

## Coast Guard continues its military heritage

Florence has several veterans groups in town and one active military base, the United States Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River. With military presence of veterans and active-duty alike comes military heritage and ceremony.

Officer in Charge BMCS Tim Tregoning, assisted by Executive Petty Officer BMC Ben Snider, inspected station personnel during a recent morning's Call to Colors.

Coinciding with an all-hands assembly known as Quarters, this dress uniform inspection imparted a formal note to the morning raising of the American flag.

The Coast Guard considers its uniform a symbol of armed services heritage and reflects the pride shared by Team Coast Guard. Common uniformity is core to maintaining a professional military appearance both individually and as an organization.

The men and women of



DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River prepare for the traditional Uniform Inspection at the Call to Colors.

Station Siuslaw River embrace their military heritage, professional responsibility and lead-

ership and are always ready to serve the mariners of this community.

The Coast Guard motto is Semper Paratus, meaning "Always ready."

## Western Lane pursues levy to maintain current services

Western Lane Ambulance District is seeking renewal of a five-year local option levy to maintain services for the district. Voters first approved the five-year levy in 2012 to fund the district's operations costs. That levy is set to expire at the end of 2017.

In anticipation of bringing a renewal measure to voters, Western Lane conducted an informal survey of local residents. Over 1,000 people completed surveys, and showed overwhelming support for a renewal measure.

The measure before voters this November asks "Shall the district renew existing 45 cents per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2017-2018 for emergency medical operations?"

Interim District Manager, Brian Burright said, "This levy renewal will allow us to continue to provide the same level of quality emergency medical

services to the over 20,000 regional residents we serve. We have 14 full-time, highly trained and skilled paramedics. We run three ambulances 24 hours a day to meet the growing need of the communities we serve. Medicare reimbursement rates continue to decline, while our call volume has increased by over 24 percent since 2012".

The levy renewal will not increase taxes or fees for residents in the service district and would allow the ambulance district to keep pace with the growing demand of the vital services it provides.

With five licensed ambulances and 14 full time paramedics, the Western Lane Ambulance District serves over 20,000 residents in Florence, Dunes City, Mapleton, Canary, Deadwood, Swisshome, Sutton, Clear Lake North Fork, Ada, Green Leaf and Cushman.

## Lane Community College Florence Center to offer computer classes

Lane Community College Florence Center offers a set of new computer classes tailored for the novice computer user as part of the new fall Continuing Education program.

U.S. Air Force veteran and technology consultant Jolene Medeiros will offer three courses to help students become more familiar with today's technology.

Another new Continuing Education instructor, Patrick Hawke, will teach an introductory course on basic web design that targets curious students who are interested in creating

or revamping their website.

"We're excited that these two instructors, who are both new to the Florence community, are offering their expertise to our students," said Marsha Sills, Lane Florence Center Continuing Education program coordinator. "Both reached out to Lane to see how they could help the community grow more comfortable with technology."

Medeiros will offer a basic computer course on Monday evenings starting Sept. 26, catering to those who want to grow more comfortable using the computer. She described

this course as an extremely basic class designed to give students a solid foundation to build more skills.

Each session is self-paced and includes group exercises to reinforce the skills students learn in class, she said.

"Once you have an understanding of the basics, you will have a clearer understanding on which to expand your knowledge and skill with computers and browsing the Internet. Learning to use computers can feel intimidating at first, but this course targets people of all ages and skill sets," Medeiros

said. "Whether you have never used a computer before or just need a refresher course, the class is meant to be fun and I encourage questions."

Medeiros will also offer two other courses: "Social Media Savvy" on Wednesdays, for those interested in learning the basics of social media networks to stay connected to family and friends, and "Internet Safety" on Tuesdays, to educate students about ways to securely and effectively share files, use social media and shop online.

The course will also cover the importance of strong pass-

words and protective software to guard computers and smartphones and tablets.

Hawke's course will cover the basics of web design and will be beneficial to business owners or those interested in sharing their interests with others.

While websites are now the ideal way for businesses to attract new customers and inform current clientele, the course may also be of interest to artists or other community members interested in creating sites to show their work or keep in touch with family and

friends, Hawke said.

"I tell my students 'create the Internet, rather than consume it,'" Hawke said. "I teach from the 'maker mindset' perspective of creating and innovation. While the class will benefit business owners, I've also had great success in this class with people who've created websites of personal interest."

His class will be offered Wednesday evenings for 11 weeks starting Sept. 28.

For more information about these computer courses, register online at [www.lanec.edu/ce](http://www.lanec.edu/ce) or call 541-997-8444.

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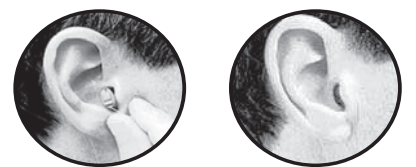
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