

Siuslaw News Community Voices

SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE — Another academy graduates



BY PETE "BOA" WARREN
Recruitment & Retention
Coordinator for SVFR

March's Fire Academy brought together a cadre of entry-level potential firefighters, some with

experience and others without. A few of the more knowledgeable recruits came from Swisshome-Deadwood Fire Department (SDFD). Newly promoted Operations Chief Danny Morgan was among those who took the first Academy offered in 2018.

One of his Captains, Jaime McMasters, also gained valuable leadership skills when tasked with running the "whole show" during one of the three weekends the Academy was operating.

Chief Hertzbach's son Aryeh chose to join up and get some valuable experience — possibly for a leadership role within Swisshome-Deadwood's depart-

ment after Chief Hertzbach decides to retire in a few decades.

A couple of sisters, Harmony and Lauren, teamed up to help out their department too. Both have won the top performer's "Munster Award" for their efforts. It took Lauren an extra day to psyche herself up for the first attempt in the "Burn Box."

When asked if she liked it, her replay was like that of a champ: "It was *hot* and I want to go again!"

Our favorite Coast Guard station offered new volunteers to our ranks as they joined their Florence cohorts in this academy. Zach Beadon tore up the agility test a few days before academy

drills started. His Coastie buddy, Luc Pierce, wanted to do better, and later texted me asking for a retake.

Sorry Luc, you'll have to wait until this summer.

Mapleton Fire had Tim Moffett and he will represent MFD very well.

Locally, we had a few 18-year olds who'll be graduating high school in another month or so. A couple of them also won the "Munster Awards" for their efforts during the academy.

Sean Graham was the first winner of the much coveted (but essentially useless) bent hydrant wrench. A week later, Andrew Montgomery won it.

Station 2 in Old Town has two new sets of turnouts hanging in the bay from the from the Siuslaw Schools too. One is Abigail Pickett, who met the challenge of the Agility Test.

Another proud new firefighter is Kaye Fache who, if you're up early enough, you'll see driving students to their classes and to events throughout Oregon.

Hands-on is a very important term that directly relates to muscle memory, and is what best teaches firefighting recruits. Repetition, repetition and more repetition.

With that, I frequently have flashbacks to when I first tried donning all my gear in under a

minute. You could see a lot of worried faces initially, as some were breaking into the 2-minute warnings initially. Then, after wearing their gear, they have another 1 minute 15 seconds to put the air packs on and breath air while properly wearing their gear.

After a while, they were all able to don their full gear while blind folded; all passed and went on to finish out their academy.

Pete "Boa" Warren can be contacted at 541-997-3212, or the main SVFR station, 2625 Highway 101, or email Boa@svfr.org.

NATURAL PERSPECTIVE —

Seals on the seashore



BY EMILY J. UHRIG, PhD
Special to the Siuslaw News

The arrival of newborn wildlife is a clear reminder that spring is a time of

renewal when many of life's cycles begin again. Unlike a lot of marine species whose lives tend to be hidden beneath the waves, harbor seals are readily observable coastal inhabitants and their pupping season is underway. While this season may bring glimpses of cute baby seals, we must remember to keep nature at arm's length.

Harbor seals can be distinguished from sea lions, which are also found in our area, by their smaller bodies and lack of ear flaps. They also differ in the orientation of their flippers which leads to noticeable differences in their movements on land: sea lions can rotate their flippers under their bodies to support themselves while walking whereas a seal's flippers

are not as mobile or supportive.

This difference makes seals awkward on land where they flop along rather ungracefully in a motion called "galumphing."

Although harbor seal pups can swim at birth, they are nursed on land with milk that is 40-50 percent fat. Human breast milk, in contrast, contains only about 5 percent fat. With this nourishing diet, pups develop quickly and are weaned around 4 weeks of age.

Production of such rich milk takes its toll on the mother, who may lose half her body fat while nursing. To offset this cost, mothers return to the ocean to feed during the lactation period, often leaving the pup alone on the beach to rest. During this time, well-mean-

ing people are tempted to intervene and 'help' what they believe is a lost pup in distress. However, this intervention is frequently harmful, or even fatal, as it may result in abandonment of the pup or cause it serious health issues.

Even without human interference, nature's harsh realities mean that pups often succumb to malnutrition, disease or predation. It's not uncommon, particularly for young mothers, to have pups born prematurely and underweight, putting them at an immediate disadvantage.

Small pups are less able to withstand cold temperatures and may have difficulty suckling. Their demise is unpleasant to consider, but important for keeping popula-

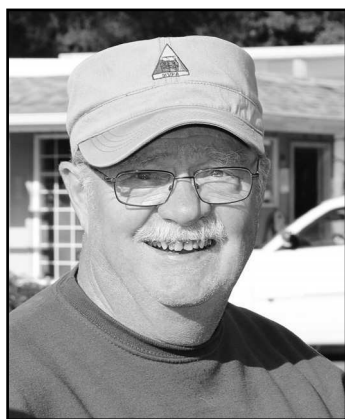
tions in check. Indeed, despite high natural mortality, our local populations of harbor seals are doing well.

