

WINGS & WHEELS from page 1A

Local car clubs and individual car owners were parked on the tarmac just a few yards from the collection of locally owned aircraft from different eras in the history of flight.

Groshong had been a member of the Florence-Siuslaw Lions Club for years and was often the public face of the organization's charitable efforts. His particular passion was the Wings and Wheels event, which he had been coordinat-

ing for the past six years.

Groshong's good nature, commitment and dedication to service were spoken of often during the day by his many friends and colleagues.

The new coordinator of the event, Ross Kroenert, worked with Groshong on the Wings and Wheels show for the past few years. Kroenert, who has been involved with the management of large-scale car shows, was pleased with both the turnout of vendors and visitors at the airport and the nice weather.

"It went great and went better than I had hoped," he said. "It just went really smooth. All of the vendors and volunteers were here when the gates opened up and the airport gave us a little more space, so instead of 125 cars, we ended up with about 140. We had cars that were waiting to get in, so we were able to accommodate them."

The unexpected loss of Groshong did add a somber element to this year's event but also inspired the volunteers.

Kroenert said, "I met Mike five years ago when we moved here and I was attending the show. At that time, I told him

that I had a lot of experience putting on car shows down in Southern California and I'd like to help him out in any way that I could, so I've been on his committee for the last four years."

Earlier in 2019, he had a conversation with Groshong, who was staying at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield

"He said, 'Ross, I don't think I can do the show this year. Can you jump in and take it?' ... So I said OK," Kroenert said. "His last comment to me was, 'We need to get together so I can talk to you about all of this,' ... and three days later he passed away."

The sudden loss of the event's coordinator a few months before a show that combined cars and airplanes, with little guidance from others, presented a challenge to the committee.

Kroenert said he realized that his best course of action was to adhere to the old axiom, "If it's not broke don't fix it."

"We on the committee didn't change that much from what Mike did. We tweaked it a little bit here and there, and we brought in a few more vendors

in the past, but this was Mike's baby. We are just adding to it and pushing it forward," he said.

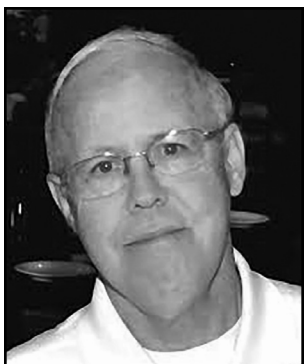
The overall goal of the Wings and Wheels event is to raise money for the Florence-Siuslaw Lions Club and the charities it supports. Two of the main areas Lions members across the country and across the world have attempted to positively impact is vision and hearing.

Internationally, the Lions Club was formed in Chicago in 1917 and currently has 1.7 million members in 46,000 local clubs working to help disadvantaged individuals see and hear. The group's motto is simple — "We serve."

This service most often takes place because of financial support from local businesses.

Kroenert found the good will engendered by Groshong over the years made the financial aspect of his new job easier.

"It really is a tribute to Mike how the businesses in the city turned out in support of the event this year," he said. "As soon as the business people understood this year is in memory of Mike, the support was overwhelming and a lot of that



Mike Groshong

is because people just loved him."

One special moment dedicated to the memory of Groshong took place on Saturday afternoon, which was initiated by a family member.

"Mike's brother Bill Groshong is a pilot and he coordinated with two other pilots from Eugene to do the 'Missing Man' flyover as a tribute to Mike," Kroenert said. "Mike was just a great guy. If you talked to him you'd think the guy never had a bad day. He was always smiling, generous and he loved the Lions and his car guys and gals and they loved him. We sure will miss him."

See page 10A for more photos



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FIRES from page 1A

Schick continued, "We had more than enough people showing up. After this long holiday weekend and have them still ready to go on Monday was very nice."

The Greentrees fire started early Monday afternoon, as SVFR responded to a structure fire in a manufactured home. Crews confined the fire to an attached garage. The garage and contents, as well as a pickup truck parked in front of the garage, were destroyed in the blaze, though the fire was stopped from entering the home. However, the home did suffer some smoke and water damage.

PEACE HARBOR from page 1A

"The weather here today is just another indication of how this project has gone well from the beginning."

State Sen. John Brennehan delivered the keynote address, saying that access to health care would continue to be a major concern throughout the decade.

