

Young Tale Spinners graduate

The Siuslaw Tale Spinners' Youth Leadership Program (YLP) graduated April 1.

The YLP is an informal program of eight sessions provided by Toastmasters International in the arts of communication and leadership for young people.

The program concentrates on building self-confidence and helps the participants organize and express their thoughts clearly while having fun at the same time.

Participants ranged in ages 7 to 14 and were children of the homeschooled PEACE Co-op.

Cathy French, YLP coordinator, said it "was a great program and the children really enjoyed it immensely."

"They really made great strides in improving their speaking skills," added



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Tale Spinners' Youth Leadership Program graduated April 1.

Anne Machalek, YLP mentor.

Anyone interested in the program can contact Cathy French, Siuslaw Tale Spinners, at 775-240-3375.

The Siuslaw Tale Spinners meet Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., at the Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue main station, 2625 Highway 101 in Florence.

Fire from 1A

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue's day crew and duty chief responded. The occupant, who reported the fire, initially called firefighters because she thought it was an electrical problem.

When she opened the door to the room, the fire rekindled.

According to Division Chief of Operations Marvin Tipler, the occupant was able to extinguish remaining

flames with a garden hose. The home, however, has extensive smoke damage and is untenable. Tipler estimates \$10,000 in damages to the house and another \$10,000 in damage to the contents.

According to American Red Cross, one adult and two children were displaced by the fire.

Red Cross disaster volunteers provided assistance with temporary lodging, addressed immediate basic needs and gave information about recovery services.

Chamber from 1A

She also has been involved with many nonprofits, including serving as president of Soroptimist International in Palm Springs and Orange County, Calif.

Hannigan's starting salary is \$42,000 a year.

As executive director, she will report to the board and oversee chamber volunteers at the Visitor's Center, 290 Highway 101. She will also

work closely with the event coordinator on chamber events, such as the upcoming Rhododendron Festival from May 20 to 22.

"Hands down, I love the people the best here," Hannigan said. "I have never experienced the kindness and overall happiness in any other community than we have here. We have everything — golf, recreation, camping, fishing, hiking, boating and, best of all, community. The generosity of our locals is unequaled."

Bond from 1A

Lauren Johnson with LSW Architects from Vancouver, Wash., gave the building a "poor" rating on the latest Building Condition Assessment done for the district.

Because all district buildings are outside the tsunami zone, Angal said the new high school building could also be another community shelter in case of tsunami or earthquake, along with the Florence Events Center and the middle school.

"I am a strong supporter of economic development in our community," Henry said. "We want young professionals and businesses to come here. An employer comes here and looks at our graduation rate or our old school where we have to share electric power to different rooms at different times of the day, that really doesn't speak to high technology."

"If they can come here and see a nice new high school where we have the ability to do some of the things that they are trying to do now, that will go a long way to spurring economic development."

He added, "We also want to increase our graduation rate. I don't believe this building is going to increase our graduation rate automatically, but it will give our kids a little more incentive to want to stay in school and graduate. Even if that is only a handful, it helps improve our percentages."

Siuslaw's graduation rate has improved but was still slightly below the state average, one of the lowest in the nation, for the graduating class of 2015.

In addition to the money from the proposed bond measure, the district has received a \$4 million construction grant from the state to help offset construction costs, but that money can only be accessed if the bond measure is approved.

"Those things combined make it pretty much a win/win for everybody," Henry said.

According to school district business manager Kari Blake, the total cost increase per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2017 will be about 29 cents. A home valued at \$200,000 would see an increase of \$58 per year, or \$4.83 per month. As property values fluctuate, the rate could increase or decrease in coming years.

"I was happy about the response from the city council and the mayor, voting unanimously to give a letter of support to the bond," Rines said.

School board members and Superintendent Angal continue to meet with community groups and interested individuals to explain the need for the new school and the urgency of the timing.

"The more people hear about how we came to this decision, the more people will understand," Angal said.



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