

Forum from 7A

afterward, where community members spoke for and against Langborg's eventual reinstatement.

"There are things the chief has done that I think are good things. Somehow it's been painted as me being 'anti chief,' and I think some of that comes from the meeting," Hickson said.

At the time, he was president of the Siuslaw Valley Firefighter Association.

"On behalf of the volunteers, I said, 'We need to come together as a department and for the benefit of the community and the people. We need to put aside our differences and we need to come together for the department and the community,'" he said.

Farnsworth was also a member of the firefighter association at the time, and read a letter in support of Langborg.

"I do have confidence in Chief Langborg. I have also met with him in preparing to run for this position. ... He answered a number of our questions and I think he has an open door policy and is willing to answer any questions he is asked. I think he is also willing to accept critique and try to go forward that way," she said.

Green said he did not attend the contentious meeting.

"Now, I should say I'm not a chief sympathizer," he said. "I like Jim Langborg, I think he's doing a good job, but if I was elected I'm not going to pass on him. ... The board will hold him accountable. As well they will for the operation of the IGA. I

think he's doing a good job, but that doesn't mean we're not going to keep our eye on him."

He also said that as someone who holds a similar role — that of chief administrative officer — he knows the role of the board to direct the position.

Tipler said, "The board sets policy, procedure, a budget and guidelines. This IGA is something that I'm really confused about."

Like the candidates in Western Lane, he had a hard time tracking the numbers that refer to the amount of money the IGA will save.

"I still to this day feel he is not a good fit for this community," Tipler said of the fire chief. "He's leading us in the wrong direction."

The candidates talked about the "family-hood" felt by members of the fire department and additional budget topics before wrapping up.

PORT OF SIUSLAW

The sixth and final board Sneddon invited was the Port of Siuslaw.

"If we've had contested races in this community the last few years, it's been the Port of Siuslaw," Sneddon said.

For Commissioner Position 1, incumbent Terry Duman is running against Shayne Burnem. Both candidates are business owners in the area.

For Commissioner Position 3, incumbent Mike Buckwald is running against Frank Eisele. Buckwald, who is a certified public accountant, was absent.

For Commissioner Position 5, former commissioner Bill Fleenor, Bill Meyer and David

Swinney are running for the position currently held by Ron Caputo.

Sneddon asked the three candidates for Position 5 to begin.

Swinney, who is retired, said, "I chose to run because of my past experience of 35 years living on boats in one harbor or another, San Francisco Bay and up and down the coast. That gives me a very unique perspective of what's going on at the port. ... I think the port should remain an open space and have public access ... where my grandkids can go down and dip their toes in the water."

Meyer said, "There are towns that are mill towns, there are towns that are textile towns, but Florence is a quality of life town. People move here, stay here, live here because of quality of life. ... Florence makes up an important part of this region. ... I have an emotional and financial investment in Florence and I want to see the port thrive."

He has a background in consulting and systems design and advocated taking a deeper look at the port's assets to determine next steps.

Fleenor said he has served on the boards of Central Lincoln PUD, on Lane County Commission and the Port of Siuslaw.

"Each time I believe I delivered transparency, accountability and results. This election is no different. I believe that it's time that the port engages in some soul searching. We need to figure out what we're doing, why we are here, and whom we are serving. I think it's time that we ask those questions and demand

some answers. I don't have all the solutions, but I believe I have the education, experience, wisdom and knowledge to see the port through this transition," he said.

He handed out a form on the port's financials and focused most of his discussion on restoring the port's economic base.

Eisele, who is a local barber, said the real problem the port has is with communication. He said that he knew of a number of people who were "trespassed" off port property, even if they were within their public or sacred rights to be there.

He said his reason for running "is all river — protecting aboriginal rights to the river."

Duman was elected four years ago.

"I'm a sport and commercial fisherman. I use the port. I've lived on the Siuslaw my entire life. I was born on the Siuslaw River. ... I never had any desire to leave. I've been accused by my opponents of supporting the fishing industry — and I'm guilty of it. I support the fishing industry, whether it be sport, recreational or commercial aspects," he said.

Burnem said he ran against Duman four years ago.

"I really like to push the economic development side, but all the reasons (stated) here are my reasons for running. ... I love this port and I love our community. I want to give back. I want it to be a strong port," he said. "It's an economic resource and a tool that can be used. ... We need to get it cleaned out and running well."

Sneddon brought the conversation around to current Port

Manager Steven Leskin and the board's role in working with the manager and with the public. Most of the candidates agreed that the Port of Siuslaw Board of Commission's power needs to be redefined using Oregon Revised Statute 777. This would give greater clarity on the order of authority and clear up some of the contention at recent Port meetings.

The candidates also discussed finances, port assets and possibilities to fill moorage and campsite vacancies before concluding.

"The port certainly needs to move forward," Fleenor said. "I believe that under 777, our primary direction is economic

development, job creation. The port can't be all things to all people, so we must re-vision and re-determine what the port should be doing. ... My point is that the Port of Siuslaw is greater than the sum of its assets. It's a port authority, and that's what we need to take advantage of."

At the close of the forum, Sneddon thanked all the candidates and the listeners, as well as his Coast Radio producer Michael Simmons.

Siuslaw News will have the full video version of the Special Election Candidate Forum Our Town on its website, thesiuslawnews.com.

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- Rotary Club of Florence honors James Sangrey** with an Honorary Membership in recognition for his service to the club and community
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For more information Call President, Pat Riley: 541-991-6371
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Faces from 1A

of our immigrant and international student community at LCC, and we certainly want to support all of our students who feel particularly vulnerable this season," Pierson said. "We also recognize our role as an educational institution in Florence and western Lane County, and one of the best ways to educate ourselves, maybe especially on difficult and complicated issues, is to listen to one another's stories."

The State of Oregon and the City of Florence already have in place policies and guidelines for dealing with the situation of undocumented students in the

local district.

The event at LCC seeks to help residents understand the life story of immigrant students living in Florence, according to Pierson.

"We are excited to introduce the community to this vibrant population of international and immigrant students who are a wonderful part of our life together, who are working hard," he said. "In some cases to learn English, to take citizenship classes or to brush up on their educational skills in order to become credit students working toward their Associate of Arts degree."

According to information provided by LCC, there are currently about 22 immigrant students

currently enrolled in English Language Learner and Citizenship programs on the Florence campus. These students are from Mexico, China and the Phillipines. There are also four or five immigrant students studying that are originally from Russia and Mexico.

Pierson wants the community to have the opportunity to meet the foreign students and believes they will appreciate the lengths to which his students have gone to study and work here.

"They are all working to better their English language skills in order to improve their opportunities. Some are studying to become U.S. citizens and some are upgrading their skills to take

placement tests to enter the college program at LCC," said Pierson, who points out that there have been a number of students who have received GED's here and gone on to college.

Nearly all of the students work at various jobs in town, with the exception of a couple who are retired people and stay-at-home moms.

For more information on the Faces of Florence event call 541-997-8444.

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Thanks, Teachers!

Teachers play an enormously important role in the development of our nation's youth. They teach and inspire, guiding our kids toward bright, successful futures. They act as educators, role models and coaches, broadening minds and encouraging achievement. During Teacher Appreciation Week, we recognize teachers for their dedication to helping our children, our nation's future leaders, succeed.

Here are a few ways you can support, encourage and thank teachers in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8-12 2017:

- Deliver fresh baked goods for teachers to enjoy at lunchtime or after school.
- Find out if there are any classroom volunteer opportunities that need to be filled.
- Encourage students to draw a picture or write a note of thanks for their teachers.
- Write a thank you note to your child's teacher.

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