



Siuslaw News

SATURDAY

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City offers Sheriff Turner police chief position

If accepted, Turner would begin Florence duties May 1

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Lane County Sheriff Tom Turner was offered the position of Florence police chief this week, under the conditions of a successful background check and contract negotiations.

Turner, 54, would take over the Florence duties May 1 from interim Chief Lynn Lamm, if the conditions are accepted. Lane County would then need to hire a temporary sheriff until the May 2016 election, in which voters will decide on a replacement.

Finding a new police chief was one of the Florence City Council's main goals this year.



Sheriff Tom Turner

"We upped the criteria, posted it and started accepting applications," City Manager Erin Reynolds said of the hiring process. "We did our first review on March 6. We had 12 applications."

Only two applicants matched what the city wanted.

"We were looking for a law enforcement perspective, a good,

strong career and heavy experience as a top-level something, whether that be a chief, sheriff, possibly a lieutenant or a captain, but someone who had experience at that level of leadership. That's not always easy to come by," Reynolds said.

She said Turner's experience placed him above the other applicant.

"Far and beyond Tom had that experience (we were looking for), and not only that, he had that local thing. And that was the other piece we were

really looking for, is that local connection," she said.

Turner said, "One of the things that was so fantastic about the opportunity is that's where I wanted to go. That's where I wanted to go back ever since I left."

He began his law enforcement career as a resident deputy for the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) in Florence in 1982.

See CHIEF 9A

Port rate increases encounter pushback

December Members voice concerns over proposed new costs

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

One item on the Port of Siuslaw's commission agenda for the March 18 meeting was a resolution to revise rates and fees. The proposed increases caused concern among the port's December Members.

Beginning Dec. 1, 2013, the Port of Siuslaw granted special advance reservation privileges to a group of RV campers designated the December Members. In order to receive the special advanced reservation benefit, guests had to have stayed at the port's RV park for a period of at least one month for three consecutive years.

Typically, December Member guests have both RVs in the park and boats moored at the port's dock facilities.

During the meeting, December Member Janine Strain said that under the proposed new rate structure, her boat moorage fee would increase from \$176 per month to \$337 per month.

According to port staff, the logic behind the increase was that the daily moorage rate was multiplied by four to achieve the weekly rate, while the daily campground rate was multiplied by six to determine the weekly rate. The goal was to have the campground and moorage weekly and monthly rates based on the same equations.

Strain told commissioners that she had called and received prices from Salmon Harbor RV Park in Winchester Bay on moorage rates. She said they were, "much less."

Board president Ron Caputo suggested tabling the issue until next month so further study could be done.

Commissioner Bill Fleenor said, "I think we need to put some specifics in, requesting staff to come back with some comparative rates and some internal justifications for how we are structuring the rates. Then we can have a better discussion as to whether these rates are appropriate or not."

Manager Bob Forsythe offered to send the information electronically to commissioners so they would have time to review it before the next meeting.

The motion to postpone rate increase discussions until April was approved.

See PORT 8A



Annie Schmidt as the "Stage Manager" narrates while Lyndsey Keppol as "Emily Webb" and Jesse Reeves as "George Gibbs" marry.

LAST RESORT PLAYERS REVIVE CLASSIC PLAY THIS WEEKEND

Last Resort Players raises the curtain on "Our Town" this weekend at the Florence Events Center, but for this production, it will be an imaginary curtain.

When Thornton Wilder wrote "Our Town" in the late 1930s, American audiences expected to see a theater production behind a proscenium arch and through what is called the "fourth wall." Wilder used the role of the Stage Manager to completely break this realistic illusion.



On stage most of the time and speaking directly to the audience, the Stage Manager goes far beyond audience expectation. The role includes

narrator, philosopher, stage manager and occasionally another acting assignment. The patriarchal figure makes sense of the daily living, love and marriage and the reality we face "when our fit" is over on this earth.

"Now, we can get on with the wedding," the Stage Manager says, removing an apron and donning a clerical collar, immediately switching from the drugstore owner, Mr. Morgan, to the minister who conducts the wedding. In Act III, the Stage Manager philosophizes on death and the eternal aspects of humankind while helping Emily make the transition from the world of the living to a more eternal state.

Originally written at a time when all stage managers were male, in recent years women have been more and more often cast in the role.

See TOWN 9A

Group forms to address herbicide use near Florence aquifer

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Members of the Protect Florence Aquifer citizens group spoke about the impact of herbicides on aquifers during Florence City Council's March 16 meeting.

Shauna Boyd, who has lived in the Florence area

since 2001, led the presentation during the public comment period.

"I represent a large group in Florence of concerned citizens. ... As we've done research, we've come to find that this could affect the entire community's water source. It's taken on a whole new urgency," she said.

Protect Florence Aquifer

represents residents from Florence and the surrounding areas who are concerned with the spraying of herbicides near residences, wildlife and, especially, water sources.

"This could affect more than just the north lakes area," Boyd said.

The area in contention is 80 acres owned by Howard

and Lisa Charnock in the hills above Clear and Collard lakes. The Charnocks sprayed their property with herbicides to prevent growth of Scotch broom, salmonberry and blackberry plants.

These invasive species thrive on logged land without prevention techniques.

The Charnocks chose to spray glyphosate aerially in

2014. This year, they will use a backpack crew to manually spray triclopyr.

While the Charnocks act within their rights as property owners, the concerned citizens question spraying herbicides so near to area streams that are part of the broader Siuslaw watershed.

See SPRAY 9A

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Your Weather			
TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Rain	Rain	Rain	Mostly Cloudy
57 45	55 45	53 45	56 46



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