

Siuslaw News

WEDNESDAY

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Cronk to take editorial helm of Siuslaw News

STORY AND PHOTO BY JACK DAVIS
 Siuslaw News



Theresa Baer and Ryan Cronk

Siuslaw News Features Editor Ryan Cronk has been chosen to replace retiring Siuslaw News Editor Theresa Baer. Baer, 62, who has been editor since August 2007, will be leaving to spend time with her parents near Los Angeles. Friday, Jan. 16, will be her last day at the paper.

Cronk, 29, a native Oregonian, was hired as a reporter in 2008 and promoted to features editor in January 2012. Cronk will be only the third editor of the Siuslaw News since 1982.

"Ryan has shown the professionalism and attention to detail so necessary in the job of editor," Baer said. "He is also well respected by the rest of the staff. It is easy to say I am leaving the paper in capable hands."

Cronk graduated from the University of Oregon School of Journalism in 2008 and spent six months working for the Cottage Grove Sentinel before accepting the reporting position at the Siuslaw News.

"I'm deeply honored and excited to take on this important leadership role," Cronk said. "I've lived

See **EDITOR 11A**

Reward offered for info leading to arsonist

In the early morning hours of Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue responded to a fire at a commercial building at 19th and Pine streets in Florence. The building housed the law offices of Scott Bailey and Ron Gerber. Also located in the building was the Emergence drug and alcohol treatment program. The building and much of the personal property were a total loss. Bailey and Gerber report that they were able to salvage most of their client files, including estate-planning documents.

An investigation has determined that the fire was intentionally set. The International Association of Arson Investigators is offering a reward up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the fire.

Anyone with information about the Dec. 7 fire is urged to contact Detective Joe Feland of the Oregon State Police at 541-440-3321.

Newly elected council sworn in



PHOTO BY THERESA BAER/SIUSLAW NEWS

In a dual session for the Florence City Council Monday night, Jan. 5, three members of the past council stepped down and councilors and the new mayor elected in November took their seats at City Hall. Florence City Council now consists of George Lyddon, Susy Lacer, Mayor Joe Henry, new Council President Joshua Greene and new Council Vice President Ron Preisler. Former Mayor Nola Xavier passed the gavel to the council after an emotional goodbye and many thank yous to city staff and colleagues. More photos on page 3A.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

One lost dog drew the attention of many in the community, which eventually led to his finding his way home.

STORY AND PHOTO BY THERESA BAER
 Siuslaw News

Early in November, Janet Porter, of Florence, took her bevy of pets up to Herman Cape Peak for a good walk. The diverse pack of rescue dogs relish their comfortable and safe lives with the Porters and are well behaved, and excited to be out in the woods.

But on this trip, Foo, a 6-year-old Norwegian elkhound, took off for the hills. He would not come back when Janet called. She waited and waited and called and called, but he was off into the great wild. Eventually she had to return home without him.

Over the following weeks, Janet and husband Alan Porter returned repeatedly to Herman Cape searching for Foo, occasionally leaving food for him, occasionally meeting others and telling them of their search.

The Porters care deeply for Foo. He came as a stray to their house in Mississippi about five years ago. Alan said the dog had mange and heartworms and was nearly starved. Foo's family now includes, in addition to the Porters, Lucy, a Labrador mix about 10 years old; Blodwyn, a 5-year-old corgi; Panzer, an 8-year-old "mountain cur" the Porters call him; and Gidget, a beagle mix; all found or rescued near Mississippi where they lived until the big move to Oregon about a year-and-a-half ago.

Now they have a home on Mercer Lake Road, where they



Janet and Alan Porter flank Jill Barrett-Swinney, a driving force behind the search for the missing dog. They, along with their other rescue dogs, gathered at the Twin Lakes Store north of Florence to receive a huge Christmas basket of pet goodies. Foo, the wandering Norwegian elkhound, is front right, still sporting his bandaged paw, which was wounded during his adventure in the woods.

also keep horses.

Jill Barrett-Swinney also frequents Herman Cape Peak. This time of year she likes to take off into the woods by herself to hunt elk. Dressed in full camouflage, Jill startled Alan, who had returned to hunt for Foo, and he

told her his story of the missing dog.

Jill took the story seriously and began her own campaign to find Foo. She told her friends and other people who frequented the area. She told Howard and Honore Pazdral, who own prop-

erty on the peak, and the word spread. People, many of them strangers, contacted the Porters to check on Foo and hiked the area looking for him.

Janet said she couldn't help but

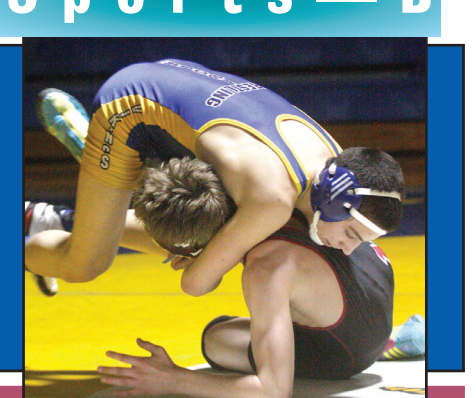
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Your Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Some rain
57 45	56 47	54 45	53 44



Sports — B

