



VIKINGS TAKE OUT BRUINS

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Participants in the Jan. 21 Women's March in Florence line up on Highway 101 to show off their signs, banners and support for various causes.

WOMEN'S MARCH DRAWS HUNDREDS TO PROTEST

Peaceful, positive approach attracts march participants from all walks of life

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Hundreds of Florence-area residents participated in a march on Saturday, Jan. 21, to highlight issues of social justice. The rain and cold did not deter the crowd, which was much larger than anticipated, with organizers estimating between 250 and 350 people.

The Florence Women's Empowerment March was

one of more than 600 events held world-wide in support of Saturday's Women's March on Washington, D.C.

The local event was supportive of the intent of the Washington March, without being opposed to any one person or party.

The decision to not be "anti" anything, and to focus on what organizers and participants were "for" was essential to organizer Nin Bebeau.

"It was very important to me to be positive," she said. "I have always felt it was better to be for something, to be moving forward, to be

heading towards a better, more inclusive future."

Bebeau and her team handed out a small pamphlet to potential marchers that outlined their intent and wishes for the march.

"Every point in our booklet was 'pro' something. We are for women's rights, we are for human rights and we are for rights for all ethnicities and races," she said.

Participants gathered at Class Act Theatre at the corner of Rhododendron Drive and Kingwood St., where they created signs and registered for future events.

The large group then pro-

ceeded up Rhododendron Drive to Highway 101 and along the march route.

The hundreds of marchers at the event were from a variety of local groups and many were unaffiliated.

The wide array of opinions that were reflected in the signs being displayed, without resorting to hateful speech, was just one of the pleasant surprises that Bebeau experienced during the march.

Another was the turnout, which greatly exceeded expectations.

See **MARCH 9A**



Marchers were a diverse and colorful group that included young and old, men and women, Democrats and Republicans and more.

SVFR considers cost recovery ordinance

District taxpayers would be exempt from recovery fees

During the Jan. 18 Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue District (SVFR) board meeting, directors agreed to move forward with adopting an ordinance to allow SVFR to recover certain expenses incurred during public safety incidents outside of the district limits, or to non-resident visitors traveling through the district.

Fire Chief Jim Langborg told the board, "The thought process behind this ordinance is that the taxpayers pay for all this equipment and personnel. Those traveling through our area are not taxpayers and don't pay. This is trying to get some cost recovery from those people that don't pay taxes in our area. At least our basic cost for the incident, so our taxpayers don't have to pay for it all."

Langborg referenced what the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) had written as an example of the language to be used.

"We looked through the OSFM policy and wrote them down a little more succinctly in this policy," Langborg said. "We talk about actual personnel charges. They all fit within the OSFM model and are all based on actual cost."

According to the proposed ordinance, a pump fire engine with a four-firefighter crew would bill out at \$100 per hour and

See **RECOVERY 11A**

IN HONOR

Approximately 300 people came to pay their respects on Saturday, Jan. 21, during a firefighter's memorial service held at the Florence Events Center for Florence native and former Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue (SVFR) battalion Chief Asa Hammon (right), who was tragically killed Jan. 11, while working near heavy machinery.



COURTESY PHOTOS ROBIN BARRETT

HGE, Inc. chosen to design Florence City Hall remodel

City approves expanded remodel budget to include Justice Center 'round room'

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council chose Coos Bay architecture firm HGE Inc. to design and oversee the \$1.9 million remodel of the Florence City Hall building during its Jan. 23 meeting.

In addition to the remodel, councilors approved a city staff recommendation to spend approximately \$250,000 to finish a 2,700 square foot portion of the Florence Justice Center, called the "round room," where city staff will conduct business during the city hall renovation.

Project Manager Megan Messmer said, "Planning commission and city council meetings will occur at the Florence Events Center during construction."

The Justice Center space will be turned back over to the police department after the city hall remodel is completed.

The remodel will expand the existing city hall building from 9,600 square feet to 10,200 square feet.

According to Messmer, the architectural design work will take place this winter and spring. City staff will transfer to the Justice Center after upgrades are finished this summer and will relocate back to city hall after the remodel is completed in January 2018.

See **CITY HALL 11A**

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