

Police issue warning about unmarked vehicles

Florence Police Department has received concerns from local citizens about unmarked vehicles attempting to pull them over with red and blue mounted flashing lights. The latest report involved a tan van

with dash lights attempting to pull someone over.

FPD is not aware of any local law enforcement agency that uses an unmarked van.

If an unmarked vehicle attempts to pull you over and

you do not feel safe, FPD Lt. John Pitcher recommends finding a populated place to pull over or driving to the police station at 900 Greenwood St. (off Ninth Street) in Florence to pull over.

It is illegal to impersonate a police officer.

If you think someone is impersonating an officer, report the suspicious activity to Florence Police at 541-997-3515.

Port

from 1A

“Don Wilbur, who is an old timber guy, said that the Log Bronc kind of revolutionized the whole industry,” Dreiling said. “Prior to it, the mills had what were called ‘pond monkeys.’

“These were men who jumped onto the logs floating around in the log ponds. They ran around on them with giant poles, pushing the logs so they didn’t jam up and kept them flowing the way they wanted,” he added.

Pond monkeys had been doing this perilous work since the 1800s.

The Log Bronc could push the logs around more quickly and efficiently and it gave the men a bit of protection.

“If something went bad,” Dreiling said, “they could duck down and let the logs fall on top of the bronc and not crush them.”

The Log Bronc the port has on display worked on the Siuslaw River until the logging industry faltered in the 1970s. Harrison Dock Builders (HDB) later



Log Bronc in action circa 1950s

COURTESY PHOTO

acquired it.

“It was used for things like vessel recovery for boats that were sinking. They had a location on the Siuslaw River, east of town,” Dreiling said.

When HDB closed their Florence location in 2013, the Log Bronc was one of several older vessels left behind. Port Manager Bob Forsythe had his eye on the boat, and when property owner Don Wilbur informed

Forsythe that the port could take possession, they jumped on the opportunity.

“Three of our employees went over there with a flat bed and the port’s forklift truck,” Dreiling explained.

“They picked it up, loaded it onto the trailer and brought it over to the port. We sanded and buffed the whole boat and repainted it with good marine quality paint. It took almost two weeks to haul the boat over, sand and paint and

then mount it on three poured concrete pedestals.”

Dreiling hopes to locate a vintage outboard motor to complete the display.

The cut logs acting as benches around the Log Bronc also have historic significance. They were among several pulled out of the riff-raff when the port built the boardwalk several years ago.

“They appear to be over 100 years old,” Dreiling said. “So they were a part of the original structures that were here. Somebody hand-hatched all these logs. When you see hand-hatches, that occurred a long time ago. We may get a carbon dating on them from Oregon State University to determine exactly how old they are.”

A plaque is being created for the site to explain to visitors what role the quirky little craft played in local history. In the meantime, it will be what ever a child’s imagination creates.

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.

Urban

from 1A

“That means for the 20-year loan, the average amount of interest the city will pay will be just over 4 percent,” Reynolds said.

Banner Bank’s Florence branch manager Dee Osborne reminded the city council that Banner Bank remains a vital part of the local community

after its change from Siuslaw Bank earlier this year.

She added that Banner Bank donated to complete the Emergency Department fund for PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center and provided \$1,500 to the recarpeting fund for the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County’s Teen Center.

The finance department worked with the city’s bond

counsel, James Shannon and Courtney Dausz of Mersereau Shannon, LLP, to finalize the agreement and authorize Reynolds and Mayor Joe Henry to execute the documents to close the financing.

The \$7.8 million financing will provide a \$3.7 million loan to FURA to refinance \$1.745 million in debt and net new funds of approximately \$1.955 million for urban renewal

activities.

The other \$4.1 million will provide the city \$1.3 million for construction of a public works facility, \$1.3 million for street infrastructure projects and \$1.5 million for water infrastructure projects.

Follow Chantelle on Twitter @SNews_Chantelle. Email her at cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com.

School

from 1A

“With them all being in one place, that really cuts down on the transition time and maximizes our instructional time,” said Harklerode.

The Oregon State Legislature mandated every school district to expand to full-day kindergarten, but did not allocate funds to cover any additional implementation costs. The school district added two new kindergarten teachers to handle the expansion from half- to full-day classes and acquired the new \$500,000 modular five-classroom building.

“I would like to thank the school board on this because this was an unfunded mandate,” Harklerode said. “We didn’t receive extra money from the state to put full-day kindergarten in place this year. We will receive the full Average Daily Membership

(ADM), the dollars we get for each of our students. In previous years, we only had a half ADM for kindergarten. This year we are getting a full ADM. But that just covers the expense of lengthening the day for the students. Actually finding space for them had to come from money within the rest of the budget.

“It was a real show of support from the school district and from the school board in particular to put this through and make early childhood education a priority,” he concluded.

Siuslaw Superintendent Ethel Angal said, “This is a very joyful event for the district. We are so excited to have a full-day program for our students that will give them the start that they need.”

The new in-house food program was also showcased at the ribbon cutting with a barbecue featuring grilled all-beef franks, home-made potato

salad, fresh corn on the cob and from-scratch lemon bars for dessert.

The potato chips, however, did come out of a bag.

Follow Jack on Twitter @SNews_Jack. Email him at jack@thesiuslawnews.com.

STEP to discuss salmon, angling Wednesday

All things salmon and angling will be on the agenda at the Wednesday, Sept. 2, meeting of the Florence Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP).

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge on 12th Street. The public is invited to attend.

John Spangler, mid-coast district fish biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will discuss the 2015 wild coho regulations, harvest forecasts for Chinook and coho, effects of the droughts and a look ahead to the winter steelhead season.

He will also be showing a three minute loop video of sea surface temperatures that covers years from 1891 through this June.

Spangler’s presentation is going to be comprehensive and cover all things salmon, including the shorter-than-last year’s wild coho season.

Following Spangler’s presentation, Ron Caputo will share his 10 strategies for catching fall Chinook and the brine recipe he uses to prepare

his cut plug herring.

The wild coho season on the Siuslaw River will run from from Tuesday, Sept. 15, to Thursday, Oct. 15, from the river’s mouth to Lake Creek. Lake Creek is closed for wild coho.

Anglers are allowed one wild coho per day and two for the season in the north-west and southwest zone rivers, but anglers may not take more than one adult wild coho from any area or combination of areas within those zones in a single day, regardless of location.

The wild coho season on Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes begins Thursday, Oct. 1, and closes on Thursday, Dec. 31. Wild coho taken in the lakes do not count against the seasonal limits in the rivers, but anglers may have only five wild coho in aggregate for the year.

A short business meeting and fishing report will precede the presentations.

For questions or information about STEP, contact Caputo at 541-997-4961.

Yachats artists on display at library

Artwork by Yachats Arts Guild members Claire Good, Carol Summers and Sherrie Powell will be on display at the Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 Ninth St., through the month of September.

Each of these award winning artists uses a different medium for their artistic

endeavors including watercolor, oil and photography.

Artwork on display is available for purchase by contacting the artist directly.

Library hours are Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.



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