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# Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 22      SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890      FLORENCE, OREGON

**CRIME**

## Fire ruled arson, suspects arrested

*Police use surveillance footage to nab two men for historic house fire*

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Florence Police Department and Oregon State Police announced the arrest of James Luis Main, 37, and a 17-year-old male, both of Florence, after investigating an arson that destroyed a historic house in Old Town earlier this month.



**James Luis Main**  
Florence police arrested the two suspects March 12. Main and the juvenile were charged with arson and burglary. Main was taken to Lane County Jail.

Florence Police Detective Brandon Ott said the suspects were identified through surveillance videos in the area. Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue took six hours to extinguish the fire at 1515 Second St. on March 3. The house, built in 1904, was vacant and up for sale. No injuries were reported.

The fire department and the Oregon Fire Marshal conducted an investigation at the site.

Later in the week, Florence police and Oregon State Police announced that they were looking for two suspects and distributed a photo of the adult and juvenile inside a convenience store.

"The Florence Police Department and Oregon State Police would like to thank the public for their overwhelming support in helping to identify the two suspects in the arson," according to a statement released Saturday.

# Crossing the line



From left: Oregon Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps, Florence City Council President Joshua Greene, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, Florence Mayor Joe Henry and state Sen. Arnie Roblan cross out of the tsunami inundation zone on Rhododendron Drive in Florence during a Walk Out Drill March 11. The drill highlighted the Tsunami Blue Line project on the five-year anniversary of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in 2011. The new lines can be seen around town as well as in other coastal cities.

## Florence kicks off new tsunami preparedness program on coast

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence and three other coastal communities are starting a new line of tsunami preparedness: the Blue Line Project, from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). On March 11, members of Florence City Council, city staff, emergency responders and other community members welcomed U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, state Sen. Arnie Roblan, West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich and others to the project's kickoff.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry formally welcomed the speakers as well as the televised audience.

"The City of Florence is dedicated to emergency preparedness and serving our community in the best way possible, during both small and large-scale emergency events. We've been designated as a tsunami-ready community by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and we will continue our efforts to serve our citizens," Henry said.

Oregon's Geological Hazard Program Coordinator Althea Rizzo started the Blue Line Project in Oregon.

"I had money left over from another project fund-

ed by the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program and was looking around for something innovative to do," Rizzo said. "This blue line lets people know when they can stop running."

One aspect of Rizzo's job at OEM is identifying ways that people can get to high ground faster and safer. She got the idea for the Blue Line Project from a similar program in New Zealand.

OEM provided Blue Line Project signs to Florence, Reedsport, Coos Bay and Gold Beach. Each community "buys in" with the project by installing the signs.

See **LINE 7A**

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION LAUNCHES MISSION FOR MONEY

*Donations sought to help nonprofit raise money for projects and classes at Siuslaw and Mapleton schools*

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

More than 70 people attended the Siuslaw Educational Foundation's (SEF) meet and greet held at the Florence Senior Center March 4 to officially launch its fundraising campaign to support the Mapleton and Siuslaw school districts.

The foundation's mission is to raise money to enhance academic achievement and expand learning opportunities for every student in Florence and Mapleton schools.

Prior to the establishment of SEF, Florence and Mapleton school districts were two of a handful of Oregon districts operating without the support of an educational foundation.

Educational foundations are able to raise donations and write grants to fund specific projects and elective classes not supported by the state's restricted educational funding.

According to foundation president Suzanne Mann-Heintz, the foundation can also bundle several similar



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

**More than 70 interested community members gather March 4 at the Florence Senior Center to learn about the Siuslaw Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded to raise grant money for the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.**

requests together from both school districts to fund multiple projects from a single grant.

"If we were to apply to Intel Corporation for a \$200,000 technology grant, we would want to include the elementary school request for Ipad tablets and the high school request for 3-D printers," Mann-Heintz said. "We would want to include Mapleton as well. We would ask for a large amount of money, with that money being used to fund multiple smaller grant requests."

Mann-Heintz said the small size of the two districts — Mapleton with about 144 students and Siuslaw with about 1,400 students — can be a detriment in seeking grants

from larger foundations.

"Every grant application takes the same amount of human time to process," Mann-Heintz said. "The more we can group requests together, the more likely it is that we will get funding."

Funding to cover the foundation's cost of filing for its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status has been provided by the Rotary Foundation and Western Lane Community Foundation.

The foundation has not yet completed the paperwork on its 501(c)(3) nonprofit application, but any interested donors may still make donations through the Florence Area Community Coalition (FACC).

See **SCHOOLS 7A**