



SPECIAL PUBLICATION INSIDE

WARMING UP THE DIAMONDS

SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



PHOTOS BY DAMIEN SHERWOOD FOR THE SIUSLAW NEWS



Home & Garden Show begins with 'Breath of Spring'

38 exhibitors bring products and services to Florence Events Center March 2 to 4

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

A "Breath of Spring" will welcome attendees to the 22nd annual Florence Home and Garden Show this weekend. The fragrant aroma of fresh flowers, greenery and berry plants will fill the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., starting with Laurel Bay Gardens at the front entryway and inside.

"Laurel Bay is the focal point, the centerpiece of the show," said Jon Thompson, owner of Coast Radio and founder of the Home and Garden Show. "Lisa is always our biggest vendor and our primary landscape nursery."

Laurel Bay chose "Breath of Spring" as this year's theme, which Thompson said will be incorporated into much of the rest of the show.

In addition to encouraging people to "Stroll Through the Berry Patch" at Laurel Bay's seasonal sale of blueberry, strawberry and other fruit plants, the nursery will feature a special information booth so people can learn to "grow their own" indoor and outdoor plants.

See **HOME SHOW 8A**



Taking care of business

The Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County held its annual fundraiser, **Fraudville**, on Saturday at Three Rivers Casino Resort, entertaining guests with food, drink and lip-sync performances by seven bands. The event consisted of both live and silent auctions, "Name That Tune" song-guessing by the audience and song-and-dance routines from local groups Oregon Pacific Bank, Coast Insurance, Boys and Girls Club, Florence Kiwanis Club, Coastal Fitness, Siuslaw Elementary School and Mapleton School District. Coast Insurance took home the prize as "The Premiums," lip-syncing to Dolly Parton's "9 to 5" and a series of work-related tunes. Performances were rated by a panel of judges and popular vote. A total of \$30,000 was raised during the event. "We had a fantastic turn out and guests had a great time," Fraudville organizers said. "What a great community we live in!"

See more photos on 6A

SVFR, WLAD discuss budget

Siuslaw Valley, Western Lane boards approve \$29,500 in unexpected costs associated with vehicle improvements

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Continuing their trend of meeting in the same week, the boards of directors for Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) met on Feb. 21 and 22, respectively. Chief Director Jim Langborg, who oversees the administration of both districts, made reports at the meetings.

Langborg swore in Firefighter Adam Hathaway as SVFR's first order of new business on Feb. 21.

Langborg also recognized Oaren Wraye and Holly Lais for successful attainment of their Basic EMT Certification.

Afterwards, the chief director asked the board to approve changes to the district's employee healthcare reimbursement program, which was passed unanimously after a brief discussion.

Director Ron Green then asked for board approval for an employee salary survey, citing the ongoing IGA implementation and the need to appropriately compensate and retain district employees.

The cost involved to commission the survey was minimal. The board voted unanimously to pass Green's motion.

According to Langborg, a new budget committee member will be needed for the upcoming budget discussions.

Green spoke about the desired requirements for a candidate and nominated newly appointed Dunes City Mayor Bob Forsythe for the vacancy.

Director John Carnahan then nominated former district employee Marvin Tipler for the budget committee opening, citing Tipler's extensive experience working with the department and high level of familiarity with the district staff and equipment.

Carnahan added that he wasn't sure if Tipler was interested in the position, but felt that if he did consent to serve, he would be an excellent addition to the SVFR team, especially considering the upcoming budgetary process.

Tipler, who was in attendance, said that he felt all of the board members knew him well and, while he wasn't sure that they would gain any additional insights by conducting an interview, he would serve as a budget committee member if selected by the board.

Director Ned Hickson asked if an in-person interview would be appropriate and possible.

Green asked for a vote and was unable to secure a second for the motion, which tabled the motion without action.

Directors then decided to coordinate individual interviews with both candidates before the March board meeting, when another vote to fill the open position would be taken.

Langborg then made his chief director's report, including updates on a number of important issues on the horizon for SVFR and WLAD.

The chief began his presentation by explaining and clarifying confusion surrounding Director Woody Woodbury's past appointment to the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA).

In January, Woodbury accepted a nomination and appointment to a vacancy on the Florence City Council, which would preclude him from serving at this time on the FURA board, according to Langborg.

Langborg said there would more than likely be an opening on the FURA committee in the next year and a representative of SVFR would be eligible to apply for the position.

See **DISTRICTS 8A**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: LATINOS ALONG THE SIUSLAW



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

From left, Rosy Dominguez Guillens, Andrea Sanchez, Karla Sanders, Rosa Hernandez and Liza Alvarez, members of the Latino community, speak in their own words.

Latino residents discuss community, culture in 2-part series

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

With estimates ranging from a population of two to five percent of the area's population, the Latino community in the Siuslaw region plays a small but vital role in the economic and cultural health of the area. However, some Latinos feel that their community does not have a cohesive voice in

Siuslaw. Karla Sanders helped create Coastal Dreamers, a local organization dedicated to providing information and funding for DACA recipients in the region. To help promote the organization, Florence ORganizes held a screening of the documentary film "Dolores" earlier this year at City Lights Cinemas in an attempt to raise money for

dreamers. Sanders was the keynote speaker.

While the event played to a sell-out crowd, there were only a handful of representatives from the Latino community at the event. When asked why this was, Sanders admitted that it was difficult to publicize to a community that isn't fully formed.

See **VOICES 7A**

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

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