

FORESTRY from page 5A

Job Corps is the nation's largest free education and job training program for young adults from ages 16 to 24. The most local division is Angell Job Corps, located in Yachats.

"It's like a federal job training program for disadvantaged youth," said Bryce Crunkilton, one of the trainers for Angell. "They can come to Job Corps, get their high school diplomas or driver's license. And it's a trade school, so they can learn a trade. We have urban forestry, plumbing, carpentry, painting, masonry and automotive."

The Angell students get food, lodging, uniforms, equipment and even a small bi-weekly allowance.

"We get about \$1 a day," said Jack Day, who was working at the Baker site. "You get \$32 a month, and that's if you've been here for eight months. I only get about 22 every two weeks."

"I didn't come here for the pay," he added. "I came for the training. I can't complain."

While Angell works with a variety of trades, the group at Camp Baker are in the forestry program, which takes them to different sites around the region to learn in the field. Here, they're taking out dying trees, cutting down dangerous branches from the living ones and making the place safe for Scouts.

"You see these stumps here?" Anderson asked, pointing to two small, fresh tree stumps in the ground. "A kid, 17 or 18, comes up to me and points out had they had rot in the sides. He said, 'We need to do something about that, they're not getting enough light.' I asked what he recommended. He said they needed to be removed as they weren't going to survive here. I said, 'OK, let's do that.' His face just lit up. 'An adult listened to me!' It was a neat experience to see someone take his advice. He ran to his friends and said, 'Guys, we got a removal!' We allow them to express their opinions and go through with things. We're okay with that, we

want our property to be right. We trust them."

The workers at Angell, many of whom are still working on their high school diplomas, come for various reasons. Day already had his GED before he arrived.

"But I didn't have too many skills," he said. "I wasn't doing too well back in my hometown, wasn't doing anything good."

So he looked into Job Corps and the training it offered.

"They make you try out three trades to make sure that's the one you want. I didn't even try out the other two, painting or masonry. 'Just send me over to forestry.' I've done a little bit of logging with family and this just seemed the most unique in my eyes. I didn't even know what an arborist was until I saw the urban forestry trade. Some people think they're just loggers. That's what I thought it would be. But then I found it was a lot more."

Day's coworker, Jessie Fox, agreed.

"I don't think a lot of people understand what an arborist is," he said. "I thought it was just cutting trees. I didn't know it was taking care of them, pruning. And now I'm doing it."

Fox, who is 17, came to the program for his diploma. Along the way, he found a true passion for forestry work.

"It's the most hard-working trade," he said. "It's super unique. I never even realized this is how people took care of trees. I never knew any of this stuff before I came to Job Corps, and I fell in love with it. ... I really enjoy climbing. I'm not afraid of heights. It really falls into place."

Every worker we talked to at the Baker site listed climbing and delimbing as their favorite aspect of the job, though that aspect can be tough for beginners.

"We've had foresters who

were afraid of heights," Fox said. "Actually, a lot. That's one of the reasons they joined, which was to get over their fear of heights. The whole professional quality of it, the help from other people, is a good way to get over that fear. We have successful people who just could not do it their first day. One of my good friends who graduated two months ago was terrified. But now he's climbing, he's delimbing, he's topping. All of it. There are definitely great things about a trade like this, both personally and work related."

Once you get over the height challenge, the views can be awe inspiring.

"The view is great!" said Wyatt Artemenko as he was readying for an ascent.

To safely get up a tree, one has to take a line with a weight attached to it and throw it up in the tree, either by hand or slingshot. Once the line is attached, which can be over 100 feet high, the climbing rope is pulled up and the forester is good to climb.

"I was going to do plumbing, but I tried forestry and it was a lot of fun and I really enjoyed it," Artemenko said as he was readying the weight and the line. "And I'm still enjoying it, so might as well do it. I like that it's really hands on, it's outdoorsy. Getting a pretty good workout, learning a lot about trees. My first day here, I probably learned about three different kinds of trees. It's hard work, but it's cool."

