

# Library Tidings

News about the Siuslaw Public Library by Kevin Mittge

## Book Review "The Smallest Lights in the Universe" by Sara Seager

In the wake of tragedy, an MIT astrophysicist must reinvent herself and in the process discovers the power of connection on this planet, even as she searches our galaxy for another Earth. Sara Seager has always been in love with the stars:

so many lights in the sky, so much possibility. Now a pioneering planetary scientist, she looks for exoplanets — especially that distant, elusive world that sustains life. But with the unexpected death of Seager's husband, the purpose of her own life becomes hard for her to see. Suddenly, at 40, she is a widow and the single mother of two young boys.

For the first time, she feels alone in the universe.

As she struggles to navigate her life after loss, Seager takes solace in the alien beauty of exoplanets and the technical challenges of exploration. At

the same time, she discovers Earth-bound connections that feel every bit as wondrous, when strangers and loved ones alike reach out to her across the space of her grief.

Among them are the Widows of Concord, a group of women offering advice on everything from home maintenance to dating, and her beloved sons, Max and Alex. Most unexpected of all, there is another kind of one-in-a-billion match, not in the stars but here at home.

Probing and invigoratingly honest, "The Smallest Lights in the Universe" is its own kind

of light in the dark.

## Library Book Drop Now Open!

The Maple Street book drop (on the west side of the building) is now open 24/7. You can drop off items any time. One slot is for books while the other is for DVDs and CDs. We continue to offer returns in the lobby during browsing hours. The Mapleton branch library book drop is also open and available for returns.

## Browsing and Curbside

A lot of our patrons are enjoying the browsing hours at the library.

As reminder, the current browsing hours in Florence are Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.. In Mapleton browsing is on Thursdays, from noon to 5 p.m.

Additional hours will be added as quickly as we can.

Patrons are currently required to wear masks inside the library. Appointments are not necessary. We have new touchless check-out stations we encourage patrons to use. There is no seating at this time and meeting rooms are not available. You can bring your kids in to se-

lect books but toys are not available and we cannot accommodate play groups or meet-ups.

Meanwhile contactless curbside takeout service continues. Patrons can call the library, 541-997-3132, between 10am and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, to request materials, or use our online request form, 24/7, available on the library's website: [www.siuslawlibrary.info](http://www.siuslawlibrary.info). Materials are pulled for pick-up the following business day in Florence or the soonest Thursday in Mapleton (calls must be made before that Thursday).

# Officials seek public input on proposal to change Oregon Dunes motorized vehicle decibel limits

CORVALLIS—Siuslaw National Forest officials are seeking public input on potential changes to decibel (noise) limits for motorized vehicles at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (ODNRA). The goal of the proposed changes is to reduce noise impacts on neighboring communities while being more realistically attainable by riders.

The proposed decibel limits will also better align with State of Oregon regulations, provide consistency across motorized riding areas throughout the Siuslaw National Forest, and will be easier to enforce.

Based on years of monitoring, the sound limit of 93dBA that was established in the 1994 ODN-

RA management plan has been found to be unachievable by most modern, non-modified off-highway vehicles. This decibel limit is also out of alignment with state regulations, limiting opportunities for coordinated enforcement efforts.

The preliminary proposal changes the decibel limit for front-engine vehicles from 93dBA to 95dBA and the limit for all



COURTESY PHOTO

other motorized vehicles from 93dBA to 97dBA. As most noise-level complaints have stemmed from vehicles registering over 99dBA, the new limit is expected to strike the

balance between allowing motorized use while addressing concerns of visitors and residents.

"By raising the limit to better align with the state and being within the range

that is attainable by contemporary vehicles, we'll be better able to work with riders on compliance and provide the enforcement necessary to manage the noise violations that most impact our neighbors,"

explained Garrit Craig, deputy district ranger for the Central Coast Ranger District and ODNRA. "We encourage members of the public to review the project information and let us know what they think."

Documents that describe the preliminary proposal, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60053> in the Project Documents section.

Written comments on the proposal should be submitted electronically in common formats at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/ReadingRoom?Project=60053>.

They can also be mailed to Siuslaw National Forest, 3200 Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331 ATTN: Katie Isacksen.

Comments should be submitted by June 15, 2021.

## Lane County Planning Commission seeks new member from coastal area

There are three vacant positions on the Lane County Planning Commission and applications to fill those positions are being accepted now. Applicants must be residents of Lane County.

The open positions include: a representative of the Lane

County's Coastal area; a representative who lives within an incorporated city; an at-large representative. The Coastal area is defined as west of the eastern boundary of the Mapleton School District.

The Lane County Planning Commission is a 9-member

advisory board that makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding land use, comprehensive plan issues and amendments, as well as other regional planning issues. The group generally meets twice per month in the

evenings. "How we implement our comprehensive plan and issues related to land use is how we build our community for ourselves and future generations," said Lane County Planning Director Amber Bell. To learn more or download an application, visit [www.lane-county.org/volunteer](http://www.lane-county.org/volunteer).

## Pioneer Museum seeks volunteers

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, 278 Maple St., is looking for docents — volunteers to greet visitors — from the community. If six to eight people would be willing to volunteer four hours of their time each month, this would allow the museum to open for a day.

Currently, the museum is open noon to 4 p.m. on days when it opens. It has enough docents to be open two days each week as long as volunteers are available.

For more information, call 541-997-7884 or visit the museum on Facebook.



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