



OCMM wraps up wreath season

INSIDE — A3



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



PHOTO BY JESSICA KEAVENY/COURTESY ALLIGATOR RECORDS
Blues musician Curtis Salgado plays Saturday at the FEC.

FEC comes full circle

Events center wraps up 20th year with Curtis Salgado's ringing blues

Fresh from a 12-day visit to Hong Kong, where he played a nightclub with musician friends he met in the Philippines, blues musician

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Curtis Salgado is returning

to Florence to play the final performance of 2016 at the Florence Events Center (FEC). The blues show wraps up a year-long celebration of the event center's 20th anniversary.



"The Hong Kong trip was very nice, a little specialty thing. I played some music, made some cash and got to visit Hong Kong," Salgado said.

Since he began playing professionally in 1973, Salgado has performed across the U.S. and in Europe, namely the U.K., France, Germany, Finland, Norway and Spain.

"I make it over there to Europe probably every other summer. I wish it was every year," he said.

Salgado was born and raised in Eugene, Ore., and used to visit the coast at least once a year.

"Florence was a major part of my raising," he said.

His mother used to comb the beaches in

winter, and he hitchhiked more than once down Highway 126.

"I was a knucklehead, and used to camp out on the beach with other knuckleheads. We did it for the adventure."

By that time, Salgado was already into the blues, often playing harmonica with local bands and in school.

"I grew up on the blues, grew up with it," he said.

His parents were jazz enthusiasts who listened to big band swing and blues. Many groups they listened to played the jazz standards of Gershwin, "Dancing Cheek to Cheek" and other boogie woogie songs.

See **BLUES 7A**

SEARCH ENDS AT CAPE PERPETUA

U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River assists in Thursday night's multi-agency search for missing California man



COURTESY PHOTO

STAFF REPORT
Siuslaw News

U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search Friday for a 27-year-old male who was swept out to sea near Cape Perpetua, Ore., Thursday.

The man's family identified him as Tuan Kien of Orange County, Calif.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector North Bend received the report via a 911 dispatch stating that Kien had fallen in the water and that he was not in sight. Another tourist also fell, but was able to climb to safety. He was reportedly "skinned up" from the rough rocks.

The watchstanders then directed the launch of a Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew forward deployed in Newport, Ore., a Sector North Bend Dolphin crew and multiple 47-foot Motor Life Boat crews from Coast Guard Stations Siuslaw River and Yaquina Bay.

Coast Guard helicopter and boat crews searched for more than 15 hours alongside Oregon State Police and Yachats Fire departments.

"Suspending a search is one of the hardest decisions the Coast Guard has to make," said Cmdr. Charles Guerrero, acting commander of Coast

Guard Sector North Bend. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends who have been impacted by this tragedy."

The search may resume pending additional information.

Weather on scene at the time of the incident was reported as 15-foot seas and 10 mph winds.

Station Siuslaw River Chief Petty Officer Ben Snider said, "It's hard to say if weather conditions were the cause. It's an extremely unforgiving environment out there. We just advise everyone to always wear life jackets around the water and keep a weather eye out."

On the Cape Perpetua website, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service said, "Use caution when exploring the rocky coastline. Rocks can be slippery and large waves may catch you by surprise. Never turn your back on the ocean."

Cape Perpetua Scenic Area is located about two miles south of Yachats. The area contains Devil's Churn, the Spouting Horn at Cook's Chasm and Thor's Well. These spouts are a function of the high tide and size of ocean swells, with wind as a factor. They are especially dangerous and unpredictable at high tide and during winter storms.

Rescue personnel from Coast Guard Stations North Bend, Siuslaw River and Yaquina Bay assisted Oregon State Police and Yachats Fire Department during a 15-hour search for a 27-year-old man who was washed into the ocean near Cape Perpetua Dec. 22.

District adds new operations manager

WLAD veteran Matt House promoted to newly created position

As part of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District, former

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

district supervisor **Matt House** was chosen to fill the newly created ambulance district operations

manager position on Nov. 1. House, 42, has worked with Western Lane since 1997, when he started as a part-time emergency medical technician.

"I graduated from Lane Community College in 2003 with my paramedicine degree and an associate degree in applied science," House said. "I became a full time paramedic in 2003."

He was promoted to district supervisor in 2012.

In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of Western Lane, House is responsible for ongoing staff training.

See **DISTRICT 7A**

WLAD Operations Manager Matt House



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Highway 126 collision seriously injures 2

Accident sends 2 to critical care

Two people were seriously injured during a head-on collision that occurred at milepost seven on Highway 126 Monday night at approximately 9:20 p.m.

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

WLAD Operations Manager Matt House said, "It took over an hour to extricate one victim because the vehicle was so badly damaged."

See **COLLISION 7A**

INSIDE Classifieds B6
Kid Scoop B5
Library Tidings A5
Opinion A4

Records A2
Scoreboard B4
Sports B
Weather Data A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY 50/36
THURSDAY 53/41
FRIDAY 47/32
SATURDAY 47/38

SIUSLAW NEWS
2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES
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