

Elk's Lodge presents 'Best Wurstfest' on Feb. 25

A Bavarian festival to raise funds for vocational scholarships will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Florence Elks Lodge, 1686 12th St.

The "Best Wurstfest" on the Oregon coast will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and will include live German folk music, dancing, authentic German food such as Bratwurst, beer, wine, pretzels, apple strudel and more.

Admission is \$5, and children under age 12 will be

admitted free.

Enter through the north door of the lodge.

All proceeds from this event go to fund vocational scholarships to be awarded to students in the community.

Come and enjoy the Bavarian atmosphere. The public is welcome.

For more information, contact Linda Tank, event publicity chairwoman, at linda.shippos@live.com or call 541-997-3352.

SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

Spotlight on Mutual Aid

Sometimes our commutes along Highways 126 and 36 are delayed due to accidents. We all know it's annoying, especially when



BY PETE "BOA" WARREN
Recruitment & Retention
Coordinator for SVFR

delayed and running late for an appointment — like being stuck behind a lumbering RV for miles on end.

There are various reasons for accidents, including drivers

who are distracted, intoxicated or driving without using common sense when weather dictates otherwise.

Whatever the reason, when a commute turns into a minor or major accident, who responds to those scenes when they occur farther east of Florence?

That's when our Mutual Aid partners in Mapleton, Swiss Home and

Deadwood comes into action.

Mapleton's volunteer fire department, run by Chief Charlie Patterson, has about 10 active volunteer firefighters. Just up Highway 36, there's Swiss Home and Deadwood fire departments with Chief's Lindsay and Hertzbach — and roughly 15 volunteer firefighters.

From these locations, volunteers head out to their respective stations after receiving emergency notification and respond where needed. They aren't sitting around their stations, but more likely are awakened from a sound sleep or were just sitting down to dinner — just like average citizens.

There are certain procedures followed at accidents to ensure worker safety and to de-escalate further chaos prior to reflowing traffic.

Accidents are a hive of activity, oftentimes with many different responders walking on the highway, retrieving specialized equipment from their rigs, stabilizing vehicles, assisting with medical services, and sometimes utilizing extrication equipment

to free victims.

Also, a partnership of agencies (police, medical, ODOT and mutual aid from Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue), may still be in route to assist.

No accident scene is ever the same, accept for the goal of helping those in need while also preserving a sense of order amid what is often chaos. One of the keys to that sense of order is getting traffic moving safely as soon as possible

So the next time you find yourself delayed by an accident on Highways 126 or 36, please give our Mutual Aid responders from Mapleton, Swiss Home and Deadwood an appreciative wave as you're safely driving by.

They are volunteers doing a needed service for the public.

Be safe out there!

Pete "Boa" Warren can be contacted at 541-997-3212, or the main SVFR station, 2625 Highway 101, or email Boa@svfr.org.

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City Lights to host film, talk about 'fake news'

The terms "fake news" and "alternative facts" are relatively new to our vocabulary and express a lack of faith in both mainstream journalism and the unprecedented amount of information we now receive through countless media platforms.

Join Siuslaw News editor and award-winning columnist Ned Hickson and City Lights Cinemas education director Jared Anderson as they have a lively discussion about the issues of "fake news" and "alternative facts" in relation to the classic film noir "Ace in the Hole" starring Kirk Douglas.

Made in 1951, Douglas plays a cynical, disgraced reporter who stops at nothing to try to regain a job at a major newspaper, eventually sacrificing his principles to manipulate a tragic situation into providing his "big story."

"You have to ask if the problems Douglas faces in the film are just as relevant — or maybe even more so — today," said Anderson. "We're going to explore that and other questions with Ned Hickson after watching the film."

Hickson, who has been with Siuslaw News for 17 years as sports editor before being promoted to editor in September,

said discussions like this on a local level with readers from the community that journalists serve are crucial in establishing the level of trust and communication intended by the First Amendment.

"Faith in journalism, especially on the national level, has been shaken in the wake of this past election — some of it intentional and divisive, and some of it as an unintended consequence of today's need to get the story first outweighing the obligation to get it right.

"Democracy hinges on having informed citizens at every level. If we don't feel we can trust the information we're getting, it undermines our democracy as a whole."

The program will take place Sunday, Feb. 12, beginning at 3 p.m., at City Lights Cinemas, 1930, Highway 101, in the Griffith Theater.

Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, students and active military, or \$7 for children.

"Come see the film, participate in the discussion and enjoy a fun and informative afternoon," said Anderson.

For more information or to purchase tickets in advance, call 541-305-0014.

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Watershed council distributes free native plants Saturday

On Saturday, Feb. 11, the Siuslaw Watershed Council will be giving away over 7,000 native plants to river, creek or lakeside landowners within the Siuslaw Basin and Coastal Lakes Area.

These trees and shrubs are

intended for planting next to streams and lakes in order to improve bank stability and habitat for fish and wildlife while minimizing run-off into local waters.

If you are interested in volunteering on Feb. 11 at one of the distribution sites, let the Siuslaw Watershed Council know.

Here is a list of the distribution locations and times:

Mapleton: 10 a.m. to noon at the SWC office at the Mapleton School District Campus, 10868 East Mapleton Road.

Deadwood: 10 a.m. to noon at the Deadwood Community Center, 91700 Deadwood Creek Road

Blachly: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lake Creek Rural Fire Department, 20451 Highway 36

Lorane: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Lorane Family Store parking lot, 80301 Territorial Highway.

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