



SWINGING INTO SOFTBALL SEASON

SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

128TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 23

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

The 2018 Rotary Auction on March 10 was a night full of winners as the Florence community raised more than \$93,000 during the "Lighting the Torch for Our Kids' Future" event.



PHOTOS BY CRYSTAL FARNSWORTH

'Lighting the torch' earns gold medals

Rotary Auction brings grand total raised to over \$1.5 million since 1960

Rotary Club of Florence announced the grand total of this year's Rotary Auction at its lunch meeting on March 20, and the total had club members feeling like winners. The March 10 Olympics-themed auction, called "Lighting the Torch for Our Kids' Future," raised \$93,179.96.

Auction Committee co-chair Kevin

McMullen said, "We're very proud of our numbers, and very happy. Everybody worked hard for it."

He acknowledged that this amount was less than last year's "Dancing for the Stars of Tomorrow" record of more than \$109,000, but called 2017 an "exceptional year."

"This community is so generous that we

have to be very happy with what we got," McMullen said. "One of the biggest things that happened is that it puts us over that \$1.5 million mark."

The Rotary Auction in Florence has netted \$1,560,785.23 from 1960 to now.

See **AUCTION 7A**



VFW honors first responders at meeting

Responders from WLAD, SVFR and OSP recognized for contributions during 2017



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN
/SIUSLAW-NEWS

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3232 attend the Florence City Council meeting Monday night to present plaques to first responders from Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Western Lane Ambulance District (left) and Oregon State Police.

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3232 attended the Florence City Council meeting on March 19, which was held at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) Main Station on Highway 101, to present recognition certificates to three of the area's first responders.

Members of SVFR, Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) and the Oregon State Police (OSP) were then presented plaques for their work during the previous year.

Ken Smith, Commander of Post 3232, said the annual ceremony acknowledges the often underappreciated work done by the SVFR, WLAD and OSP.

"It seems like we often take

our first responders for granted. We just wanted to do something to thank them for the important work they do," Smith said.

Recognition plaques were presented to SVFR Battalion Chief Dave Beck, WLAD Training Officer Rob Chance and OSP Senior Trooper Lee Farrar, who were nominated by their organizations for the

See **HONOR 6A**



Coos Bay man dies in crash on Highway 101

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Oregon State Police (OSP) reported a total of six fatalities in vehicle accidents in Oregon over the weekend, possibly due to the onset of spring and St. Patrick's Day on Saturday.

On Sunday, March 18, at approximately 11 a.m., OSP and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue

responded to a multi-vehicle accident at milepost 174 on Highway 101. This is near the turn-off for Rock Creek north of Heceta Head Lightstation.

Jeremy Hackney, age 45, from Coos Bay, Ore., was driving north on Highway 101 and drifted into the southbound lane while navigating a right hand turn.

Hackney's vehicle, a 2002

Ford Ranger pickup truck, struck a southbound 2013 Dodge pickup with a camper.

Hackney's vehicle ricocheted off the camper and struck a 1998 Ford minivan that was trailing the pickup. The truck then rolled to the west side of Highway 101.

Hackney suffered fatal injuries during the crash and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

His passenger, wife Stephanie

Hackney, age 43, was transported to PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center for non-life threatening injuries.

No other people suffered injuries from the crash.

Highway 101 was closed to one lane for approximately five hours for investigation of the accident. The names of the other drivers involved in were not identified as of press time.

CONSUMER ALERT

RANSOMED

Ron's Paint struggles with the financial burden of ransomware

Ron Wilson knows his paints. For the past 20 years, Wilson has been sharing his expertise with the Siuslaw community from his Florence-based business Ron's Paint and Supply, giving advice on everything from the most reliable fast drying spackle to what a good sealer is to put on wood outside the home.

"He is profoundly loved within this community," said SK Lindsey, Ron's Paint's administrative assistant. "Everyone wants his advice, and I'm talking about experienced contractors."

But the one thing that Wilson doesn't know about is computers, and in late 2016, that lack of knowledge cost him tens of thousands of dollars, placing his business in financial jeopardy that, to this day, he is still attempting to work his way out of.

Wilson was the victim of ransomware, a malicious virus that takes over a computer and locks a user's files.

"One day we came into the office and there was a prompt on the computer screen that said, 'We have your computer files and if you want them back, pay \$500,'" Wilson said. "They took a chunk of information out of our computer stating what people owed us and what we owed other people. At that point, it threw the books into a tailspin because we weren't sure who was supposed to be paying us and how much."

Ransomware has become big business for computer hackers in recent years, with damages reaching \$5 billion around the globe in 2017 alone, according to a 2017 Newsweek article. And the number of attacks is increasing, rising 250 percent last year.

"Ransomware has become really prevalent in the last couple of years, and it's one of the nastier viruses out there because you can't recover from it," Florence Tech Solutions (FTS) Computer Repair Services owner Jolene Medeiros said. "Once your stuff is locked, it's locked."

Medeiros has encountered ransomware in Florence before, and has helped people recover from, and protect against, the malicious viruses.

See **VIRUS 8A**