

SMS EYES PRIZE

SPORTS — B



PTA takes students ‘Around the World’

INSIDE — A3



Siuslaw News

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U.S. COAST GUARD STATION SIUSLAW RIVER



CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS
U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw Master Chief Tim Tregoning shakes hands with Chief Boatswain's Mate Ben Snider during Tregoning's advancement ceremony Wednesday.

Tregoning advances to master chief

On Wednesday, U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw Officer-in-Charge Tim Tregoning advanced to the title of master chief petty officer, the “pinnacle” of his career, in a ceremony held at Oregon Coast Military Museum in Florence. Sector North Bend Commanding Officer Captain Michael Trimpert conducted the ceremony for Coast Guard personnel from all over the sector and District 13. Chief Boatswain's Mate Ben Snider opened the ceremony by calling Station Siuslaw River personnel to attention.

“Today is a momentous day for the Tregoning family,” Trimpert said. “Advancing to master chief is the pinnacle of being an enlisted man in the U.S. Coast Guard.”

Trimpert listed Tregoning's decades with the Coast Guard, including service “on both sides of the dateline.” Tregoning's previous command was Station Apra Harbor in Guam, and he also served at Motor Lifeboat Station Quillayute River, Wash., Motor Lifeboat Station Morro Bay, Calif., and Motor Lifeboat Station Humboldt Bay, Calif.

Trimpert also spoke of Tregoning's dedication to Sector North Bend since he assumed command of Station Siuslaw River in June 2015.

Master Chief Petty Officer Kirk McKay, officer in charge of Coast Guard Station Chetco River in Brookings, was there in the capacity of Ancient Keeper, a title honoring the Coast Guard member

See **CHIEF** 11A

21ST ANNUAL FLORENCE HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Magic of Spring



Friday opened the 21st annual Home and Garden Show at Florence Events Center with a tiny house exhibit, a new tractor display and a line out the door. Guests especially enjoyed a “Taste of Spring” at Laurel Bay Gardens and whimsical fairy gardens filled with miniatures. With tastings, exhibits, displays and vendors both indoors and out, this seasonal event will get people ready for spring and all its projects. The Home and Garden Show continues today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under, or people can get in free today from 4 to 6 p.m.



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



COURTESY PHOTO
Roderik J. Wilson

Bank robber had a simple plan

Roderick Wilson, homeless with a fatal brain disease, felt he had few options left

What do you do when you are homeless, broke and suffering from Huntington's Disease, a fatal brain-destroying malady that has no cure and leads to physical disabilities and dementia?

Roderick J. Wilson, 48, thought he had the answer — rob a bank, get arrested and have the state take care of him for the next several years.

On Feb. 24, at 10:20 a.m., Wilson walked into the Florence branch of Oregon Pacific Bank (OPB), 1355 Highway 101, and put his plan into action.

According to the Florence Police Department Affidavit for Probable Cause, Wilson walked up to an OPB teller and said he was there to rob the bank.

The teller reportedly placed approximately \$2,000 on the counter. Wilson picked up the cash and started to put it into his pocket, but then placed it back onto the counter and said, “The police are on their way.”

According to the affidavit, Wilson then walked out the front door and

See **ROBBERY** 7A

Elementary students have a field day

Stream Team takes students outside to learn about salmon, habitats

The term field trip usually refers to any excursion that students take when they leave the school grounds. But a field trip taken by the students in Susan DeVries third-grade class at Siuslaw Elementary School was conducted, at least partially, in a real field.

DeVries' class was the latest to make the journey to the Whittaker Creek Recreation Area to observe the spawning run of salmon as they make their way to the

sea. Classes from Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts are regularly invited to come and learn onsite.

These trips are part of a longterm effort by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to increase awareness of the life cycle of the native fish that populate Oregon's rivers, streams and lakes.

The effort to introduce this slippery part of the natural world is headed up by Jim Grano, who is the galvanizing force behind the Stream Team, as it has been named.

Grano is a retired seventh-grade teacher and, since his retirement, he has volunteered his time to support and improve the number and quality

of the area's fish populations. He is an active participant in the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) and has been taking students to Whittaker Creek for more than two decades.

He and the other STEP volunteers participating in this educational effort take the time to explain to students the life cycle of the salmon and its importance to the health of the larger ecosystem of the Siuslaw Watershed.

The field trips make it possible for students to get up close and personal with the migrating fish.

“The Stream Team has been going to Whittaker with STEP since February 1996. Other partners, the U.S. Forest Service and the Siuslaw



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Stream Team Captain Jim Grano describes the anatomy and habits of area salmon to Siuslaw Elementary students.

Watershed Council, came on in 2007,” Grano said.

Since the inception of the program, Grano estimates that 3,500 students have made the trip to the recreation area.

See **FIELD TRIP** 7A