because all instruction will be remote, an expanded selection of classes will be available to our community members, including those offered through Eugene and Cottage Grove campuses.

For assistance in registering for classes, call 541-997-8444.

Backstreet calls artists to the ‘Shell-a-bration’ Challenge

Let’s “Shell-a-brate!”

Backstreet Gallery invites community members and artists to take the “Shell-a-bration” shell challenge now through Oct. 15.

To participate, people can pick up a bag of shells, an application and pay the \$15 entry fee. Artists are encouraged to use the shells, add their own if they wish, acti-

vate their imagination and create.

Submitted entries may be two- or three-dimensional. There are no limitations on creativity, but the rules and application contain information on size restrictions and other relevant information.

People should hurry to get their entry form and shells, as supplies are limited.

The juried Shell-a-bration Show will hang for six weeks starting Nov. 15.

Pick up the rules and application at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St. in Historic Old Town Florence. People should submit the entry form to the gallery by Oct. 15 and bring the completed project to the gallery by Nov. 8.

Jurors will award ribbons

for this special, shell of a show. As the show runs from mid-November through December, the timing of the show makes the entries perfect for Christmas and holiday gifts.

The gallery is open Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

So go forth and Shell-a-brate and create!

Parenting Now! offers virtual support for county families

During the COVID-19 pandemic, families need support now more than ever, which is why the Lane County nonprofit Parenting Now! has moved its programs to a virtual platform to provide support, parenting education and more — all while safely practicing social distancing.

Currently, Parenting Now! is offering free “One-2-One” support, a program where

parents can chat with a parenting educator weekly or bi-weekly, or whatever they need. Families can select which platform works best for them, including phone, text or email.

In addition, Parenting Now! is hosting a virtual “Baby Connection” for families with infants one year and younger, live discussions via Zoom on a wide variety of

parenting topics, as well as prerecorded “Circle Time” videos.

Starting in mid-September, Parenting Now! will start hosting virtual parenting groups for its “First Three Years” Program and “Make Parenting A Pleasure.”

These programs are vital for families in Lane County. Parenting Now! is a non-

profit offering groups and workshops so that all children are raised by nurturing, skilled parents.

Parenting Now! can be found at www.parenting-now.org and on Facebook and Twitter.

Locally, people can contact Jen Nelson, Family Support Specialist with Healthy Families and Parenting Now!, at 541-999-4880.

Aug. 26 event honors ratification of the 19th Amendment

On Wednesday, Aug. 26, in Historic Old Town Florence, the community is invited to attend the 100-year celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

This is a non-partisan event to honor the Suffragists who fought for equal rights for all women.

Note: Masks are required and social distancing will be practiced.

A parade/march starts at 1 p.m. Participants will leave the parking lot just west of the Veteran’s Memorial Park at 1200

Bay St., traveling east on Bay Street, turning left up Maple Street to end at the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum parking lot, 278 Maple St.

During the event, excerpts of historic speeches by notable Suffragists will be reenacted outdoors by actors from the Last Resort Players and the John Quay

Heritage Players.

Actors will appear in period costumes.

There will also be a presentation from League of Women voters and music and a performance by the Dancing Divas.

Voter registration and information will be also available after the event at the Old Town Gazebo Park.