

Drill from 1A

Peace Harbor Chief Administrative Officer Rick Yecny said, "PeaceHealth Peace Harbor is dedicated to protecting and serving our community, and we are eager to be involved in this activity — especially with the recent implementation of our decontamination team."

Motorists and pedestrians in the area can expect to see both the fire on the drill boat and the associated smoke. Citizens may also hear drill communication over the police, fire, EMS and other emergency response radio frequencies.

The public should not be alarmed if they see drill equipment and participants around the main hospital entrance and the Port of Siuslaw, or hear information over radio fre-

quencies between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on June 8th.

WLEOG's statement said the drill would not affect normal hospital emergency department operations or patient care.

Hospitals are required by their hospital accreditation to have disaster response plans in place and conduct periodic drills for improvement and training purposes. This drill will serve as one of Peace Harbor's required drills.

Florence Police Chief Tom Turner said, "I'm always pleased that training is being conducted by all of the involved local agencies. Practice and training ensures a better response when it is needed."

For more information about WLEOG and disaster preparedness, visit wleog.org.

Bass from 1A

to keep children out of inclement weather while waiting for the bus," Meyers said. "The community has always been supportive of these projects, especially the local businesses which don't get a direct benefit other than knowing they have helped in a mission that is critical to our community."

The Lions Club has expanded the number and types of causes that are tackled over the years, but it remains true to its

core intent, which is to help others in need.

Meyers wants the community to know the local chapter of the club is always looking for new members to assist in their mission, which is also the group's motto: "We Serve."

For more information, contact the Florence-Siuslaw Lions Club at 541-997-4855.



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Contestants weigh bass during the Lions Club Bass Tournament.

Dean from 1A

He said he hopes to expand the program to offer several more classes through the high school.

"If the high school has culinary arts during the school day, then maybe we can use the facility in the evening and offer a second year of culinary arts. Students who took it the first year in high school could take the second year as Lane students and walk out of here with a degree or certificate in culinary arts or hospitality management," Pierson said.

According to the new dean, the Florence Center is bringing back a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program that was offered several years ago.

At first, it may sound backward to bring back the CNA II program before offering the CNA I program, but Pierson has his reasons.

He said he wants to offer the CNA II program to those people who have already taken CNA I and are currently working at places like PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center.

"CNA is presented as a non-credit course," Pierson said. "That can be good and bad. The bad is that if it is a non-credit course, you can't get financial aid to take that course. But there are a couple of good things about it. One, it can be offered at a fairly advanced pace, so you are not necessarily having to take it for an entire year. It is also less expensive than a full credit

course."

Pierson said the college has had conversations with Peace Harbor and with Lane Workforce Partnership to see if there is some special financial aid that might be available to students for the CNA programs.

Pierson sees the CNA programs as a step toward a full Registered Nurse certification.

"There is a fairly clear path to get from CNA to LCC's nursing program, which is sited in Eugene, but by having the CNA program here and establishing a good working relationship with Peace Harbor, we are also hopeful that any Florence student that takes the full nursing program that leads to a Registered Nurse certification will be able to do their clinicals here, if they wish," he said.

The Medical Assistant program will also be reintroduced this fall.

Pierson said, "It was tabled for a year to re-imagine what that program should look like, with new technology requirements and medical coding."

He sees the establishment of a good working relationship with Peace Harbor to be advantageous to Florence Center students.

"Our students can then take some of their clinical work and cooperative education at Peace Harbor and hopefully some of

the other skilled nursing facilities here in town," he said.

Pierson sees LCC as not just a two-year college, but also an opportunity for students to take two years of general studies in preparation for a four-year degree at significant cost savings over a four-year college tuition.

"Lane has what is called the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) degree," Pierson explained. "Students can come in, take two years worth of general education classes and then transfer into any of the major Oregon universities."

Further financial aid may be available from the Oregon Promise, established by the Oregon state legislature, now completing its first year.

According to Pierson, this year students were eligible for \$1,000 to \$3,397 annual tuition, minus a \$50 per-term co-pay. Next year's amount will not be made public until July, but Pierson believes it will be at least \$1,000.

Pierson's goal for LCC Florence Center is to make the college as relevant to this community as possible.

"I have found Florence to be a very warm, open, welcoming community. This is the kind of community where you feel like you can make a difference pretty quickly," he said.

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