

FOOTBALL CAMP BEGINS

SPORTS — B



Yard-by-yard fundraiser

INSIDE — A3



Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Family to reopen ABC Preschool

Mother-daughter team takes charge of revamped childcare facility

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

The Alice Brauer Christian (ABC) Preschool, located in the New Life Lutheran Church at 2100 Spruce St., will reopen Aug. 3. Stacie Navarro and her daughter Meggan Haflett will operate the preschool, which will have an initial capacity of 20 children from 3 to 6 years old.

Haflett and one aide will be in charge of the classroom and Navarro will act as a consultant.

Navarro was the director when Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County operated the facility. She took a leave of absence but returned to work as a consultant for the club while working for the state as a child welfare social service specialist in Florence, a position she will continue to hold while acting as consultant to ABC.

“My daughter and I have always wanted to do something like this,” Navarro said. “I have been involved in childcare my whole life. When I worked here as director, it was my third job as director of a childcare facility.”

Both Navarro and Haflett are certified teachers and are rated as a step 10 out of 12 on the state’s registry of childcare providers. Ten is the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree in the field of teaching or childcare.

Navarro and Haflett had to move quickly after learning the facility was closing down.

“We were sitting in church one day and the pastor announced to the congregation that Boys and Girls Club had decided not to renew their lease and they weren’t sure what they were going to do with the space,” she explained. “The church really counts on it for rent.”

“A few days later my daughter called me and said ‘I’ve really been thinking

See ABC 7A

CHIEF REINSTATED

Siuslaw fire board rescinds motion to dismiss Langborg



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Community members applaud after a speaker addressed the fire board Tuesday night. More than 100 people attended the meeting.

By CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) Chief Jim Langborg returned to his position Wednesday after the district’s board of directors rescinded its ruling to relieve him of his duties last week.

“I am ready to get back to work and serve our firefighters and citizens,” Langborg said in a statement

released after Tuesday’s ruling. “SVFR has gone through a tough week, but I take great comfort in knowing that the men and women of this fire district are highly dedicated professionals who share my passion for serving this community.”

He spent Wednesday contacting SVFR staff and volunteers.

The SVFR board held a special meeting Tuesday night in response to the ruling to dismiss Langborg

that was made at their regular meeting on July 15.

Board President John Carnahan opened the special meeting at the main station by saying, “This meeting is for public comment. I emphasize that this is the time for the public to speak to the board of directors. The object is for everyone to be heard that wants to speak.”

According to the agenda, the maximum time for comment was

supposed to be 30 minutes, but Carnahan said it could go longer.

“We do have quite a few people here,” he said.

At the final count, 132 people filled the meeting room.

During public comment, 20 community leaders, business owners, area residents and SVFR volunteers stood to address the board.

See CHIEF 7A

SHARED EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EXPLORED

Siuslaw, Mapleton schools bear funding proposal

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw School Board members recently received a presentation by Lynn Finney about creating an educational foundation to acquire grant money for programs and projects not cov-

ered in normal state school budgets.

The Mapleton School Board received a similar presentation. The goal would be to combine the two districts under one education foundation. Mapleton and Siuslaw school districts are among a handful of state districts that do not currently have nonprofit education foundations to raise additional funds for the cash-strapped schools. That may soon change.

Finney, who was instrumental in establishing an education foundation in Park City, Utah,

spoke at the request of Siuslaw school board member Suzanne Mann-Heintz.

“An education foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation that exists for the purpose of raising money to be given to the schools,” Mann-Heintz explained. “The advantage of the corporation is that it has access to lots of grants that public entities don’t, like private foundations and corporations.”

See SCHOOL 7A

Terry and Kim Leo’s house on Joshua Lane caught fire on July 18. Neighbors used garden hoses to spray water on the fire until Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue firefighters arrived on the scene. No one was hurt, but one dog did not survive.



COURTESY PHOTO

Firefighters respond to 3-story house fire in Heceta Beach area

By CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District responded to a house fire at 04582 Joshua Lane last weekend that caused an estimated \$80,000 in damage and killed a family pet.

The residents of the house, owned by Terry and Kim Leo in the Heceta Beach area, were not home July 18 at about 6:35 p.m., the time of the fire.

According to Fire Marshal Sean Barrett, the fire department

responded within three minutes of receiving the call.

Once there, the first responders discovered the three-story home showing flames from the second and third floors.

The second unit arrived on scene 10 minutes later. Together, the units controlled the fire within another 10 minutes.

“If it weren’t for the neighbors using garden hoses to keep the fire from spreading, the damage would have been much more severe,” Barrett said.

The main fire damage was to the second story exterior and the

third story.

According to Barrett, the family had two dogs that were home at the time of the fire. Only one was found safe.

“Unfortunately, one of the family dogs perished in the fire,” he said. Responders worked “tirelessly” to try to revive the pet, he added.

One medical unit and 16 firefighters responded. The cause was determined to be a gas barbecue grill on the main deck of the house.

See FIRE 7A