

**Search** from 1A

no sign of Lewoczko. Search efforts continued through the morning and following day along the lake's northern arm, with additional assistance from Josephine County Sheriff's Office Divers. The search continued on Sunday, July 30, with assistance from Klamath County Sheriff's Office Divers and Lane County Sheriff's Office Divers. Lewoczko's body was discovered just after noon Sunday, about 50 yards from the lake's edge across from the park's picnic area. "Information gathered at the scene indicated that he wasn't

wearing a life jacket," said Sgt. Carrie Carver of the Lane County Sheriff's Office. Though no foul play was suspected, the official cause and manner of death was still being determined by the Lane County Medical Examiner's Office as of Tuesday. "Wearing a life jacket can prevent many water-related deaths from occurring," said Carver. "We are saddened by the loss of Mr. Lewoczko, and our thoughts are with his friends and family members." Lewoczko had been visiting his brother, who lives in Portland, for the past week and had just extended his visit for an additional week to spend more time camping in the park.

**Graduate** from 1A

They met when she was a volleyball player; he would follow her around, heckling her as she played. Of course they fell in love. He often took her on motorcycle rides to the beach. "She was a riding hot mama," Connie said. But then World War II hit. Dwight served on a ship, but it was torpedoed. On leave, he came back to Swisshome and Leona never left his side. Marriage was inevitable, then they went down to San Diego where they had their first child. It's there she became a Rosie the Riveter. Leona worked putting rivets on B-24's. She was a buckler, holding metal to the planes as her partner riveted the metal to the aircraft's fuselage. "That gun on the other side, it just shook me. I had to hold it tight to make sure it didn't slip," she said. The vibrations of the gun were jarring, leaving her body vibrating for hours afterwards. "But it kept everything working," she said. After the war, Leona came back



JARED ANDERSON/SUSLAW NEWS

**Greg Walton gives his mother Leona May Walton flowers in honor of her graduation.**

to Mapleton and looked into finishing school. "I went to the school and I talked to the superintendent," she recalled. "He said you have to go every day and take a whole year's course. I only had half a credit left, and I despised history. So I said no." It wasn't just the history that made Leona hesitant. She was already a mother at that point, an adult who helped the war effort. "I didn't want to go to school with those kids. I would have been embarrassed, they would have been embarrassed, so that's the way I felt," she said. Instead, she worked as a veterinary technician for 25 years, a job she thoroughly enjoyed. "We had really gone to the dogs," she joked. Leona doesn't think much about her role in history. She spends most of her time with her

cat and shooting off guns in her backyard. It's to scare off the pigeons, she says, but she wouldn't mind hitting one for dinner. She's still not a fan of history very much. "You get tired of all the nonsense going on," she said. When asked what she would do for her graduation night, Leona said, "I'm going to stay home with my cat."



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**Public Art** from 1A

"This project came about because the committee discussed the ways we can make an impact quickly, and how we can beautify what's already there," Weese said. "It's a way to make things that are utilitarian more beautiful." The project experienced some pushback by Old Town residents, but Springer said it was a chance to open a dialogue. "Some people were surprised to see the project," he said. "It's change, and it's different. And until now we haven't done a very good job of telling people what we're doing." The next aspect of this project will be to refurbish some of the city's bus shelters, and eventually add artist-created decals. The tentative timeline is to begin the call to artists in the fall. PAC's second project will be a mural on the Central Lincoln PUD building at the corner of Highways 101 and 126. The mural could fill the entire eastern wall, all 125 feet by 17 feet. The mural is set to be completed next spring and summer. The third project is to update the steps connecting Highway 101 and Old Town. The artists who answer the call for entry will get to decide to place tiles on the risers of the steps, or use a different medium, such as paint. "We are trying to suggest that artists have a community engagement part to their proposal so the that community members and school kids can come out and put

