



LIONS HOST ELLIOTT BASS FUN TOURNAMENT JUNE 3-4

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MAY SCHOOL ZONE

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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Memorial Day activities honor fallen vets



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



(Top) The Florence community salutes as a bugler plays "Taps" while U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River lays memorial wreaths on the river. (Lower left) Kyung Peterson and son Lance from Florence Cub Scout Pack 721 hammer in crosses at the graves of veterans at Pacific Sunrise Cemetery on Saturday morning. Local Boy and Cub Scouts set approximately 500 crosses.

Ceremonies recognize the sacrifices made by veterans

Memorial Day in Florence is always a somber occasion, as it is in many small towns across America. A large number of veterans from all four branches of the military have retired here and made Florence their home. Many of these individuals and patriotic community members

were involved in veteran-related ceremonies during the Memorial Day weekend. Events took place at local cemeteries and parks to honor and recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by the more than 1 million American soldiers who died while serving in the military.

See CEREMONY 6A

PORT OF SIUSLAW

Port places Leskin on paid administrative leave

Complaint from tenant causes commissioners to act

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

During a special meeting held Tuesday, Port of Siuslaw commissioners voted unanimously to place Port Manager Steven Leskin on paid administrative leave.



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Port Manager Steven Leskin

Port of Siuslaw Board of Commissioners met in an executive session before the special meeting.

President Ron Caputo said, "You are being put on paid administrative leave while we check on a complaint we have from Amber Novelli concerning some sexual advances that she perceived that you made."

Novelli and her husband Kyle operate Novelli's Crab and Seafood market located on the Port of Siuslaw docks. The Novellis also operate a commercial fishing vessel.

Also attending the special meeting was Special Districts Association of Oregon Assistant General Counsel Spencer Rockwell.

Leskin was hired as port manager in February 2016.

No further information was available at press time Tuesday.

Sen. Ron Wyden speaks to packed town hall Sunday

President, healthcare, immigration among topics discussed at Sunday forum

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

More than 200 people turned out for Sen. Ron Wyden's 41st town hall meeting of the year Sunday at the Florence Events Center.

Topics ranged from healthcare and immigration to the Electoral College, privatization of the Bonneville Power Authority and the president's tax returns.

More than 20 people were able to ask Wyden questions during the 90-minute town hall. Participants

were offered raffle tickets to determine who would be chosen to address the senator.

State Sen. Arnie Roblan and Florence City Councilor Joshua Greene, who filled in for Mayor Joe Henry, drew tickets and read out the numbers.

Prior to the start of the question and answer session, Wyden presented Florence resident Steve Olienyk with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in recognition of his military and humanitarian service.

Wyden serves on the Senate

Intelligence Committee and is a ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

As a member of these committees, Wyden is in the thick of current congressional inquiries and investigations.

"This town hall speaks to the legitimacy of our government," Wyden said. "What has happened with Russia has raised real questions about whether our government is for us or if it is really beholden to special interests, and

maybe doing things with foreign powers that shouldn't be done.

"This administration has moved on Russian policies dramatically differently than other administrations, Democrats and Republicans."

He added, "Much of the Trump portfolio, by their admission, not mine, really was Russian investments. In the Russian investigation, I've taken the lead in what I call the 'follow the money' issue.

See TOWN HALL 7A

JENNA BARTLETT TO LEAD AS PUBLISHER

As of May 22, Siuslaw News has a new publisher as Group Manager John Bartlett focuses his efforts in California.

General Manager Jenna Bartlett now assumes the role of publisher.

John said, "I am so excited for News Media Corporation to promote Jenna to a publisher position in Florence. This is a well-deserved promotion and long overdue."

As publisher, Jenna will manage operations in Siuslaw News' editorial and marketing departments and continue to oversee the Central Coast Publishing Press Plant in Coos Bay. She will tend to many of the day-to-day operations of the business, including the hiring process, budget, community response and more.

Jenna will also work with Editor Ned Hickson to direct the style and content of the Siuslaw News' printed and online publications.

Besides working at Siuslaw News, Jenna is the current Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Board President and is active with the Rotary Club of Florence, Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County and other area nonprofits.

"Jenna is so active in the community and has done a wonderful job leading the Siuslaw News these past three years. She has been a leader in the digital transformation of the newspaper to a daily online paper and I have no doubt she will continue to grow this media leading publication," John said. "I am also very proud of her as any father would be."

SVFR, Department of Forestry respond to 'controlled' burn Friday

Small burn pile fire grows to engage 20 acres off Clear Lake Road

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

On May 26, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) responded to a call for assistance at a controlled burn off of Clear Lake Road, south of Florence.

According to Fire Chief Jim Langborg, the incident had not been expected to be unusual or to

require SVFR support.

"On my arrival, I found a large slash fire that was in attendance of a responsible person, who had obtained burn permits and contacted Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to ensure it was a safe day to burn," Langborg said. "After lighting the fire, he noticed spot fires popping up and called us. ODF was also notified and had

an overhead person on-scene approximately 40 minutes after my arrival."

The initial attempts at suppression of these spot fires were not successful and the blaze grew to the point where additional resources were required.

"In total, approximately 25 SVFR firefighters were on-scene, along with mutual aid resources

from Reedsport and Gardiner. Approximately 27 ODF personnel were on-scene with three private bulldozers and a water tender," Langborg said. "A unified command structure was utilized and the incident was large enough to split into north and south divisions."

See FIRE 6A

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