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Storage damage swells to \$5M

Cause still under investigation in Tuesday's fire at Pacific Pines

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) Fire Marshal Sean Barrett increased his estimate of damage from the June 16 fire at Pacific Pines RV Park and Storage from \$500,000 to nearly \$5 million.

Damage to the 32-unit, 25,000-square-foot storage building owned by Brian and Linda Stent included 20 garage doors, up to eight completely destroyed units, smoke and heat damage to another seven units and fire, smoke and heat damage to property, including vehicles and an extensive doll collection.

Barrett confirmed that the building owners are insured as well as most of the units' contents by the individual occupants.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but Barrett said the area of origin has been determined to be in Unit No. 11, near the back of a 2014 Chevrolet box van, owned by a local construction company.

SVFR reports show that the first call to 911 came in by 6:34 a.m. Tuesday, and the fire was under control by 7:22 a.m.

SVFR responded with three engines, one ladder truck, one rescue and six support units.

Due to the intense fire conditions, the incident commander requested mutual aid from North Bend Fire Department and Lane Fire Authority in Veneta.

North Bend sent two engines and nine firefighters.

Lane Fire Authority sent one engine with three firefighters.

The crews were able to stand by to assist SVFR at the site and back at the Florence fire station.

"If we were in a larger area, this would have been classified as a 'four-alarm fire,'" said Barrett.

One civilian received treatment for smoke inhalation and was released.

No firefighter injuries were reported.

COAST GUARD CEREMONY



Tregoning takes over Station Siuslaw River

A CHANGE OF COMMAND

PHOTOS BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River changed command Friday morning from Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate James Greenlief to Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Timothy Tregoning. Sector North Bend Commanding Officer Captain Michael Trimpert presided. Tregoning, his wife Amy and their children Jon, 10, and Berkley, 8, (above) last served at Station Apra Harbor in Guam. Greenlief (at right with Trimpert) will now serve at Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Wash.



Port adopts budget amid concerns

Lack of adequate capital reserves discussed

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Before the Port of Siuslaw commissioners voted to adopt the 2015 fiscal year budget, which begins July 1, during Wednesday's meeting, former commissioner Bill Fleenor spoke to the board about his concerns for the lack of long-term capital improvement planning.

Fleenor, who resigned as commissioner in March, for potential business conflict of interest, spoke to the lack of capital reserves for future projects and repairs reflected in the budget approved by the board on May 26.

"While I was a port commissioner," Fleenor said, "I always represented that the port should be looking at how to deal with the \$20 million worth of assets that we have that continue to deteriorate, that require maintenance; capital reserves that have not been addressed by the board."

Commission president Ron Caputo told Fleenor the port had a five-year strategic plan. Fleenor made reference to a projected \$1.2 million estimate to repair a rock bulkhead that runs along the south side of the port campground.

Fleenor asked, "Where is the money being stored for the bulkhead repairs?"

"We have put that off and we are trying to save up money in reserves to address that when the time comes," Caputo said. "It won't wash out before we get the reserve account."

See **PORT 7A**

FLORENCE ADJUSTS FEES, APPROVES SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

City council makes changes to next year's budget as fiscal year ends

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council approved two budget-based resolutions at its June 15 meeting. According to the staff report, the 2015-16 fiscal year budget, adopted June 1, included inflationary adjustments to its water, wastewater and stormwater utility rates.

Resolution No. 14, Series 2015, approved a fee increase of 1.7 percent for water, wastewater and stormwater

utility rates.

Additionally, street fees were increased 50 cents per equivalent dwelling unit. Now, each residence will pay \$5.50, a 10 percent increase, and the trip rate increased 10 percent.

Interim finance director Andy Parks said, "Those fees were identified as necessary to continue the maintenance and operation of those respective systems from a five-year financial forecast."

The increased utility rates are anticipated to provide the city \$33,900 from the water fee, \$50,600 from wastewater, \$8,700 from stormwater and \$31,800 from the street fee.

The anticipated additional cost to a single family home using an average of 700 cubic feet of water per month will be \$1.97.

"Though I'm not usually in favor of fee increases," Mayor Joe Henry said, "this is one of the lower increases in utility fees that we've had for several years."

Parks also said that the allocations had yet to be decided between system development charges and fees.

"As we've talked about, we'll also

be looking at this in more detail during the next several weeks," Parks said. "Whether this means a change in the makeup of the fee schedule or whether fixed cost or variable cost would be appropriate."

City staff is reviewing the current system and plans to present a consolidated fee schedule to the council by the end of August.

The second budget issue, Resolution No. 15, Series 2015, approved a budget adjustment to reflect a projected increase to revenues from the Transient Room Tax (TRT).

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has a contract with the City

of Florence to handle tourism and marketing. According to the three-year contract, the chamber receives 40 percent of funds generated by the TRT.

"This happens to be a 'good news' type budget adjustment," said Parks. "The expenditure that was originally budgeted for Transient Room Tax marketing services was budgeted based on a given, forecasted amount of revenue. The city's TRT collections for fiscal 2015 are over that particular number, which necessitates an adjustment to the budget to be able to fund the contractual amount."

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