

HYBRID from page 1A

For Grzeskowiak, March 12, 2020, was “when the world changed for us for the last 365 days.”

He talked about the immediate aftereffects of the order and the many efforts the district has undertaken to keep students learning and well-adjusted during a global pandemic. These have all culminated in districts across the state switching to hybrid or full on-campus instruction by this spring.

As Brown said in a statement, “One year later, thanks to the hard work and smart choices of Oregonians to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, I am so pleased to see over 174,000 students back in the learning envi-

ronment that serves them best: in-person instruction.”

Now, Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority are working on the latest installation of “Ready Schools, Safe Learners,” the guideline for school districts’ reopening.

Grzeskowiak said the update likely will include new rules for transportation. Any suggested changes will go in effect a couple weeks after spring break, at the start of the fourth quarter. The district will be in touch with families as soon as more information becomes available.

“It’s been worthwhile getting kids back in the building and seeing things get back to some level of

“It’s that natural social growth and development that happens in schools, which is just as important, or more important, than just the academic piece. It’s been fun watching some of that and just making sure that they’re up and running and having the opportunity to be students, and not just learners on the other side of the screen.”
— Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak

normal,” Grzeskowiak said. “Now that people have had kids in the classroom, and even though it’s been just a couple of days, I think people feel better.”

The community has noticed as well, especially as the district’s school buses are back on the streets and transporting kids to and

from school. During the March 10 Siuslaw School Board meeting, the district’s administrators

gave notes on their expectations for the new hybrid model.

According to Siuslaw High School Principal Garth Gerot and Vice Principal Dave Goetz, “Staff and students are both extremely excited to start in-person learning again after almost a year of being off campus.”

In their report, Siuslaw Middle School Principal Andy Marohl and Vice Principal Nathan Green wrote, “The staff is very excited to welcome students back to in-person instruction. ... This is the first step to what we hope is a return to more time for students at school.”

Special Services Director Lisa Utz said the Life Skills and Resource programs are currently serving students in both CDL and hybrid learning.

At several weeks in, Siuslaw Elementary “students and staff alike have adjusted well to new routines in hybrid learning,” stated Principal Mike Harklerode

and Vice Principal Leonard Ulrich.

On Friday, Grzeskowiak said he was able to walk the halls of the campus, where he got to see people interacting and sharing smiles. While not a full return of all students or a full school day, it was important to get the students back to in-person instruction.

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For more information, visit siuslaw.k12.or.us.

PLANNING from page 1A

as well as the process and the overall interpretation used by city staff when assessing the fines.

He cited multiple examples directly from City Code which he believes relieves his LCC of the requirements cited by FarleyCampbell in her memorandum explaining the violations, and which was included in the informational packet for the meeting.

“After being presented with paperwork and written citation demands from the Florence Police Department and delivered to me personally at my home by your enforcement officer, and in addition to writing a check for \$2,000 to cover the fines on Jan. 21, I have carefully reviewed the vegetation approval, staff report and findings of fact,” Pearson said. “Along with numerous emails between Wendy FarleyCampbell and I, and according to City Code I found on the city’s website that outlines the vegetation clearing as referenced above, it appears my company is exempt from being required to obtain a permit.”

Pearson continued by refuting the specifics of the violation in addition to the city requirement that he obtain a wetlands report. He pointed to a code which, as he interpreted it, does not require a wetlands report because it is less than half an acre in size.

He said that this process has caused unnecessary months of delay in the construction process.

The points raised by Pearson were refuted to a certain degree by FarleyCampbell. However, the specificity of Pearson’s arguments prompted her and

the Planning Commission to agree to request an opinion from City Attorney Ross Williamson.

“I’d like to suggest we maybe request Wendy to get with the city attorney about the procedures we would need to go through so that we maintain our rules and regulations and all of us can read and re-read Mr. Pearson’s correspondence in the meantime,” Tarvin said.