And it can be dangerous work, which Job Corps knows full well.

"Absolutely it's dangerous," Crunkilton said. "Once in a while they'll get cuts and scrapes, but nothing major. The main purpose of the program, the main priority, is always safety. We're teaching them the right way. It's one of



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Job Corps members learn all the safety tips and tree identifiers before climbing them to do necessary work.

the most dangerous fields out there. Learning how to do it the right way is really important. We teach them all of our industry safety standards. If they're running a chainsaw up in the tree, they always have two separate tie ins. In the event they cut one, it's still there. There are always two hands on the saw. Wrap your thumbs."

The training saves lives, but it also gives them direction.

"We're basically giving them a head start to get out in the field instead of going through a company's training program," Crunkilton said. "They're already going to be at a certain level where they'll be able to get promotions and raises a lot quicker. It helps get their foot in the door. A lot of them haven't had a whole lot of work experience yet, just getting out of high school. They can put this down on their resumes, and it really helps them get a job. We get them industry certifications too, like a chainsaw certification, first aid and CPR cards, pesticide certification."

Most of the students that day were eager to start careers in the forestry field, which is

currently in desperate need of workers. According to an August 2017 article in The Guardian, as construction dried up during the Great Recession, so too did the forestry jobs; timber just was not in demand. But when the economy came back, the workers had moved on to less dangerous professions.

That's why programs like Angell Job Corps are working to get younger generations interested in the profession again. And so far, it's working.

Eighteen-year-old Tyler Hartman had never had any experience with forestry before Job Corps, coming in just to finish his high school diploma. But now, he's all in, hoping to get a job in forestry or landscaping.

"I like the physical labor of it," he said. "You get your own chainsaw, climb trees. You can go home every day, knowing you did something. It's very satisfying."

For more information about the Angell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, visit [angell.jobcorps.gov/](http://angell.jobcorps.gov/).

For more information about Camp Baker, visit [www.otcbsa.org/baker/](http://www.otcbsa.org/baker/).

Buying or Selling? I can help.



7th Street #1100 – Wooded 0.23 acre lot on an undeveloped street. The Professional Office/Institutional Zoning District is intended for the establishment of offices, medical and other institutional uses, limited accessory services for worker's convenience and public space. Buyer to do due diligence. **\$12,941.** #2911-18257693



Aileen Sapp  
Broker  
541 999-5396



**FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER**

Always Something Happening

541.997.1994 | 888.968.4086

715 QUINCE STREET | FLORENCE, OR 97439 | [WWW.EVENTCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.EVENTCENTER.ORG)

WHAT'S COMING UP:

JANUARY

Winter Music Festival  
January 25th thru 27th

FRAA Winter Arts Festival

January 26th 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
January 27th 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Florence FoodShare's Crab Crack Fundraiser  
February 2nd, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Fraudville

February 9th, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Nicole Henry

February 14th 7 p.m.

FEC Indoor Yard Sale

February 23rd, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



FRAA ART CENTER

120 Maple Street  
Phone: 541-997-4435  
Hours Open: Wed-Fri 10am-4pm,  
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm

Classes, Workshops & Events

**Acrylic Pour Art with Pam Nedder**  
Every 1st Saturday. Next one, February 2, 2019, 2-4 pm. Make your own acrylic pour painting. All materials provided. Pre-registration req'd at FRAA or w/ Pam, [pam.nedder@gmail.com](mailto:pam.nedder@gmail.com).

**Alcohol Ink Wine Glass Workshop with Denise Tarvin**  
Saturday, February 16, 2019, 2-4 pm  
Learn to apply alcohol ink to wine glasses. All materials provided. Pre-registration req'd at FRAA.

**NEW! Basic Leather Tooling with Tandy Leather**  
Saturday, February 23, 2019, 2-4 pm  
Learn basic leather stamping and tooling techniques to make a leather coaster. All materials provided. Pre-registration req'd at FRAA.

