



LETTERS TO SANTA
SPECIAL SECTION — C

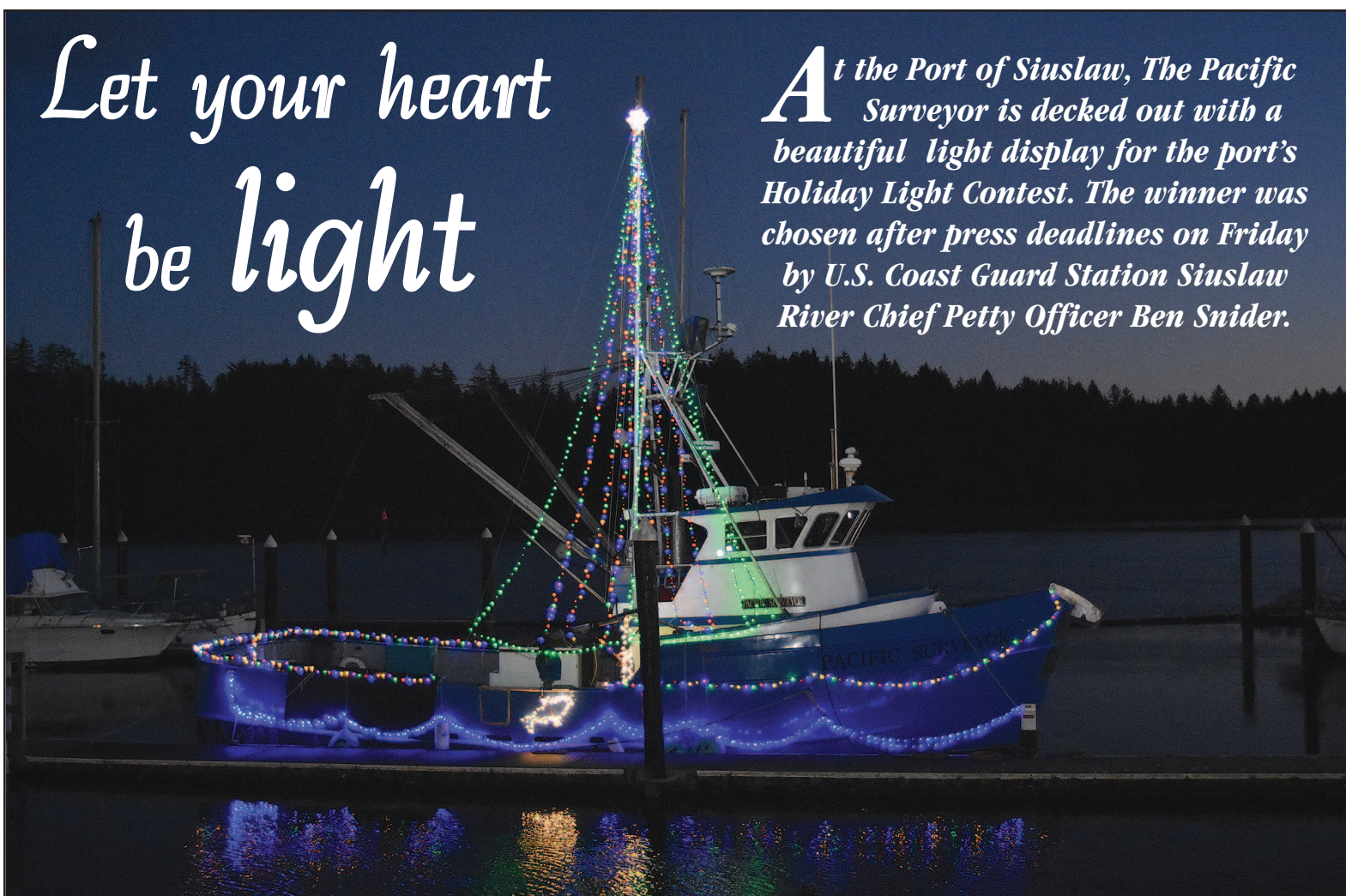


Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 102

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



Let your heart be light

At the Port of Siuslaw, The Pacific Surveyor is decked out with a beautiful light display for the port's Holiday Light Contest. The winner was chosen after press deadlines on Friday by U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River Chief Petty Officer Ben Snider.

MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Old stuff, new art

Repurposed Art Competition draws student interest and donates to local charities

Tamara Pohlman hates to throw things away. She really hates it. She believes that there are many uses for items and materials that are routinely discarded. Some of these uses are practical and some are, if you will, more whimsical.

Pohlman feels that people can reduce and reuse so much more than they realize, that she started a business based on this belief.

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Pohlman dedicates her time and energy to finding like-minded individuals, with a strong creative streak, and providing them with a space to share their work with the people of Florence.

The Resto-Arts Gallery in Historic Old Town on Bay Street is the manifestation of those ideals. It displays work from local artisans that have reused discarded materials and turned them into practical or beautiful pieces that are entirely different than the original manufacturer intended.

This holiday season, Pohlman decided that she wanted to expand her efforts and worked out a way to involve Siuslaw High School students with SHS art instructor, Kim Pickell.

They came up with an idea they hoped would inspire students to look at their trash in a new light.

Pohlman says Pickell was enthusiastic about the idea from the beginning and the two fleshed out the concept rather quickly.

"Restorative art is my passion," Pohlman said. "And we have so many great artists here in Florence, I thought, what about nurturing this creativity in high school so that the students can grow into this, and maybe they will rethink what they throw away and maybe think outside the box artistically."

See ARTS 10A



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Resto-Arts owner Tamara Pohlman displays the top three finishers in the first annual Repurposed Art Competition. Siuslaw High School students were awarded cash prizes and will donate all proceeds from the sale of their pieces to local charities of their choosing.

Happy holidays from all of us at Siuslaw News

B&G Club helps with holiday needs, treats

Stuff the Bus collections fill the holiday stockings of local families

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The recent Stuff the Bus donation campaign organized locally by the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County was undoubtedly a success, according to Teen Program Director Tracy Aaron.

The club collected food, toys and clothing at local retail locations during December in addition to accepting donations at the Clubhouse.

The club distributed assorted items to over 100 families.

The effort was coordinated by Aaron, who said she was pleased with the community response

"The Stuff the Bus events at Grocery Outlet and Fred Meyer were great, but the donations



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Tracy Aaron, Teen Program director at the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County, prepares to distribute the donations collected by the club during the month of December.

from others allowed us to help more people than we had planned," she said.

Aaron said she hopes to make stuffing the bus an annual affair and looks forward to helping more families in the future.

For more information on club activities and volunteer opportunities, contact the Boys and Girls Club at 541-902-0304.

Port of Siuslaw receives auditor's report on FY 2016

Board of Commissioners also finalizes insurance agency at latest meeting

During the Dec. 21 meeting of the Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners, Constance J. Huntsman, CPA reviewed the independent auditor's report for fiscal year ending June 2016.

According to the report, the port had a \$65,868 increase of operating revenues and a \$19,378 decrease in operating expenses for 2015-16.

The report said the port's net position improved by \$67,427

compared to the previous year, but the port's expenses remained higher than revenues, causing the port to still recognize an \$189,420 loss in net position for the year.

Huntsman said, "Basically, the cash that the port received from customers did not cover supplies and employee costs. It was short by \$127,000. But the port also gets cash from property taxes and state forest sales and non-operating revenues of \$314,288. That is what was used to cover the shortfall in operating activities."

She added, "Overall, the port stayed within its budget parameters."

Port Manager Steven Leskin said, "The Port is in good financial condition. We came in under budget in 2015-16, and revenue was up."

In other business, commissioners revisited the resolution to appoint Coast Insurance Services, Inc., the port's agent of record, over the recommendation of Port Manager Steven Leskin to appoint Abel Insurance.

Before the vote, president Ron Caputo said, "Before we vote, I'm going to ask each commissioner if they have any conflicts of interest."

Commissioner Mike Buckwald said, "It appears I do have a conflict (of interest) that I did not recognize at last month's meeting. It didn't occur to me that that was a conflict."

Buckwald excused himself from the discussion and vote.

See REPORT 10A

BREAKING NEWS

Due to early holiday deadlines, Siuslaw News received breaking news about two water-related emergency incidents after press time Friday. For up-to-date information on U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River's search for a missing person on the Siuslaw River and the report of a drowning at Thor's Well, check with www.FaceBook.com/SiuslawNews.

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