"You are shaping health care in the 1990s," he said. "Rural hospitals that survive in the 1990s will be the ones affiliated with one, two or four other hospitals who share their technologies and technologists, whose position is compatible and supportive of one another and whose economic future is tied together in a mutually beneficial manner."

Sister Monica Heeran, administrator of Sacred Heart General Hospital said, "This hospital can be seen as a symbol of the future. It will serve the community well into the 21st Century."

Voters in the hospital district twice rejected a \$6 million levy to replace the existing 31-year-old hospital in 1983, forcing the Lane Hospital Board to turn to private hospital corporations for assistance.

On March 1, 1989, the naming of the hospital made front page news. "Peace Harbor" was selected by the steering committee for its coastal theme, its connotation of care and its association with its parent organization, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. The committee had received

dozens of suggestions from hospital employees, members of the medical staff and by the general public.

"Everything is on track' for this week's formal dedication of Florence's new Peace Harbor Hospital, according to hospital Administrator Jim Barnhart," the Siuslaw News reported on Monday, July 3.

Landscapers were preparing the grounds and, on July 5, the hospital's architecture and facility building were inspected.

Barnhart said that the move from Western Lane Hospital to Peace Harbor would not create any disruption of service, and that the hospital would be fully operational on July 14 when the actual transfer of patients occurred.

The dedication itself occurred without a hitch as dignitaries cut the ribbon on July 8. The following is the Siuslaw News article on the event:

Several hundred spectators cheered as a ribbon stretched before the main entry was cut and the \$5.2 million facility was officially dedicated.

The dedication followed more than an hour of public thanks to the community leaders, businesses and volunteers who helped to make the project a reality.

"The people of Florence and the Western Lane District can be proud of meeting the challenge of the future with vision and foresight," said Monica Heeran, former administrator of Sacred Heart Hospital Eugene and now president of St. Joseph of Peace, Health and Hospital

the lake reported a column of smoke coming from the island.

Responders went by boat to the lake, finding that a vacation home had burned down the night before with no 911 calls received.

Fire Marshal Tony Miller evaluated the scene to ensure all hot spots were extinguished to prevent rekindling.

"It's still a mystery why that occurred. We're not exactly sure what happened," said Schick, who stated that they were able to contact the owners of the home.

Finally, on Monday evening at approximately 6:30 p.m., smoke was reported north of Florence along Taylor Road,

Services (HHS).

The new hospital is owned and managed by HHS of Bellevue, Wash., a non-profit Catholic health care corporation controlled by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, which also operates Sacred Heart General Hospital in Eugene.

... The 21-bed facility will replace the aging Western Lane Hospital, which was dedicated more than 30 years ago.

At the time when many small rural hospital are dying, Florence is taking the lead into the '90s with a first class health care system, said keynote speaker State Sen. John Brennehan, who outlined future changes in the state's health care system which are expected to enhance Florence's ability to provide quality health care.

Following the ribbon cutting, visitors explored the new hospital, munching homemade cookies and being greeted by "the ladies in pink," members of the hospital auxiliary. The 21 single-occupancy rooms, the operating rooms, special care rooms and lab areas were all investigated as visitors circulated through the one-story brick building, designed and built by Hospital Building and Equipment Co. of St. Louis, Mo.

All 21 rooms of the new facility are private, and other improvements include an expanded emergency room, a radiology department with both ultrasound and mammography services, and a number of design changes to

enhance patient care.

Also given special attention by visitors was a wall of plaques listing about 450 donors, small plaques for those who gave at least \$1,000 and large ones commemorating gifts of at least \$100,000.

Patient rooms also sported individual plaques honoring those who gave at least \$10,000.

In all, \$1 million in private funds were donated for the hospital, as well as the 20-acre hospital site.

On a facing wall memorabilia was displayed, tracing the history of Western Lane Hospital and Peace Harbor.

Special recognition was given by master of ceremonies and a member of the new hospital's governing board Tom Grove to Don-Lee Davidson, who donated the 20-acre site for the hospital, and to members of the hospital steering committee.

Also recognized were the Sacred Heart Hospital Board of Directors, The Sacred Heart Hospital Foundation, Sacred Heart Administrator Sister Barbara Haas, elected officials, Hospital Administrator Jim Barnhart, members of the HHS staff and more than a dozen sisters from Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace.

Western Lane Hospital, a public facility operated for more than 30 years by the Western Lane Hospital District, closed July 14, 1989, when Peace Harbor Hospital officially opened and patients were moved into the new facility.

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