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WEATHER



Partly sunny with a high of 57 and a low tonight of 37.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Community Chorus donates to Siuslaw music program
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Basketball season underway
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday
Inside — B4

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B5

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ALL HANDS ON DECK

U.S. Coast Guard navigates rough waters amidst government shutdown

By CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

“As a recent Coast Guard City, we made a commitment to support our Station Siuslaw River,” said Florence Mayor Joe Henry. “I respect our Coast Guard and I respect what they do, and not just because I have needed them on the water before. We have rough waters out here, and they are always there.”

The Coast Guard’s motto is Semper Paratus — Always Ready. It is a motto Coast Guardsmen continue to follow even without the promise of pay. Like many other federal workers — and unlike other branches of the military — the U.S. Coast Guard is either on furlough or working without pay until the U.S. federal government shutdown ends. This impacts over 41,000 active duty Coast Guard members, 6,200 reservists and 8,500 civilian personnel.

The current shutdown began Dec. 22, 2018, as of today surpassing the previous longest shutdown in American history. The Coast Guard was able to pay members on Jan. 1, but the next payment, scheduled for Jan.



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO BY DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE

15, will not come through without emergency measures getting passed by the U.S. House or Senate.

Both chambers of Congress have introduced their own bills to fund the Coast Guard, the “Pay our Coast Guard Parity Act,” introduced in the house by Oregon’s Rep. Peter DeFazio, and the “Pay Our Coast Guard Act of 2019,” introduced in the Senate by Sen. John Thune and Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley. While both are still in committee and not expected to pass this weekend, the

bills would provide continuing appropriations to the U.S. Coast Guard for any period during which interim or full-year appropriations are not in effect.

“Coast Guard members are risking their lives to keep Oregon’s coasts safe, yet are stressing over missed payments on mortgages, rents, utilities, child care and more,” Merkley said. “This is irresponsible and unacceptable, and we need to make sure our military members feel secure in their daily lives while

U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River, along with the nation’s other Coast Guard units, continues to function despite the federal government shutdown.

they’re protecting our nation.” A press release from the senator’s office referenced the Coast Guard’s efforts in responding to and investigating the capsizing of the commercial fishing vessel Mary B II, which led to the deaths of three fishermen at the entrance of Yaquina Bay in Newport, Ore., Tuesday night.

According to the bill, the appropriations would provide pay and allowances for members of the Coast Guard, civilian employees and contractors; the payment of a death gratuity, funeral travel and the temporary continuation of the basic allowance for housing for dependents of members of the Coast Guard dying on active duty; and retired pay. The act would remain in place until the enactment of specified Coast Guard appropriations legislation.

“President Trump and his Mar-a-Lago cronies may not have trouble ‘adjusting’ if they miss a paycheck, but for thousands of Oregon families, a paycheck means a mortgage payment, childcare, or a medical bill,” DeFazio said. “More than 1,200 active duty Coast Guard personnel and reservists stationed in Oregon are currently working without pay or furloughed

See GUARD page 6A

Councilors welcomed back to Dunes City

Members of the city council sworn in Wednesday



STORY & PHOTOS
By JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS



Above, Dunes City Councilors Susan Snow, Sheldon Meyer and Duke Wells take the oath of office on Wednesday. Left, Dunes City Mayor Robert Forsythe is sworn in to his first full term as mayor.

On Jan. 9, Dunes City issued the oath of office to councilors Susan Snow, Duke Wells and Sheldon Meyer on Wednesday, along with the swearing in of Mayor Robert Forsythe. All members had served in their positions previously and ran unopposed in the 2018 election.

See DUNES CITY page 6A

‘Strength of county’ relayed in State of the County Address

Bozievich delivers update on decade’s progress

By MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS



Western Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich

“Lane County is strong.”

That was the opening statement and the main message Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich shared with residents in the State of the County Address he delivered on Jan. 7 at Harris Hall in the Lane County Public Service Building in downtown Eugene. Bozievich is the county commissioner for District 1, western Lane County.

He began his address by highlighting some of the issues that commissioners had been successfully working on during 2018, including the overall improvement in many of the situations the county has faced during the last decade.

“Not too long ago, Lane County was dealing with the two-fold problem of the 2008 recession

See COUNTY page 6A

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