

Local Coast Guard members recognized in September, October

On Oct. 3, several Coast Guard members were presented awards at U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River. Commander Sector North Bend Captain Olav Saboe, Siuslaw River Officer-in-Charge Senior Chief Jay Nilles, Executive Chief Petty Officer Kevin Smith and other command and crew members attended Quarters to honor the recipients.

USCG Fireman (FN) Joshua Economides was recognized as STA Siuslaw River Sailor of the Quarter for the July to September time period.

Fellow peers and supervisors made the selection, recognizing him for "an exemplary, can-do attitude.... and outstanding initiative."

Other examples and attributes were also included in the written portion of the award, showing "true dedication" and selflessly "giving back to the unit and shipmates."

Damage Controlman Petty Officer Third Class (DC3) Rylan Burum was presented with the USCG Commandant's Letter of Commendation for "initiative, fortitude and work ethic over the past 24 months, spearheading a major project" of renovating the station's housing units for Coast Guard families.

This was a monumental task, with DC3 Burum displaying, "... superior initiative and leadership" in coordinat-



(Above left) USCG Fireman Joshua Economides is Station Siuslaw River's Sailor of the Quarter for July to September. (Middle image) Commander Sector North Bend Captain Olav Saboe presents DC3 Rylan Burum with the USCG Commandant's Letter of Commendation. (Above right) Commander Darkeim Brown, Deborah Heldt Cordone, Commodore Kathleen Goodwin and Rear Admiral David Throop award Cordone the National First Place Award for Photography.

ing efforts and responsibilities exceeding normal duties.

The following recipients were also presented the USCG Good Conduct Award from Captain Saboe: Boatswain Mate Petty Officer First Class Nicholas Cimarossa, Boatswain Mate Petty Officer Second Class Zachary Rowan, Machinery Technician Petty Officer Second Class Samuel Osburn and Boatswain Mate Petty Officer Third Class Hunter Ferris.

Senior Chief Nilles received the USCG Commandant's Letter of Com-

mendation for the recruitment of a local resident, in his off-duty hours, who has since completed Basic Training and been assigned to duty.

According to the Letter, Nilles is "commended for outstanding performance of duty and meritorious service upholding the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."

Joining the award list, local Coast Guard Auxiliarists from the Florence/Eugene Flotilla received prestigious awards on Sept. 29 at the District 13 (D13) Conference in Gig Harbor, Wash.

Deborah Heldt Cordone, USCGAUX PA3, who augments Station Siuslaw River and Sector North Bend in the area of Public Affairs, received the Coast Guard Auxiliary National First Place Award for Photography in the Team Coast Guard category. The plaque was presented on Saturday by Rear Admiral David Throop, Commander of the 13th Coast Guard District headquartered in Seattle.

Cordone also accepted the Flotilla Meritorious Award on behalf of Flotilla members. This award, determined by

Commander Darkeim Brown, D13 Director of the Auxiliary, and D13 Commodore Kathleen Goodwin, is based on written presentation by submitting Flotillas. It is given annually to the Flotilla determined to have made the most significant contributions to the Auxiliary program during a particular year.

The local flotilla contributes in several areas, including public affairs, watchstanding, engineering, culinary services, surface operations and teaching recreational boating safety to the public.

SCHOOL BOND from page 1A

in the district is clear. All three facilities have structural and safety considerations that have to be addressed to ensure the children sent there to learn are not in physical danger while at school.

The school buildings themselves are sub-standard in many areas, including temperature control, lighting and ventilation, which all negatively impact student ability to process and retain information. The structural inadequacies include multiple uncontrolled access points to the high school, a ma-

nor safety concern, and seismically unsound buildings.

The process of quantifying the problems at the school district began with a technical evaluation of the buildings undertaken last year by PIVOT Architecture. The Eugene-based firm worked closely with Siuslaw School District Superintendent Andy Grzeskowiak and senior staff to prioritize the many issues the district needed to fix, as well as identify the best and least costly manner in which to make those upgrades.

The research showed it would cost an estimated \$5.6 million less to build new schools than it

would cost to remodel the current buildings to code.

Professional engineers at Systems West Engineering and ZCS Engineering evaluated all facilities from top to bottom, including all subsystems, which gave the district more information to work with than in the past. The reports received from these consultants was thorough and detailed many problems that needed immediate attention.

Examples of the shortfalls in Siuslaw's school buildings are documented in consultant reports and present significant impediments to providing students with a positive learning environment.

Information provided on the Siuslaw School District website, www.siuslaw.k12.or.us, states the following examples of reasons for passage of Measure 20-291:

- The south elementary building and the high school do not meet state or federal seismic and building codes. This means the buildings are considered unsafe.
- The plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems at all three schools are at their end of life. These systems are inadequate for current needs, both technological and physical.

Classrooms are undersized and poorly lit, with ineffective ventilation.

- The high school has no cafeteria, kitchen or auditorium.
- The elementary school is split between sites, sprawls over three blocks and the kindergarten is in temporary classrooms.
- The middle school has severe water intrusion damage to the south side of the building.

Additionally, there are more than \$40 million of deferred maintenance costs accumulated for all three schools. These costs will remain if the bond is not passed.

The most pressing and expensive element of the proposed improvements for the district are upgrades at the high school. Siuslaw School District has determined that public interests are best served by a complete replacement of the building, rather than a piecemeal approach to repair and upgrades. The high school replacement is estimated to cost \$88,359,000 and will take three years, compared to an incremental remodel that would cost \$91,616,708 and take five years, as well as displace students and services.

The plans are for Siuslaw's new high school building to be 159,667 square feet as it of-

fers students an integrated, modern learning center that provides the opportunity for a high-quality education for the next 30 years or more.

The new high school would also provide students with an education that reflects the trend towards increased technology for college-bound students or those choosing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) career paths.

There would also be teaching areas dedicated to career trade-focused students.

The school bond's benefits would extend beyond the improved infrastructure and technological upgrades and extend into the area of increased safety for students and staff.

Under the current layout, the high school has 17 access points. This is a security situation that experts have determined could allow an active shooter situation to occur. The new high school will have one monitored, centrally located main office that will control access. This is an essential security component in the integrated approach to preventing violent school intrusions.

There will also be an auditorium, a kitchen and a cafeteria in the new high school.

Improvements at the middle school would include replacement of windows and structural upgrades to prevent water infiltration and a resealing of the

south face of the building.

There would also be an excavation of the current physical education field and a clean fill for a simple, 60-by-60-foot grass physical education area.

The elementary school improvements would be a combination of an upgrade and a replacement. The oldest building in the district, the south end of the elementary school, would be demolished and a new 18-room structure would be built to adjoin the north elementary school, creating one building, with a single, secure entry point.

The renovations, upgrades and replacement buildings that the passage of Measure 20-291 will finance should address all security, stability and technology infrastructure concerns highlighted in the analysis done by the consultants hired by Siuslaw School District.

The details of the specific improvements suggested and extensive additional information concerning Measure 20-291 is available on the Siuslaw School District website.

Coverage of these topics and more from the Nov. 6 General Election will be featured in a special election coverage page at TheSiuslawNews.com.

The last day to register to vote in Oregon is Tuesday, Oct. 16. For more information, visit sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx.



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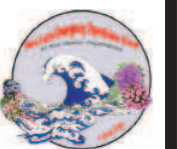
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If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

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