

VIKINGS WIN SEASON OPENER

SPORTS — B



CROW RAISES THE ROOF

INSIDE — A10



Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 74

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Siuslaw Valley focuses on training

Training captain, FEMA grant work to recruit, retain volunteers

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue added a full-time training captain for fiscal year 2016-17 in an effort to bring more focus to the training and retention of firefighter volunteers.

The district also received a grant from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to recruit and train volunteers in the whole region.

Siuslaw Valley hired Jeff Larson as the new full-time training captain in June, a year after bringing him on part-

time to train current firefighters and recruit new volunteers.

Larson joined the fire department in December 2012 after attending a Siuslaw Valley Firefighters Association meeting.

"Marvin (Tipler) was the guy who brought me in. I had known him since before I was in high school," he said. "I got out of the military two months before that, moved back to the area and didn't know what to do. I went to an association meeting and that was it."

Larson graduated from Siuslaw High School in 2006 and joined the U.S. Air Force. He was on active duty for six years and reached the rank of staff sergeant. He also joined the National Guard for another year and a half and served as the chief dispatcher for Department of Defense as a civilian.

After living in England, Japan and a "lot of countries," Larson moved back to Florence.

"You lose the brotherhood from the military and you come back home, but it's a whole other family here," he said. "You don't just join the fire department. You get a whole family. It's pretty great."

He became the part-time training captain in 2015.

See **TRAINING 11A**

School district water gets an A Siuslaw passes second round of lead testing

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

During the Sept. 14 Siuslaw School District board meeting, District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak told the board that 20 additional district drinking water sources have been tested for lead and all came back well below the federally mandated minimum level of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

Locations tested during the second round of sampling included the district office, the Head Start building, the school maintenance and transportation building, both the main and auxiliary gyms in the high school and middle school and additional tests at the

See **WATER 11A**

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Day of remembrance

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Grimshaw Post 3232 held its annual POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park on Bay Street Friday. During the ceremony, attended by more than 60 people, VFW members explained the symbolism of the Missing Man Table (right) and the elements of the MIA/POW flag. From the beginning of World War II to the present, more than 83,000 Americans are still listed as Missing In Action.



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS



Watershed Council to celebrate Siuslaw salmon on Sunday

Annual salmon dinner, silent auction begin at Florence Events Center at 5 p.m.

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) will hold the annual Celebrate Siuslaw Salmon fundraiser dinner and auction tomorrow at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. Doors open at 5 p.m.

According to SWC Secretary Tom Burke, this is the council's largest fundraising event of the year.

"This is a dinner and silent auction where we try to highlight local farmers and food vendors from the area and have a celebration of

salmon," Burke said.

The main entree will be salmon donated by the Confederated tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and tuna donated by the owners of the tuna boat Nicani.

According to Burke, the council has held this fundraiser for about 10 years.

"The money we raise is used for supporting our grant writing efforts," he said. "We bring in non-restricted money that we are allowed to use for grant writing or administrative overhead, like keeping the lights on."

The SWC covers 504,000 acres, or

773 square miles, and stretches along the Siuslaw River and tributaries from the Lorane Valley, southeast of Florence, to Blachly, northeast of Florence.

"The SWC is all about restoration of the Siuslaw Watershed, helping to bring back wildlife, specifically salmon, and trying to bring their survival rates back up," Burke said.

The council also holds five-day summer day camps for students, ages six to high school.

Burke said there will be between 50 to 60 silent auction items including gift baskets, local area wines and

paintings and photography from local artists.

One unique auction item is a Pacific Pub Cycle package: 10 to 14 people can do a two-hour pub tour/crawl around Eugene on a special, canopied 14-person bicycle that stops at various breweries and wine and beer tasting locations.

Live music will also be provided at the celebration.

Tickets for tomorrow's event are available on line for \$25 at brownpapertickets.com, or may be purchased at the events center the night of the event for \$30.



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

DOWN AND DERBY

Boy Scout Troup 721 of Florence sponsored the Pinewood Derby Sept. 10 in Old Town, as part of the ninth annual Rods 'n' Rhodies festivities. The popular Boy Scout event, started in 1953, begins with scouts and family members creating small racers out of pine wood blocks. Dozens of contestants vied for the top honors in this year's race. Proceeds help fund the troup's expenses.

