

BUSY BATTERS

SPORTS — B



INAUGURAL JAZZ EVENT DRAWS HUNDREDS

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Parent Committee clarifies Powwow cancellation

Unclear 501c3 status reason for the one-year postponement

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The abrupt and unexplained cancellation of last month's Siuslaw School District's annual Indian Education Powwow was addressed during Monday night's meeting of the Native American Parent Committee.

In a statement issued by committee members, the committee explained that due to an unknown loss of its 501c3 status under the prior volunteer treasurer, "...the recent discovery of this by the current volunteer treasurer of the Parent Committee, and the written threat of criminal prosecution, led to the extremely difficult decision to cancel the 24th Annual Indian Education Powwow in order to protect all parties involved with the powwow.

"This was not a decision that the Parent Committee took lightly, nor was the threat of criminal prosecution taken lightly," committee members expressed in the statement. "It was a heart wrenching decision that we were forced to make out of necessity."

The Native American Parent Committee then thanked the community for its support.

Following a unanimous vote, the Powwow has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2018.

Body discovered in forest near Mapleton

Sheriffs seek public's assistance in investigation

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is working to identify a body discovered in the Siuslaw National Forest last Friday.

On March 31, a hiker discovered the deceased subject in the forest.

"It is still early in the investigation," said Sgt. Carrie Carver, LCSO public information officer. "There is not a lot of information we can give out at this time."

LCSO is investigating the death with the Lane County Medical Examiner's Office, and is working to determine the identity of the victim. Currently, the sheriff's office is considering this death suspicious in nature; however, cause and manner of death have not yet been determined.

"We are putting this out there in the hopes of eliciting a response from the public," Carver said. "If you live in the area, any information you have could be important."

Anyone with information related to this case should contact the LCSO Public Information Office at 541-686-4179.

SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING ACADEMY SVFR conducts important 'Hot Box' training

Firefighter trainees go through a series of drills designed to simulate real life situations

Most people are familiar with the old adage, "practice makes perfect."

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Training and Volunteer Coordinator Captain Jeff Larson feels that while perfection may be difficult to achieve, practice is indeed essential to his mission.

"It's all about decision making. We train for real-world incidents in a high-paced, safe manner, whether it be a structure fire, a motor vehicle accident or a medical call," Larson said. "This way, when the alarm sounds and the community needs our help, we can jump out of bed at 3 a.m. and make the right decisions to keep ourselves, other fire fighters and the community we are protecting alive."

This past weekend, Larson oversaw a series of practice exercises for a group of firefighter recruits at Fire Station No. 4 on Sutton Lake Road. These exercises were conducted at the "Hot Box" — a structure that looks like a small house — situated behind the fire station.

The Hot Box serves as a real-life opportunity for trainees to learn the techniques and proper methods for entering a burning building and extracting occupants or victims.

Larson ran his charges through a series of drills that took place while the Hot Box was billowing smoke from its door and windows.

The trainees followed Larson's lead as they approached the structure, crouching down and lightly running their hands over the exterior of the building's door to ascertain the temperature inside.

Then, Larson instructed the group on the proper use of equipment that draws out the smoke in the box, allowing firefighters to enter and extract any unconscious occupants.



BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Above, Siuslaw Valley Captain Jeff Larson (second from left) instructs firefighter trainees on the dangers and proper techniques of entering a structure on fire. Right, firefighters practice using fire extinguishers. The training simulates conditions firefighters might encounter in actual emergency situations.



A second, smaller staging area to the side of the box was set up with a large barrel filled with trash and debris and set ablaze.

This step in the training was designed to allow the trainees the opportunity to use fire extinguishers to suppress the fire.

These are just some of the drills that the trainees will take part in before they are ready to participate in actual emergencies. Both of these drills have real-incident applications

to situations they are likely to encounter in the course of their work as first responders.

See **TRAINING 7A**

Florence residents debate 'sanctuary city' status

People speak out on state, federal laws even though topic not on city council agenda

During the April 3 Florence City Council meeting, the council chamber at City Hall was filled to capacity with pro and con advocates for Florence being designated a "sanctuary city."

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

The mostly respectful audience listened as several speakers for each side addressed the councilors during the public comments part of the session. Loud applause accompanied each speaker's address.

Before the sanctuary city comments were heard, one speaker proposed that because Oregon has been designated a sanctuary state for years, the council should read a proclamation and put up



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence resident Mike Danowitz (front) shares his views on sanctuary cities with the Florence City Council and audience members during the April 3 meeting.

signs stating, "Florence is a hate-free community."

Mayor Joe Henry, in an attempt to give equal opportunity to each side, queried the list of people who were signed up regarding their position on the issue. He then selected several representatives from each side to address the council.

Resident Mike Danowitz said the issue was not about being hate free, but about crime and homelessness. He shared his experience from living in Southern California.

"They were flying the illegals in and the crime rate went up. You saw more vagrants on the street.

See **DEBATE 7A**

Bozievich, Trapp address town hall attendees on county issues

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich and Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp held a town hall meeting at the Florence Events Center Wednesday, March 29. Commissioner Pat Farr also attended.

Topics discussed included the future of the 82,000-acre Elliott State Forest land south of Florence, a new federal land management bill, renewal of a Lane County jail levy on the May 16 ballot and a proposal to build a new county courthouse.

"The 59-year-old court facility is completely inadequate for a county our size and for today's modern standards for how courts are run," Bozievich said. "The facilities are completely inadequate."

Bozievich also gave an update on federal funds that may become available to Lane County if a new land management bill passes congress.

"We are starting to see some movement in the Oregon and California (O and C) land," he said.



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich answers question from constituents during a town hall meeting he shared with Lane County Sheriff Byron Trapp Wednesday.

Bozievich explained that O and C land was an every

other mile, one-mile square swath of land that ran the entire length of a proposed north-south rail line through Oregon and Northern California in the 1800s. The land grant was offered to entice the Oregon and California Railroad to build tracks along the route.

"It was really a land grab by the railroad company that was ultimately taken over by the federal government,"

Bozievich said. "We may get the O and C

and Bureau of Land Management lands up to a reasonable level of harvest that still protects the environment," he added.

According to the commissioner, the agreement could allow up to 500 million board feet of annual lumber harvest. The state currently receives revenue on approximately 100 million board feet from the O and C land.

"That will generate a significant amount of revenue for schools and counties. Those receipts get split 50-50 between state school funds and the county general fund," Bozievich said.

See **TOWN HALL 7A**