**FRAA Quarterly Member's Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 22, 10:00 am. Come learn what we have been doing, upcoming events, and provide inputs for the future.

**Winter Music Festival**  
Sponsored by FRAA, held at the FEC, Saturday, January 26, 11-5 pm and Sunday, January 27, 11- 4 pm  
Join us for this annual event full of music, food and great art.

**Big Wave Poetry 1st Tuesday Open Mic**  
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Celebrate the New Year with Poetry! Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

**Writers on the River - Creative Writing Workshop w/ Catherine Rourke**  
**Writing from the Heart: Find Your True Voice**  
Follow your heart's call to write! Sat., February 16, 2019 10 am - 12 noon  
Brand new program ~ 4th annual event! All writing levels and genres. Contact: [CJReditor@gmail.com](mailto:CJReditor@gmail.com), 541-708-2120

**Midnight in Florence Literary Salon**  
Saturday, February 2, 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Featured author-poet Jack Karasch Writers Open Mic with Catherine Rourke Free public event \$5 donation suggested Contact: [CJReditor@gmail.com](mailto:CJReditor@gmail.com), 541-708-2120

**Painting with John Leasure**  
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm  
No painting experience required. Contact: [jleasure@hotmail.com](mailto:jleasure@hotmail.com) or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

For more information about classes, visit [fraaoregon.org](http://fraaoregon.org). To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our Art Center on Maple Street.

cussion is the level of "materiality" that the error or information provided to the auditors meets. In the case of the WLAD report, the actual amount involved was approximately \$88,000. For SVFR, the amount was less than half of that total. That amount was not judged to be "material." The much higher WLAD liability number was the reason for the "qualified" designation for that district, although the accounting practices used were the same. It was the total dollars involved that caused the different assessment determination.

The difference in the assessment does indicate there are issues that may need to be addressed immediately or, in the case of the "qualified" assessment given to WLAD, the possible use of personal medical plans available to PERS employees would require the district to increase its PERS contributions in order to adequately address this possible

future financial liability.

Mahr's report was well received by the SVFR Board of Directors, but the members of the WLAD board decided to immediately address the pending PERS healthcare liability issue.

WLAD directors were unanimous in their meeting with Mahr that they wanted to take whatever action was possible and necessary to avoid the designation of "qualified." To this end, the board passed a motion to reject the report and take internal actions to meet the potential PERS liability issues immediately.

This course of action would require the district to make the financial adjustments to cover any type of liability to PERS.

Interim Chief Director Steve Abel, who oversees the administration of both SVFR and WLAD under an intergovernmental agreement, wants the public to know that the report presented by Mahr to WLAD was a concern that the district

takes seriously.

"Both SVFR and WLAD take their fiduciary responsibility seriously and want to ensure that we are in full compliance with Oregon Laws and accounting practices. We are pleased that we are in compliance," Abel said. "Due to a change in audit requirements to fully account for reporting potential future liabilities, we have asked the auditor to include Post Employment Health Benefits report in the WLAD audit, which will allow the audit report to be considered 'unqualified' — meaning that there are no significant issues that need to be addressed."

The decision to ask for the audit to be put on hold while the necessary financial arrangements were made to cover the potential liabilities will postpone the acceptance and forwarding to state officials of the report but should be accomplished within the timelines required for filing an audit with the state.

FLORENCE BAHAI COMMUNITY HOSTS

**MLK**

DAY OF SERVICE & CELEBRATION

**MON. JAN 21, 2-4PM**  
**SIUSLAW LIBRARY BROMLEY ROOM**  
**GUEST SPEAKERS, POETRY, FILM, REFRESHMENTS SERVED!**

"EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT, BECAUSE EVERYBODY CAN SERVE."

Come join us as we honor, celebrate and keep Dr. King's vision of justice, service and volunteering alive in our Florence community. Guest speakers from Siuslaw Outreach, Food Share, Free Lunch, FACC, Warming Shelter

Documentary: An American Story-Race Amity and other Traditions

PosterMyWall.com