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## Siuslaw News

**Siuslaw News**  
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY  
VOL. 131, NO. 31  
APRIL 17, 2021  
FLORENCE, OREGON

**WEATHER**



Sunshine all day with a high of 71 and a low of 44.  
Full forecast on A3

**COMMUNITY**



Chamber displays paintings by artist  
INSIDE — A3

**SPORTS**



Baseball season begins  
INSIDE — B

**RECORDS**  
Obituaries & emergency response logs  
Inside — A2

**SIDE SHOW**  
Activities and comics every Saturday  
Inside — B4

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
Listings and public notices  
Inside — B5

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**Siuslaw seniors close out football season**  
INSIDE — B

### School board continues superintendent contract

*Combined budget, board meeting covers finances, agreements*

By CHANTELLE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Both the Siuslaw School District Board of Directors and Budget Committee met virtually on Wednesday, April 14. The meeting was led by Board Vice Chair Paul Burns, as Chair Bob Sneddon will be unavailable through mid-May. However, all other board mem-

bers were present for the meeting, which began with a work session for the Budget Committee.

First, the committee nominated area residents Joel Marks as the new committee chair and Cindy Spinner as vice chair.

Next, Siuslaw Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak stated the budget message, followed by Business Manager Kari Blake, who present-

ed the budget material and timeline.

"I don't like to give people a big, complicated document with no context, so this is the meeting where I'm able to explain all [about the budget]," Blake said. "We'll reconvene in two weeks, which will give you the time to take a look at the budget document."

See SIUSLAW page 7A

### Clay Target League teaches safety, respect



Students in the Siuslaw Clay Target League took time on Thursday to go over gun safety and practice shooting with team advisors and members of the Siuslaw Rod and Gun Club.

### Siuslaw School District shooting team begins season with training

STORY & PHOTO  
By MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

"Safety. Fun. Marksmanship." Those were the words repeated over and over to the small group of Siuslaw School District students gathered Thursday afternoon at the Siuslaw Rod and Gun Club on Munsell Creek Road.

It was a bright and sunny afternoon when Sean Grundon, the coach of the recently formed Siuslaw Clay Target League, asked the students what the group's priority was.

There was a brief pause before the students said loudly, "SAFETY."

The concepts, practices and tech-

niques needed to stay safe while using firearms are at the center of all the discussions between the new coach and his team of students. Respect for the deadly nature of the sport they have decided to learn requires a much higher level of vigilance and attention than most school activities; a mistake in this sport could have dire consequences.

Grundon teaches mathematics at Siuslaw Middle School and stresses the need for safety at every opportunity when discussing the district's participation in the USA High School Clay Target League.

He has assembled a group of both boys and girls who are interested in shooting. After making sure all the students are wearing eye and ear

protection, he hands each student a brand-new shotgun.

The shotguns were purchased with the help of local donors who view shooting as a sport and family recreation option. There is no cost for the students to use the firearms but there is a participation fee which covers the cost of the ammunition used by the student — a cost expected to be about \$200 this season.

The USA High School Clay Target League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and a proponent of shooting sports as an extracurricular co-ed activity for students in grades six through 12 who have their firearm safety certification.

See LEAGUE page 8A

### Public Art Committee learns about 'Questing'

By MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Public Art Committee (PAC) met Monday, April 12, with an eye towards discussing future options for art-related activities and displays in and around the city. The PAC has overseen the acquisition and exhibition of some pieces of the fledgling city-owned art collection, and along the way has weathered heated public criticism due to those selections, only to emerge intact and viable.

The agenda for the meeting was brief, with the highlight being a presentation from Dina Pavlis and Joey Curtola on the logistical specifics and benefits possibly accrued by increasing city participation in "Oregon Quests" treasure hunts.

City Recorder Kelli Weese and

Economic Catalyst Sarah Moehrke facilitated the PAC meeting, which was held virtually, and Vice Chair Jo Beaudreau assisted with the presentation.

Oregon Quests is an educationally oriented statewide effort to draw the curious and the history minded to interesting locations, primarily on the Oregon Coast. It is funded through grants offered by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and administered in this area by Oregon State University (OSU).

Pavlis, a local naturalist who is very familiar with the geography and physical attributes of the natural landscapes in the Siuslaw region, has led educational tours and held classes in area parks and wetlands for years in her work with Oregon Department of Forestry.

Her presentation was made in support of a program sponsored by OSU as part of the university's Sea Grant program, which focuses on understanding the ecological, social and economic aspects of coastal and marine conservation and industries.

The program also focuses on developing resilience to acute and chronic coastal and marine hazards, as well as adding to the understanding of the human and natural dimensions of coastal and marine fisheries.

One of the OSU funded programs is called the "Oregon Coast Quest," which is a less high-tech version of another popular treasure hunting activity — but using older tools to provide information and challenge participants.

See ART page 6A

### Oregon COVID-19 cases continue to climb

*Lane County to return to 'high risk' next week*

By CHANTELLE MEYER  
SIUSLAW NEWS

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown held a press conference Friday to address the rising number of cases of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the state.

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), April 14 reported 816 positive cases of COVID-19, the highest single-day count since data showed a decline in cases beginning in January. Thursday had an additional 733 confirmed cases, bringing the state's total cases to 172,931 since February 2020, with a death toll of 2,455.

According to OHA State Epidemiologist Dr. Dean Sidelinger, "Recent data is troubling, showing that the virus is again on the march throughout our state, sickening our friends and neighbors. Daily cases, hospitalizations, positive test rate and COVID-19 deaths are all on the upswing."

He said that daily cases of COVID-19 have more than doubled

See COVID-19 page 5A

### Planning Commission continues debate topics

By MARK BRENNAN  
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Florence Planning Commission met virtually on April 13, with all commissioners present. The agenda for the evening meeting was a return to two issues already discussed by the commission in prior meetings. Both topics have been debated for months, particularly penalties related to what the city considers clearing violations at a planned housing development at Fairway Estates.

There was also a return to an appeal filed to rebut a condition of approval being sought to continue development of a storage facility on approximately 4.5 acres owned by the City of Florence. The property in question is being developed with the intent of offering modern, secure storage and is located east of Kingwood Street, between the Florence Public Works complex and the Oregon Coast Military Museum.

The discussion of the Fairway Estates fines and the issuance of penalties for a number of essentially landscaping miscues has become contentious as both the applicant, Michael Pearson, and City Planner Wendy FarleyCampbell have chosen

See PLANNING page 6A

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