

SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

Why join the fire department?

Why do people join the fire department? Maybe they have pulled over to the side of the road to let a fire engine pass and wondered where it was going?

Or maybe it could be that they have witnessed, first-hand, emergency responders huddled over a person, struggling to maintain a life?



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

Maybe they have driven past a car with a rescue team using the "Jaws-of-Life," as they are actively inserting the spreaders into a badly

mangled vehicle to gain access to a victim?

There are multitudes of reasons people are stepping forward and tak-

ing time away from family, friends and other volunteer opportunities to join our local fire department.

By volunteering, they not only contribute to emergency services in our area, but they also help save valuable community resources by reducing costs for payroll, benefits and so on that would be passed on to the taxpayers.

As a result, that leaves more money for local improvements.

There are also a lot of personal side benefits to volunteering. Certainly, they gain physical fitness, thus feel better physically and mentally — benefits that promote personal growth and self-esteem.

This acts as a wonderful stress reliever.

Other side benefits include bringing people together and promoting camaraderie and teamwork. Volunteering unites people from diverse backgrounds to work together towards a common goal.

Volunteers may not even realize it at the time, but they are gaining professional experience and may possibly find a new career. For example, every one of our fulltime firefighters were once volunteers.

It's also a great learning experience as volunteers gain knowledge about various functions and operations of our local government. As a matter of fact, some of our previous firefighters are now running for public office.

A sense of civic responsibility increases with volunteerism in our community as each volunteer invests their time and energy amongst those who reside here.

Finally, our volunteers make a difference in our community every day. Every single volunteer counts.

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

WELCOMING BLOOM



PHOTO BY MIKE BONES

Gallagher Park, at the east entrance into Florence, shows the red rhododendron 'Cornubia' in full bloom, one of the first rhododendrons to bloom each year. This is a welcoming sight for drivers on Highway 126.

Siuslaw Viewfinders announce January contest winners

The theme for the January meeting of the Siuslaw Viewfinders Camera Club was "Flight."

It was judged at the February meeting because of the special guest presentation in January.

Jane Pittenger took first place with her composite of a lady feeding seagulls that was titled "Seagull Whisperer."

Third place went to Ed Wilent with a well-composed picture of a U.S. Army bi-plane during takeoff.

The second-place winner was not available at press time.



COURTESY IMAGES

Winning photographs by Jane Pittenger (left), who won first place, and Ed Wilent

BRIA SKONBERG AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Review

By VICKIE KENNEDY



Bria Skonberg (second from left) with her band members following their concert at the FEC. (photo by Vickie Kennedy)

was well trained. He played softly, not overwhelming the other musicians. He also stated that this music reminded him of a popular sound of the '60s labeled "tasty jazz." His musical expertise labeled the arrangements as "Amazing" and "Masterful."

Audience members did get up and dance in the second half, starting with a song written by Skonberg, "Down in the Deep," a bluesy instrumental. Cronine joined his writing talents with Skonberg's in the second selection called "Wear and Tear," a

great song about relationships.

A favorite tune of the night was "You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me," where every band member shone. Picard played perfect runs and trills throughout this piece. Douglass used brushes with precision on the drums.

Skonberg has great jazz skills, both on the trumpet and with her voice. In her vocal jazz, she utilized scatting. This is a vocal improvisation with wordless vocables, nonsense syllables or without words at all. Scatting is a

difficult technique that requires vocalizing improvised melodies and rhythms using the voice as an instrument rather than words that are sung.

In her rendition of "St. Louis Blues," a popular American song composed by W.C. Handy, she used her voice as an instrument, adding to the blues style of this piece.

The concert closed with an audience favorite, "The Tiger Rag." Every instrument had a solo section in this piece, showing that while the audience enjoyed the band's music, each one of the musicians had a talent that could stand alone.

After the concert, a comment was made to Skonberg that she must have been ready to put her feet up after such an energetic performance. She replied that she just reflects the energy that the audience sends her way. She could have performed for a couple of more hours.

How we wish she would have. Seacoast Entertainment Association's next production will be the Dallas Brass on Wednesday, March 29, at 7 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

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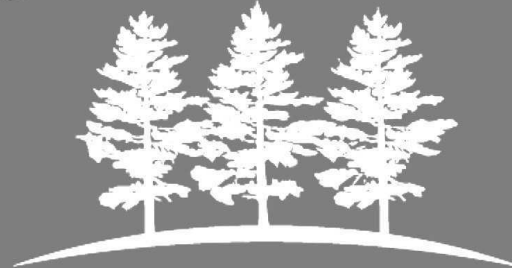
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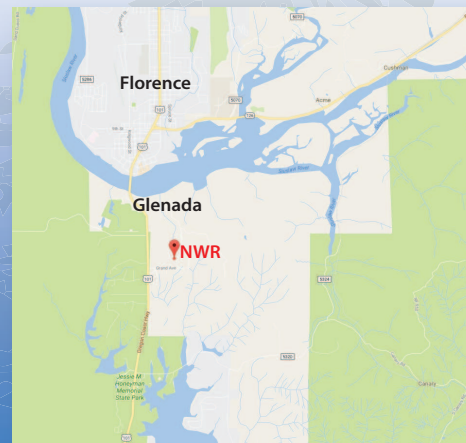
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