In summary the violations charged include:

- Failure to get a vegetation clearing permit for clearing. The permit was not valid without a signed Affidavit of Acceptance. Also, clearing was performed off-site, notably on the golf course property.

- Clearing of vegetation within the 20’ buffer along property lines. Area was to be demarcated with fencing or tape. Within the buffer shrubs could be manually cut to a width of 24” to gain access to a survey point.

- Failure to flag trees and have them inspected prior to felling, limiting removal to those necessary for accessing survey points along lot lines, leaving vegetation within the internal areas of the proposed lots.

- Clearing of vegetation within a 50’ buffer along wetland boundaries. Buffer area was to be demarcated with fencing or tape.

- The applicant did not file acceptance of the approval, did not flag the site and call for an inspection, ignored the clearing limits and restrictions, and cleared property they did not own or have a permit for.

The \$2,000 fine imposed might have been considerably higher pursuant to the General Penalty clause contained in Code Section 1-4-1. In this section, it is stated that each offense shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500, with each day constituting a separate offense, along with the potential of withholding or revoking of the business license, final PUD or subdivision approval, building permits, and suspension of building inspections until each offense has been satisfactorily mitigated.

The amount of information presented by Pearson and the difference in interpretation of City Code led to a suggestion by Tarvin that the commissioners would benefit from a site visit and the need for more time to consider Pearson’s correspondence.

The suggestion then prompted the Planning Commission to postpone

any decision on the fines until a later meeting. This would allow all commissioners to visit the site and hear from the attorney on the legal aspects of the discussion.

The commissioners agreed this was best and the subject was tabled for now, with FarleyCampbell agreeing to coordinate a site visit and a discussion with Williamson.

The parking discussion that followed was related to the proposed multi-residential complex being built by Northwest Housing Alternatives (NHA) located immediately south of Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw on the east side of Highway 101, between 35th and 42nd streets.

NHA has requested an exemption from the total number of parking spots required by the city for the project, and also provided responses to questions put to the group by commis-

sioners at their February meeting. Representatives from NHA, Chris Clemow and Desi Bellamy, were on hand to provide the answers to the questions submitted by commissioners.

There were a few new questions from commissioners regarding the percentage of subsidized units in the Shore Acres development and the expected percentage of senior residents that would be living in the development. But the main concern expressed by commissioners was the need for a more thorough and up-to-date traffic survey of the area. This was agreed upon by the commissioners and a new traffic survey will be conducted during a weekend period in the near future.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for March 23. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

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GAYLE VINCHESI

Gayle Vinchesi is the Diamond of Our Club

CLARITY - What you see is what you get.
Gayle is a caring giving person who dedicates much of her time to the children of our community. In 2016 Gayle was recognized as Florence’s First Citizen

COLOR - Subtle differences in color can dramatically affect diamond value.
Gayle is clearly a genuine and loyal person who exemplifies all the values of a Rotarian. Her value to our Club, The Siuslaw Library and the community, is unmeasurable.

CUT - When a diamond interacts with light, every angle and every facet affects the amount of light returned to the eye
Gayle radiates the light of kindness with everyone she meets and that light not only dazzles, but it is also contagious.

WEIGHT - The metric carat is divided into one hundred points
Gayle’s 100 points of kindness is reflected in her selfless giving to our community in so many ways as . . .

- An active Rotarian and Board Member over several years
- The leader of Rotary’s “Read Across America” program
- Manager of Rotary’s Annual Dictionary Giveaway to our community children
- The Executive Director of West Lane Community Foundation
- A major contributor of her time and services to the Soroptimist Club
- Florence’s Youth Services Librarian where she manages programs and story time for:
 - ✓ Headstart
 - ✓ Florence School District
 - ✓ Florence & Mapleton Preschools
 - ✓ Boys & Girls Club

STORY TIME AT THE LIBRARY

HARD AT WORK AT AUCTION