So, as the weather warms and eventually dries out, go enjoy our

beaches and our seals. Just give them space and resist lending a hand that's likely to do more harm than good.

MILITARY HERITAGE CHRONICLES —

Our Vietnam veterans



BY CAL APPLEBEE
Special to the Siuslaw News

On March 29, we celebrated a new federal commemorative holiday, National Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, with some great coverage of the event by Mark Brennan here in the pages of the Siuslaw News. It was long over-due given the "welcome home" these vets didn't receive originally.

While this form of recognition is new for the Vietnam veterans, recognition by other means over the decades has existed and in fact is still growing.

Numerous communities around the United States have erected a variety of memorials commemorating either the war, the veterans, or both. In Oregon alone, there are over a dozen such memorials scattered around the state, largely in municipal parks or in conjunction with memorial gardens at cemeteries. But there are also larger and more prominent formal memorials such as in Canby and Portland.

The Vietnam Veterans of Oregon Memorial in Portland is located at Washington Park on an eight-acre parcel in a garden-like setting. Inspired by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC, this memorial was dedicated in 1987 and contains the names of all Oregon residents who died or are missing in action.

The smaller memorial in Canby is on a busy highway triangular intersection, was dedicated in 2011 and contains a bronze statue of

Oregon soldiers as well as a full-size Huey helicopter on a pedestal. It is also a Blue Star Memorial location. Despite the distraction of the noisy traffic, it is well worth the visit.

The Vietnam Memorial Wall replica, or Moving Wall, has made appearances in Oregon — twice here in Florence. Museum founding board member Tim Sapp brought it to town originally in 2001, just prior to 9-11. A permanent version of that memorial is planned in the southern Oregon town of Medford.

Even at 80-percent scale, it will still be 360 feet in length and bear the names of 58,479 Americans, at current count, who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The effort by Southern Oregon Veterans Benefit has been ongoing for a couple years and they have received good support from

both the Medford community as well as city leaders. It will sit on 2.1 acres within the Medford parks system.

While the southern Oregon memorial wall will be national in focus, another memorial is also being planned as a state memorial in Salem, and it will be not only an Oregon state focus, but will contain emphasis on multiple components of the veterans' experiences such as MIA/POW, nurses, Agent Orange and other aspects.

The 1.5-million-dollar project is to be located on the grounds of the state capitol in Salem and is targeted for completion Veteran's Day, 2020.

While segments of our society will always debate the Vietnam War itself, fortunately enough of us recognize the distinction between the war and those Americans who served. Both of

these new and welcome Oregon memorials will recognize and honor those Veterans.

At our next quarterly Military Heritage Day on Saturday, April 21, you can learn more about both of these Vietnam memorials directly from representatives of the two sponsoring organizations.

Southern Oregon Veterans Benefit Member at Large, Russ McBride, himself a Vietnam vet, will be joined by the Salem sponsor Vietnam War Memorial Fund President Steve Bates, and both will share their projects with us. We hope you'll plan to join us as well.

You can learn more about military heritage by visiting our website at www.oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com or visit the museum which is open Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is located at 2145 Kingwood St.

The Finishing Touch

Free cordless upgrade on shades! (offer thru May 31, 2018)

Blinds • Shades • Draperies • Shutters

We Design ~ We Install

Residential • Commercial • 30 Years Experience

541-991-3405

CCB#212734

DENTAL Insurance

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

A less expensive way to help get the dental care you deserve

- ✓ If you're over 50, you can get coverage for about \$1 a day*
- ✓ No wait for preventive care and no deductibles - you could get a checkup tomorrow
- ✓ Keep your own dentist! You can go to any dentist you want
- ✓ Coverage for over 350 procedures including cleanings, exams, fillings, crowns...even dentures
- ✓ NO annual or lifetime cap on the cash benefits you can receive

FREE Information Kit
1-877-599-0125
Or www.dental50plus.com/25

*Individual plan. Product not available in MN, MT, NH, NM, RI, VT, WA. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate: C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250G); Insurance Policy #150 (IA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). 6006E-0917 MB17-NM00E

FLORENCE
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
ROUND-UP

FRIDAY,
APRIL 13 • 12-5

SATURDAY,
APRIL 14 • 8-2

FLORENCE
TRANSFER SITE
2820 N. Rhododendron Drive

SPONSORED BY LANE COUNTY & THE CITY OF FLORENCE
For More Information Call 541-997-8237

DENTURE SERVICES INC.

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
Open 4 days a week!

Here to serve your denture needs:

Dentures
Partial Dentures
Immediate Dentures
Implant Dentures
Relines & Repairs Same Day

Monday-Thursday
10am - 2 pm

524 Laurel St.
541-997-6054

William Foster LD
Sherry, Office Manager

"As a denture wearer myself, I can answer your questions and address your denture concerns."
~ William Foster, LD

Financing: Citi Health Card
12 Month no Interest