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SPORTS — B



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



STORY AND PHOTOS
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

‘Working together for optimal outcomes’

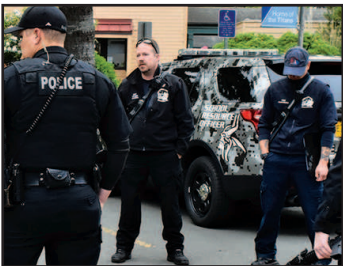
First responders train together for active violence scenario Wednesday

Violence directed at students continues to capture the headlines across America. In only the first 21 weeks of 2018, there have been 23 school shootings where someone was hurt or killed.

The possibility of violence occurring at any school, at any time, is real as these violent incidents are becoming a familiar and unsettling aspect of education.

The need for first responders, from all of the organizations that will be called upon to respond to a violent emergency, to be ready for differing emergency scenarios has never been greater.

Western Lane Emergency Operations Group (WLEOG) and the leaders of the Florence Police Department (FPD), Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) are



aware of this need and have an ongoing series of training programs in place to prepare members to deal with an active violence situation.

Operation Emerald Shield, held May 23 at Lane Community College Florence Center on Oak Street, was the most recent training of this type held for local first responders. Members from all three emergency organizations participated in the drill, along with personnel from PeaceHealth Peace Harbor.

See TRAINING page 7A

Rickard retires from Port of Siuslaw board commission

5-year board veteran will now focus her efforts on education

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

In a brief monthly public meeting last Wednesday, Port of Siuslaw commissioners announced the departure of Commissioner Nancy Rickard and gave an update on their attempts to sell the Pacific View Industrial Park.

Rickard, who has served as commissioner on the port for the past five years, will be focusing her efforts on education and will sit on the District Advisory Committee for the Siuslaw School District board.

Rickard’s retirement from the commission leaves two vacancies on the board, after former commissioner David Huntington was hired as port manager earlier this month.

“I’ve always appreciated Nancy’s work ethic,” Port Commissioner Bill Meyer said at the meeting. “She really made a lot of effort to get to meetings related to the port. I appreciate her love of the port, and I know her heart is with us and hoping we will succeed. I wish her the best in her continuing efforts. I know it will involve the community.”

Rickard joined the board in 2013, filling a midterm vacancy.

“There was a big upheaval in elections and a push for women to get involved,” Rickard said. “I figured I did my time because I worked 14 years on the school board.”

See PORT page 7A

Local soldier honored with highway memorial

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
FOR SIUSLAW NEWS

A highway memorial sign dedication ceremony will be held Monday, May 28, at 1 p.m. at the Florence Veteran’s Memorial Park for Private First Class Brice Scott, a Florence local who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2011.

The ceremony will include a wreath-laying service on the Siuslaw River and be followed in the coming weeks by installing the Brice Scott

Fallen Hero Memorial Highway sign on Highway 101 north of Munsel Lake Road.

Brice was born Sept. 17, 1988, in Eugene’s Sacred Heart Hospital and raised in the Florence area. According to his father, Steven Scott, growing up, Brice was athletic and energetic, yet thoughtful and rule-abiding.

“He was just a super easy boy to raise,” Stevent said. “He was just one of those kids that everybody wanted to be friends with.”

Private First Class Brice Scott was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2011.

After attending North Eugene High School, Brice joined the Job Corps in Yachats and graduated early, becoming a student instructor and later acquiring a job as a union carpenter.

However, amid the economic depression, Brice was laid off. Already raising a child and with another on the way, he needed a way to support his family.

See MEMORIAL page 8A



SIUSLAW MIDDLE SCHOOL FACES SECOND THREAT OF VIOLENCE

School, police representatives believe the threat was made by same individual, and is considered non-credible

By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Police and school officials searched Siuslaw Middle School on Tuesday, May 22, as another threat to student safety was made on campus. The incident comes just weeks after a similar warning was made at the school, and it appears the episodes are linked. Both threats have been deemed non-credible, with school officials believing they were made by the same person.

However, the identity of the perpetrator is currently unknown, and the school is taking extra precautions.

On May 22, school cleaning staff discovered in a school restroom stall

graffiti warning of potential violence.

“It said there was going to be a bombing,” said Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak. “That was it. No specific date, time or location. It wasn’t even directed here. It just said that there’s going to be a bombing.”

Grzeskowiak was unable to release the exact wording of the threat, stating that there is still an ongoing investigation.

The warning was scrawled in the exact location as the month’s pre-

vious threat, which gave a similar vague warning.

After the graffiti was discovered,

“I hope this is not the new normal. I hope it will get back to the point where kids can go to school and feel safe. Unfortunately, for the immediate future, people’s nerves are a little raw. ... We’re going to maintain vigilance on our end.”

— Andy Grzeskowiak
Siuslaw School District Superintendent

police and school officials searched the entire school, including opening every locker and cabinet, for materials that could be used in a bombing.

“The only thing we found was

dirty clothes and leftover lunches,” Grzeskowiak said.

The graffiti is also suspected to be linked to an anonymous online Instagram account that has appeared this month, with images of graphic violence from films.

“It’s not even saying stuff,” Grzeskowiak said. “It’s just taunting kids.”

Even though the perpetrator is unknown, authorities were able to determine the threat non-credible because of a lack of indicators that are generally associated with school violence. These include

specific times of a possible incident, a threat to a group of people or specific person or a disciplinary incident involving the school or police.

“We’ve had no big discipline incidents on campus,” Grzeskowiak explained. “We’ve had no recent incidents involving students and law enforcement. There’s been no real incidents with students from social services. No conflicts between students on campus. No conflicts with students off campus. There’s been no other notes, journals, writings or blogs stating specific threats of violence on or off campus that have been reported to school officials and police, either direct or anonymous.”

See THREAT page 6A

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THIS WEEK'S
WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3



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