

**PIRATES
PLUNDER VIKS**

SPORTS — B



**DEMOCRACY
STARTS SMALL**

OPINION — A4



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

PORT OF SIUSLAW

Caputo delivers 'State of the Port' address

Port set to move ahead with storage shed removal

During the Jan. 18 Port of Siuslaw commissioners meeting, President Ron Caputo gave the annual State of the Port address.

Caputo said, "Under the leadership of Port Manager Steven Leskin, the port has increased revenue, and decreased expenses. The port continues to make

needed repairs to its properties, while saving money for future repairs. Rental properties, the RV park and campsites are in full use during fishing season and continues to be a good source of revenue for the port."

In the port's Independent Auditors Report dated June 30, 2016 and presented to port commissioners during the Dec. 21 meeting, the port showed an increase in operating revenues of \$65,868 and a decrease in operating expenses of \$19,378.

Caputo concluded the report by saying, "We will strive to conduct port business and maintain our properties in the best interest of our tax payers."

In other business, Leskin told commissioners that staff was working on a proposal to tear down the two large blue metal dry storage sheds located in the middle of the RV park.

"Part of the reason we want to bring them down now is changes in floodplain insurance. The floodplain maps that have come out will lead to higher insurance costs," Leskin said.

He also cited the overall deteriorated state of the buildings, liability issues and potential repair costs as additional reasons to demolish the two buildings.

"It is just time for them to come down," Leskin said.

He added, "We are talking to salvage people about actually salvaging the buildings. We want to keep it out of the landfill."

Leskin said he had considered putting more full service RV sites on the property, but the cost concerned him.

"Staff suggested replacing (the sheds) with dry camping, something that would be affordable."

According to Leskin a 2-year-old estimate to excavate and gravel the shed area, after their removal would cost approximately \$13,000.

See **PORT 7A**



Grace Dotson takes the oath of office to be third-grade class president, administered by Siuslaw High School 11th-Grade Class President Kyle King, himself a former third-grade class president.

STATE OF GRACE

Third-grader Grace Dotson and classmates experience democratic process first-hand

Siuslaw Elementary School teacher Dolly Greene is determined to show her students that elections are more than just an activity for adults during this inauguration weekend.

The process began in November, when Greene thought an exercise in civic participation would be beneficial to her students. To that end, the third-graders under her tutelage were encouraged to participate in a "mock" election.

"I want students to practice selecting leaders through voting, understanding that voting is the right and responsibility of citizens of the United States," Greene said. "The students have responded in an enthusiastic way to our social studies focus on the election process. I believe they are able to see the classroom as a microcosm of the world."

The students discussed the election process as it progressed last fall and Greene mirrored the actual events with classroom exercises. Her students had issue-related discussions, they engaged in debates, nominated candidates and made speeches.

The classroom activities were designed with

a specific purpose in mind according to Greene.

"I created a social studies activity centered on a mock election. I included debates, a town hall meeting and voting to allow students to participate in the election process at an elementary school level," she said.

The individual students interested in running for president and vice president participated in the "Town Hall," during which they fielded questions from their classmates. They took the concerns and questions raised by their classmates and discussed them with their running mates. Then the students decided on the issues that resonated with them and incorporated them into their "platform."

The election for Green's class took place on Nov. 8, the same day as the national election. All students present voted for the



Students at Siuslaw Elementary School learn the effects of democracy first-hand in Dolly Greene's third-grade class.

candidate of their choice.

This year's election winners were Grace Dotson, who was elected president, and Laura Dean, who was selected as vice president.

Dotson is described by her teacher as energetic and creative with strong leadership skills and Dean is characterized as dependable, conscientious and hard working.

See **PRESIDENT 7A**

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue seeks new chaplain

Chaplain Darrell Murphy moves on after 11 years serving emergency personnel in fire, ambulance, police districts

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) will hold an informal gathering Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station, 2625 Highway 101, to interview potential replacements for outgoing chaplain, Darrell Murphy.

Murphy, 68, and his wife Judy will be moving to McMinnville to be closer to family members. He plans to continue as chaplain for the McMinnville Fire Department.

Murphy, a former pastor,

moved to Florence from Canby 11 years ago, after serving as the Canby Fire District chaplain for nine years.

"When I came here, there wasn't a real chaplain program, so I developed what I saw as a need for the community," Murphy said. "I've always been a person that cares about people. That's what my life is — taking care of people."

Fire Chief Jim Langborg said, "I've been in emergency services for 22 years and there are only two chaplains during that time that I would consider to be quality chaplains and



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Darrell is one of them. I mean no disrespect for the other chaplains.

"A fire department and emergency medical services chaplain is a different game. People may think it has to do with preaching and praying, but it isn't," he added.

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue District Chaplain Darrell Murphy (center), Recruiting and Retention Officer Pete Warren (left) and Fire Chief Jim Langborg (right) will interview prospective chaplain replacements Tuesday.

According to Langborg, the fire department keeps the term "chaplain" because of tradition. He said that today, the term "crisis management specialist" more accurately describes the role of present day chaplains.

"They work with family members who are going through a hard time. They work with responders who are dealing with issues, either in their personal life or just after a call, or both. The religious aspect is minimized," Langborg said.

See **CHAPLAIN 7A**