

**Crash** from 1A

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Chief Jim Langborg said, "Western Lane Ambulance sends our heartfelt sympathy to the friends and family of our patient."

Langborg is Western Lane's administrator.

According to an Oregon Pacific Bank representative, an anonymous Florence community member has opened a memorial account at the bank to collect donations for the family of Smith.

Community members wishing to donate in support of Smith's family are welcome to visit Oregon Pacific Bank and ask that the funds be placed in the Sara Smith Memorial Fund.

**Port** from 1A

"(The lien) did go through, but that was because I missed the court date to contest it."

Port Manager Steven Leskin said, "The port commission spent an hour and a half in a special meeting discussing Owen's case with the port's attorney (on Feb. 20). At the end of that meeting, commissioners concluded that the lien was placed legally and properly. We acted correctly under Oregon lien law."

In reply to Owen's comments about a missed court date, Leskin said, "This was not a judicial lien requiring a court proceeding."

Owen removed his boat from the port and had it towed up river in mid-April because the boat could not operate under its own power. In addition, the vessel's state registration had

expired in December and Owen failed to provide proof of insurance — both of which are criteria for qualifying for discount moorage rates.

Owen's dispute with the port over moorage fees goes back to April 2016.

Since 2011, Owen had been on an annual moorage contract with semi-annual payments of \$840. Owen renewed a one-year lease with the port on Oct. 1, 2015.

Leskin said Owen has been habitually late in making payments.

The port placed him on a month-to-month contract in April 2016 because of late payments.

Port staff met with Owen on July 8 that year.

Leskin said that during the meeting Owen was told the moorage he paid to the port on April 11 covered his moorage through July 4 and that he

would owe monthly moorage fees of \$261 each month until the end of his contract on Oct. 1, 2016.

When the previous annual contract expired that October, and Owen made no attempt to renegotiate a new contract, the Tenacious was placed on a transient rate of \$17 per day.

On Nov. 8, the port's attorney sent a certified return receipt letter informing Owen of lien proceedings and of the port's intention to foreclose.

The port placed an ad on Craigslist Jan. 18 and submitted a final bill to Owen, giving him one last chance to bring the delinquent account current.

As of Feb. 21, 2017, moorage, late fees, attorney fees and a \$300 impound fee totaled \$3,897.

During the Feb. 20 special meeting, port attorney David Coulombe, who was participating via conference call said,

"There is a good policy reason to enforce the board's fees at the daily rate as opposed to some semi-annual or annual rate. As a port authority, you are using public funds. You have to ask yourself, are we subsidizing Mr. Owen's moorage with public funds?"

Owen paid the \$3,897 just hours before the sealed bid lien auction was to take place.

In mid-April, when Owen towed the Tenacious to an upriver moorage location, the port decided to write off the additional \$440 Owen had accrued in past due moorage fees since Feb. 24.

"If I get paid back what I put in the invoice, we are done. If I don't get that paid back then I don't feel like I have been properly compensated and then this thing will just continue on," Owen said.

In other business, the port adjourned the regular meeting

to go into an executive session to discuss property.

After closing the executive session and reopening the regular meeting, commissioners voted to approve a sale to the City of Florence of tax lots 1400 and 4500 for \$27,500 for both parcels. The two riverfront parcels are located just west of the City of Florence Waste Treatment Plant.

In making the motion, commissioner Nancy Rickard said, "This will include recognition of Port of Siuslaw's support without further responsibility or obligations and a 90-day pending period to complete an environmental assessment, obtain a hazardous materials report and conduct a real property survey before closing. Additionally, the city will pay for the title insurance as well as 50 percent of all closing, escrow and recording costs." The vote was unanimous.



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**Humane society thrift store seeks volunteers**

Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) Thrift Store, 1193 Bay St. still offers the same great buys but with a fresh new look.

Friendly and helpful volunteers are sought to assist shoppers as they peruse and shop for outstanding buys on decorative, household items, clothing, tools, books, furniture and art.

The store has been renovated and it reopened in April, making shopping easier and more fun.

Anyone interested in volunteering a few hours a week should contact Danielle Dickson, Director of Development at 541-999-5702 for more information.

OCHS Thrift Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oregon Coast Humane Society needs a few new volunteers to staff the recently renovated thrift store at 1193 Bay St. in Old Town.



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