



Siuslaw News

WEDNESDAY

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GREEN FAIR PROGRAM

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FLORENCE • DUNES CITY • WESTLAKE • MAPLETON • SWISSHOME • DEADWOOD • YACHTS AND ALL POINTS BETWEEN

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\$ 1.00

HONORING ONE OF THEIR OWN

Florence Police participate in memorial for Coos County Deputy Gil Datan

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

This past Sunday, April 24, members of the Florence Police Department (FPD) attended the Celebration of Life for Deputy Gil Datan of the Coos County Sheriff's Office.

Community members watch the procession of police vehicles honoring Datan, who died last week while patrolling timber land.

Datan, 43, was killed in the line of duty on April 20 in an ATV accident while patrolling timber lands near Coos Bay. He had been a member of the Confederated Tribal Police and worked side by side with members of the FPD during his time with the tribes.

Datan served with the Coos County Sheriff's Office for five years and was in

law enforcement for 19 years. He had only held his post as a timber deputy for two months.

Datan is survived by his girlfriend and his teenaged daughter.

The Celebration of Life was attended by numerous police agencies across the state, with representatives from Washington and California present as well.

"It was an honor for us to participate," said Florence

Police Lt. John Pitcher.

Several fire agencies also attended the service, including members of Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue.

An impressive procession of hundreds of police and fire vehicles, mounted troopers and motorcycle officers led the way through Coos Bay and North Bend and ended at North Bend High School for the memorial.

See **POLICE 11A**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN PITCHER

Ready to go 'green'?

Exhibits, youth activities and more Saturday during 6th annual Green Fair



COURTESY PHOTO

Dozens of fair exhibitors, including Laurel Bay Gardens, will offer advice on "living green."

Discover all things "green" at the sixth annual Florence Green Fair on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Presented by Siuslaw News and KCST Radio, this year's fair has partnered with area educators and vendors for a day of fun for all ages, including visual displays, homegrown flavors, hands-on crafts for children and music featuring Marty Adams.

Look inside today's newspaper for a special program detailing Green Fair activities and exhibitor information.

A new addition to the Green Fair is the Kid Zone, featuring interactive craft projects and a planting station. The first 100 youth to attend the fair will receive a super-recycler cape.

Also on hand is the Repair 2 Reuse café, which will repair items for free, as well as the fair's premier sponsor, Laurel Bay Gardens, offering organic gardening soils and products.

Admission to the Florence Green Fair is \$2 for adults and free for all children accompanied by an adult. However, anyone who brings a used plastic planter pot to be recycled will receive free admission.



PHOTO BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Laurent Patureau and Florence Darceot, French citizens, stop in Florence after their Tahitian-bound catamaran was damaged offshore.

IMPROMPTU VISIT

After open-water accident, couple must navigate through sea of red tape

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Imagine a sailor's dream. Under sail, coasting through crystalline blue waters 30 miles off shore on a 58-foot catamaran heading south from Vancouver, B.C., along the Oregon coast. Final destination: the French Polynesian island of Huahine.

Next, imagine a sailor's worst nightmare, ramming into an unseen underwater obstruction.

The force of the impact toppled the boat's 80-foot mast, taking the boom, mainsail and genoa over the catamaran's starboard railing and into

the sea. The standing rigging was the only thing holding the tangled wreckage to the boat. The aluminum mast was broken in two places.

Captain Laurent Patureau and his partner, Florence Darceot, French citizens who operate a charter boat company in Huahine, had just purchased the catamaran Twin Image from a New Zealander in Vancouver, B.C.

"We signed the bill of sale on March 15 and left Vancouver March 16," Patureau said. Five days later everything changed.

"It was 7 a.m., small wind, small waves, everything was calm," he continued. "What ever we hit was just under the surface. We had no chance."

Patureau believes it was either a submerged container lost overboard from a container ship, or possibly some debris from the 2011 Japanese tsunami.

The 28-year-old catamaran's hull and keel were solidly constructed of fiberglass reinforced

with carbon fiber and did not appear to have suffered any significant damage. The boat was not taking on water. But being dismasted, out of sight of land, can be unnerving.

"I asked my crew to not launch a distress signal, because we were not in a distress position," Patureau said. "We just lost a mast. But one of the crew became panicked and sent the signal."

The boat was outside of Oregon's three-mile territorial boundaries, but well within the U.S. territorial limit of 200 miles and the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard. Minutes after the distress signal went out, a Coast Guard helicopter from Newport was hovering overhead.

"We received the Mayday call at 8 a.m. and launched the Motor Lifeboat (MLB) right away," said James Greenlief, Station Siuslaw River senior chief boatswain's mate and officer-in-charge.

See **BOAT 11A**

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Your Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Clouds & Sun	Sunny	Partly Sunny	Sunny
58 43	60 45	61 45	61 45



Sports — B



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