



DAILY DOUBLES

SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Chief Director Langborg declares intention to resign

SVFR faces up to \$500,000 financial shortfall, extends contract with independent CPA

BY MARK BRENNAN AND CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) Board of Directors met on Aug. 15 with a short agenda that will have long-term ramifications for residents of the Siuslaw region. However, the agenda highlighting potential fiscal difficulties looming in the near future took a back seat to the announcement of the resignation of Chief Director Jim Langborg.

While directors were surprised by the financial information provided by

SVFR Office Manager Dina McClure, which warned of a \$500,000 shortfall in revenue and collections due to errors and a lack of proper accounting procedures, it seemed that the announcement by Langborg that he has accepted a job at a fire district in California was even more surprising to those in attendance.

Langborg said he would stay on for 60 days and leave the department in October.

Each month, SVFR and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD), which share administration under an intergovernmental agreement (IGA)

formed in 2016, post the agenda and supporting materials for the upcoming month's board meetings on their respective websites. This month, that packet contained information on SVFR's financials.

McClure reported that SVFR might be confronted with as much as a \$500,000 operational shortfall in the coming months.

Her explanation for the miscalculations suggested she had made a couple of errors that had added to the problem, but the majority of the projected deficit had to do with circumstances beyond her control.

During the public comment period, several community members directed their remarks directly to the board.

John Murphey was the first person to speak.

"I was the chair of the budget committee for the 2018-19 budget cycle. I read the packet online each month, and (now) I've seen we have a \$700,000 projected shortfall. I guess that makes me believe we will have to borrow money to get through the dry period financing," Murphey said. "The \$700,000 we can recover from. I think we all need to keep level heads — the board, the chief, the staff — and

I think we just need to come together and figure out how we are going to do it and get through this together."

McClure later clarified that the projected number is closer to \$500,000.

Murphey went on to make some suggestions that could possibly mitigate the impending shortfall.

"You might put on some kind of a spending freeze, and only do what is necessary, until you get it sorted out. We might want to consider not going to any conflagrations, because it takes too long to recover our money, and we

See SIUSLAW VALLEY page 9A



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS



BUCKING BRONCOS

The 2018 Northwest Bronco Roundup started Friday and continues this weekend. This annual event features the 1966-77 Ford Bronco Show and Shine at Three Rivers Casino Resort on Saturday, Aug. 18, a cruise through Historic Old Town Florence and adventures in the Oregon dunes each day.

See BRONCOS page B1



For Bruce

Community members reminisce about time with Bruce McKibbin, late teacher, fisherman and mentor

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

During the past week, friends, family members and coworkers of Bruce McKibbin spoke about their memories of the man, and the legacy he left behind.

McKibbin passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Aug. 6, in a boating accident near the North Jetty of the Siuslaw River.

McKibbin was known for his role in the Siuslaw School District's wrestling program, along with the storied Little Toads. After his retirement in 2006, he devoted his life to his family and his fishing, becoming an integral part of the local fishing community.

The following are excerpts of interviews and public comments about his life, given by people in the community who knew him best.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

It was an overcast afternoon at the Gazebo near Woahink Lake. Almost 200 people showed up to pay their respects to Bruce, who had passed away one week earlier.

While hearts were heavy, the event was a celebration of not only Bruce's life, but life itself.

Past students, some of whom hadn't seen



Bruce McKibbin touched many lives through his work in the Siuslaw community as a teacher, mentor and fisherman. He was active up until his death on Aug. 6.

each other for years, hugged and laughed, while close friends and family members embraced and shared memories.

Members of the community brought freshly made dishes of food and set out a barbecue to serve a hearty meal.

They stood up, one by one, to share their stories of Bruce.

See FOR BRUCE page 5A

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

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SUNDAY
66 55

MONDAY
68 56

TUESDAY
68 56

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