some of the final touches on it, or have an actual hands-on experience with it," said Tive. Beaudreau said, "The stairway will really be a pedestrian gateway between Old Town and Highway 101. It will make Florence more accessible on foot than it has been in the past. It's also pretty timely with the ReVision Florence project the city is doing to revamp things." PAC's fourth project is Art Exposed, a continual project that will place five public art pieces along Bay Street, from Siuslaw River Coffee Roasters to Maple Street, for two years, or until the pieces sell. The committee will then add new pieces in rotation. Committee Member Jayne Smoley said, "The artwork in Art Exposed will have the most impact on the community by blending into the Old Town landscape, but at the same time being very well exposed." Springer said Art Exposed will keep the work "fresh" until the city decides on permanent pieces for the five locations: near the coffee shop, in the rain garden at Siuslaw River Bridge Interpretive Center, near Waterfront Depot, towards the front of Gazebo Park and at Maple Street Park, at the junction of Bay and Maple streets. The fifth project is also already in motion. Since 2015, several people have inquired about donating artwork to the city. PAC then had to create a process to accept donated pieces. The first piece, "Totem Pole," a winged cedar sculpture featuring scenes of the Siuslaw River Bridge, was made by Steve Benson and donated to the city by Gerald Curran. It is now residing in Gallagher Park near the "Welcome to Florence" sign. A second piece, "Cascade" by David Miller and donated by Harold and Elizabeth Ann Anson, is a red metal sculpture that used to reside at Laurel and First streets in Old Town. It will also be placed in Gallagher Park. Now that PAC's art projects have been set and budgeted, the committee will hold a forum on Monday, Aug. 14, to add public input to the committee's two-year process. "These are our definitive projects that are being worked on," Springer said. "Now it's time to engage the public into that dialogue." In planning its projects, PAC has worked with Oregon Department of Transportation, Central Lincoln, City of Florence, Florence Public Works, the city attorney and private business and landowners. "We haven't talked to the public about our projects much yet because we have been working on the paperwork aspect," Beaudreau said. "Everything has been in process. Now, we're going to be able to blossom." Besides the forum, community involvement is being sought in other ways, starting primarily with calls to artists. PAC decided to use CaFÉ (CallForEntry.org) to host the calls for artists. This free website allows any artist, anywhere in the world, to create a free profile and subscribe to calls based on their area of expertise. In return, more than 500 agencies globally submit calls to artists. Beaudreau said, "This is bringing art to the next level. Artists should not be uncomfortable about submitting a profile on CaFÉ, since this is going to help find other calls for art as well, not only here in this area, but regionally and internationally." Each of PAC's projects will have separate calls to artists, which will also be published more local-

ly, and will be open to any artist. "We're very excited to use this resource, since we think we're going to get a really high level of art from a wide variety of people," Springer said. Community members will also have the chance to serve on the selection committees for the projects. "We don't want to do this in a vacuum," Weese said. "We want to get input from the public and stakeholders, people who have businesses or homes nearby, for each of these projects." PAC will also work with people willing to write grants, help with landscaping or donate expertise or funds. "These things we're doing will allow people to engage with the community," Beaudreau said. The five projects' one to two-year processes will allow for a comparatively quick completion. "We love that these are projects we can do now," Weese said. "Urban Renewal is excited about that as well, since so much of what it does is on a huge scale, like ReVision Florence. We can show progress for all our projects with relatively short timelines." Quick projects, such as the Bay Street receptacles, also shows that PAC is making a consistent effort. "It's important that what we do initially is seen by the people who live here," Hildenbrand said. "The public has to get behind the public art projects, and the dream of this committee. If we don't get the community behind it, it's not going to fly." PAC's "Bringing Art to the Streets" Public Forum will be held at City Lights Cinemas on Monday, Aug. 14, at 6:30 p.m. For more information on PAC, visit [ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac](http://ci.florence.or.us/bc-pac) or contact Weese at 541-997-3437.

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