

# Community invited to show Viking football spirit

The first home Siuslaw football game is Friday, March 12, and Viking supporters want to show Viking Pride and community spirit.

“So, it is even more important than ever for our football team to feel the support of the community,” said Jennifer Waggoner, who is organizing

a way for community members to show their spirit and help support the team. Starting this week, community members are encouraged to place a sign in their yard or at

their business. Fans can host a Viking football sign in their yard for \$25. Request one by emailing Waggoner at [jwaggoner@peak.org](mailto:jwaggoner@peak.org) or text her at 541-520-1255. There are a limited number of signs

available. Also starting this week, the community is invited to deck out their businesses with Blue and Gold and as much Viking spirit as they can. A panel of judges will pick the

winning business, which will receive a supply of Siuslaw football shirts and a cookie variety basket from Glitter and Sprinkles Sweetery. Judging will take place this Thursday, March 11.

## Sailors from 1B

whose pass on the third down was deflected by Neece. The ball was snatched up by Sailor senior Jeremy Bender, who returned it for 32 yards before he was taken down. Once the defense had propelled Mapleton's momentum forward, it was time for offense to catch up. Greene said his offense struggled at first because they couldn't get the snap going. After a timeout, the Sailors brought in Emily Neece at center — and the offense came together. “[Emily] came in and it was the first time she's ever played. She snapped the ball and it was perfect,” Greene said. “You have so many different emotions when you come in for the first time, especially [at] center. She's going up against a boy. She came in and she did well.” As soon as the Sailors got the snap, JJ Neece scored on a 40-yard run and, before they knew it, the Panthers were down

14 to 0. Mapleton picked up one more touchdown and two-point conversion before Chiloquin was able to score its first eight points, bringing the score to 22-8. At this point, the Sailors first snapped the ball to run a pass play, and senior AJ Moso ran a post-route to receive from JJ Neece. “JJ threw it about 45 yards in the air,” said Greene, “and right in stride AJ caught it and ran the rest of the way for a touchdown.” Mapleton then scored another touchdown on another pass from Neece to Moso, along with the two-point conversion. “AJ made a pretty spectacular catch. It was the last play before the half, and that kind of sealed it,” Greene said. At halftime, Mapleton led 44-8, prompting the “mercy rule” running clock for the remainder of the game due to the Sailors' more than 35-point lead. The whole team contributed to the success of the Sailors. Senior Phillip

Burnett caught a ball on a counter and ran it for 42 yards to score a touchdown. Junior Joe Shepard had two two-point conversions, one rushing, and one caught in the end zone. One proud moment for Greene was watching sophomore Mason Flansberg catch his first-ever pass in game, on a throw from Moso. “[Flansberg] ran for 12 yards, and he was so excited when he caught it. It made his day,” Greene said. “I thought it was pretty thrilling to see that; you always remember the first time you catch a ball, so I thought it was pretty cool.” The bulk of Mapleton's touchdowns came from JJ Neece, who had six in total. “He's just a phenomenal athlete,” Greene said of Neece, who had a pick six, threw for a touchdown and ran for four touch-

downs. He finished with two touchdown catches for 100 yards, had seven carries for 159 yards, four sacks and three cause-fumbles in the game. “JJ was a wrecking ball, he plays at a high level. He's just bigger, faster and stronger than most of these kids. And when he comes in there, it's fun to watch.” On defense, sophomore Jeff Bernhardt had a couple of sacks at defensive end. Senior Jesse Hughes had a sack on the quarterback, and seniors Ryan Bernhardt and Moso each had a sack as well. Greene was delighted with his team's efforts. “I was really proud. It's a good team win with everything that went down, and they had so much fun. They're creating memories,” said Greene. “The bus ride there, and going to McDonald's on a Friday night after the

game and having fun. That's what you remember about team sports — the camaraderie with each other, the relationships you have, and how much fun you have on the road.” Mapleton's next game

is a non-league game this Friday (March 12) at Lost River (Hidden Valley High School) at 2:30 p.m. As with all sporting events this season, no spectators are allowed to attend the game.

## Soccer from 1B

Defensively, junior goalkeeper Kayden Lane made 12 saves over the course of the game, including five in the first half and seven in the second. “He played a great game,” said Tomaro. In addition to Lane holding the Pirates on defense, the Viks' offense pushed through the Marshfield defense with several attacks, especially toward the end of the game. Compared to the first half, during which Siuslaw only took one shot at the goal, the Vikings got off seven attempts in the second half. “Some were very nearly goals,” Tomaro said. Of the 10 shots taken on offense, junior Daniel Paasch had two, sopho-

more Dez Anderson had four, senior Jaxson Jensen had three, and sophomore Yoskar De La Mora had one. On the whole, Tomaro said she was pleased with her squad's tenacity in its first match at the varsity level. “We have some things to work on, as any team does. But overall, I am proud of our team's efforts,” said Tomaro. “I'm looking forward to continuing to grow and improve together as a team — and I'm excited to see how the rest of the season goes.” The Vikings play at home against Elmira this Thursday (March 11), beginning at 6:30 p.m. As with all sporting events this season, no spectators are allowed to attend the game.

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