

Volunteer from 1A

Wobbe dedicated her speech to her parents, David and Helen Brent, who instilled hard work and care for others in her from an early age. Wobbe especially honored her father, who died in 1999.

She mentioned her favorite quote, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee," and said, "It was planted in my heart by a father who believed in giving of himself and his resources in whatever way he could."

Through her resources, Wobbe provides meals to Habitat for Humanity crews, encourages girls' education in developing countries, runs the Grocery Outlet Pounding and helps the community in many other small, often invisible, ways.

She said, "I've come to believe that some of the most meaningful gifts given are the ones done anonymously, and that extraordinary things are accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit."

She thanked area volunteers, praising their dedication, hard-work, creativity, energy and intellect, for the causes they have championed in the last year.

"When (those go) back into



PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence First Citizen Cindy Wobbe speaks about the inspiration that led her to her active community service career. Above right, Suzanne Mann-Heintz introduces scholarship recipient Tucker Ford, 18, a senior at Mapleton High School.

your community for the benefit of others, it will change your corner of the world. It will also change you," she said.

According to FACC, there are 3,508 volunteers in the Florence area who donated a total of 149,609 hours of work last year.

"We all have a set of tools in our toolbox," Wobbe said, "a resume of strengths and assets that we can offer to worthy organizations and causes. This room is full of people who do just that."

One of those people, Tucker Ford, 18, received the 2015 FACC Scholarship for \$500.

Ford, a senior at Mapleton

High School with plans to attend Oregon State University, said, "As an aspiring professor and coach, I would like to contribute to the growth and development of the young adults that I will teach and coach in the future."

He plans to get a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in social studies and general education.

"I really want to thank the FACC again for helping me follow my dreams. I hope that one day, you will see that your investment in my education benefited not only me, but every community I'm involved in, whether it's locally or

nationally," Ford said.

"He's an extraordinary young man. We are delighted that he is the recipient," said FACC board member Suzanne Mann-Heintz. "It's so sweet for us to be able to honor a student and to honor the future."

Earnshaw praised the organizations and volunteers who attended, noting that the amount of hours that some volunteers donate amounts to a full-time job.

"These agencies and fellowships you see here are always welcoming newcomers to widen the diversity and broaden the scope of ideas and plans. Find a need and go there," she added.

Wobbe said, "I honor each of you who share so selflessly and tirelessly in so many ways."

"Take a fresh and fearless look at the gifts that are within you. Say yes to new opportunities to use them in the service of others. Choose a grasshopper and be a mentor. Speak gratitude with both your hands and your heart."

The event was sponsored by Three Rivers Foundation.

Homegrown provided hors d'oeuvres and FACC Treasurer David Wiegand provided musical accompaniment.

Western Lane Ambulance takes on fitness challenge

This past winter, 16 Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) employees and several family members took on the Firefighter Fitness Challenge of Lane County — and the results were astounding.

Tom Wiens, owner of Max Muscle Sports Nutrition in Eugene, launched the fitness challenge as a way of giving back to the community as well as helping the men and women in uniform.

The goal of the challenge was not only to lose weight, but also to gain muscle in order to create overall fitness in individuals and Fitness Challenge Teams.

A total of 149 challengers from various Lane County fire departments and ambulance districts completed the challenge, losing a combined 1,541 pounds, with an average

of 10.3 pounds per individual.

Five WLAD personnel formed Team Flab-u-less 5: Aaron Stefanik, Darrek Mullins, Dave Haberman, Zach Werner and Mandy Werner. They earned first place in the overall team category.

In the individual fitness categories for Top 3 Males, Haberman was a distinguished winner in that group. In the Top 3 Female category, honors went to Danielle Hanson.

"I lost 23 pounds of fat, gained 10 pounds of muscle, lost over 23 inches and 10 percent body fat," Hanson said.

She described it as an amazing experience, through the combination of peer support, competition and the drive to be healthy as the keys to her success. —Submitted by Al Kreitz, WLAD paramedic and public information officer

Farm from 1A

Other classes took turns riding horses and sharing a hayride on a flatbed trailer pulled by a vintage Ford tractor.

Feeding the shaggy, long-horned Scottish Highlander cows was one of the children's

favorite activities.

The pot-bellied pig was the only farm critter that did not seem interested in getting involved in the day's activities.

More than 30 Elliott family members and friends helped answer the myriad of questions posed by the inquisitive students and made sure the day stayed on schedule.

At 2 p.m. the students and chaperones returned to the school, with enough memories to last another 50 years.

Schofield knew she wanted to continue the farm field trip tradition years ago when she asked a first-grader where eggs came from. Having been raised on a farm, she was shocked to hear the response,

"From the store."

That reply was all the motivation she needed to determine to continue the family tradition.

"We enjoy doing this and the kids have fun," Schofield said. "And when they leave, hopefully they will know where an egg really comes from."

Sheriff from 1A

The other applicant was former Florence Police Chief and current Dunes City Councilor Maurice Sanders.

Each applicant got to speak to the board and then went on

to individual interviews.

After deliberating in executive session, the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to hire Trapp.

Once officially appointed Lane County sheriff by the commissioners, Trapp will have the option to run for the

position for a four-year term in the May 2016 election.

Lane County sheriff oversees a department with 274 employees, more than 200 volunteers and an annual budget of approximately \$69 million.

The sheriff is responsible

for the Lane County jail, police services and administrative divisions.

The annual salary for the position is \$123,438.

Water from 1A

She urged the city to take action, saying, "The group is asking that the city show some real demonstration and interest in protecting our Florence aquifer."

Shauna Boyd, founder of Protect Florence Aquifer, has brought the pesticide issue to the public by petitioning the community, the city council and the state. She recently testified in front of a state committee charged with crafting future legislation on pesticide use in Oregon.

"If the state protected us, none of us would be in this situation with an entire community's aquifer at risk," she said.

According to Boyd, recent studies have revealed 11 water sources in Oregon with pesticides and manmade chemicals.

"We're hoping that the laws will be changed," she said, especially with the addition of buffers for water sources and people.

Addressing the council, she said, "Please make an effort. ... When the community is concerned, we really count on you to help and respond and not forget about it."

Greene, who presided over the session in place of Mayor Joe Henry, who was absent, said, "We don't want you to have a misunderstanding. All of us looked into what we could and could not do."

The property on which the spraying occurs is to the north of Florence and out of the city's — and therefore the council's — jurisdiction.

The aquifer itself, and the Clear Lake Watershed, is managed by Heceta Water People's Utility District and also outside the city's jurisdiction.

Under Oregon law, the spraying is legal. The Department of Forestry regu-

lates and manages pesticide use in Oregon.

"After further discussion with staff and the mayor," Greene said, "what we're in the process of doing is drafting a letter to help go to the state and ask them to change the laws."

"It's the whole principle," he went on to say. "None of us want our watershed damaged. But, the problem is the law. Clearly, in order to change that law, it's going to take people who care and letters written to your legislators."

When the letter is finished, a draft will be presented to the council for approval. From

there, it will be sent to the state, the public and the landowners, news which made Protect Florence Aquifer very happy.

Resident John Yager said, "Water for development is essential. If we're going to develop Florence ... we need to insure the water. We need to make sure that we can do what we can. Your statements tonight were welcome to us."

Greene said, "With your help, and the outcry, I think it only helps in making our case stronger because we don't stand alone. We stand more united."

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