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ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND

50th anniversary of Apollo 11 shows how moon landing changed the world forever

“The important achievement of Apollo was demonstrating that humanity is not forever chained to this planet, and our visions go rather further than that, and our opportunities are unlimited.” — Neil Armstrong, Commander of the Apollo 11 Mission

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Humanity’s view of the universe changed forever on July 20, 1969, when Apollo 11 landed on the moon and humans took their first steps on another planetary body. Those relatively few steps inspired the people of Earth to think of our species in a different, more expansive way — a sentiment which still strikes a chord with those who witnessed the event and those that have learned about it since.

The success of Apollo 11 was the culmination of a frenzied effort to fulfill the mandate set forth by President John F. Kennedy. In a speech delivered at Rice

University in Houston, Texas, in 1962, Kennedy spoke to a group of students and scientists and presented them, and by extension all Americans, with a challenge: to go to the moon.

“We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people. For space science, like nuclear science and all tech-

gy, has no conscience of its own. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man, and only if the United States occupies a position of pre-eminence can we help decide whether this new ocean will be a sea of peace or a new terrifying theater of war. I do not say that we should or will go unprotected against the hostile misuse

of space any more than we go unprotected against the hostile use of land or sea, but I do say that space can be explored and mastered without feeding the fires of war, without repeating the mistakes that man has made in extending his writ around this globe of ours,” the president stated.

Kennedy gave this speech in response to the successful launch of the first spacecraft to leave

earth orbit — Sputnik, which was launched on October 4, 1957, by the Soviet Union.

At the time, and with that victory, the world perceived that the Soviet Union was winning the race to space and could conceivably have a decided advantage over the U.S. in any future conflict due to the technological information accrued from its space program.

It took the U.S. nearly a decade to “catch up” to the Soviets, eventually surpassing their efforts to successfully land on the moon first.

Kennedy did not live to see the realization of his challenge, but his speech inspired a generation of men and women to

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MOON
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“Jan. 1, 2018, Supermoon” photo by Jeff Phillips

Introducing Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority

SVFR, WLAD near completion of third entity for administration, welcome new board members

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD) met in a joint session on Wednesday night in which they held the first of two public votes authorizing the creation of the “Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority” (WLFEA), as well as giving the oath of office to newly elected board members of SVFR and WLAD.

Official details were released on WLFEA, a new intergovernmental agency that will act as an administrative bridge between SVFR and WLAD. Since last year, both agencies have been working on creating a “third entity” that



would employ key officers from both agencies and create a foundation to ensure operation cooperation.

“The concept is to give overall management to both districts,” WLAD Board President Rick Yecny said about the project in March. “Under the proposal, the third entity, which would be a non-taxing entity, would have two board members from each board sit on the commit-



tee. If there was ever a tie vote, the full boards would convene with all 10 board members to make a decision.”

The purpose of the agency will be to review the operations of fire protection, emergency response services and ambulance transportation in the two districts. The responsibilities laid out in the agreement have

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Florence City Council still preoccupied with public art

Henry, Greene conflict again dominates meeting

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The subject of public art and the future of the Public Art Committee (PAC) was the catalyst for yet another Florence City Council meeting devolving into an argument that included personal attacks between Mayor Joe Henry, Councilor Geraldine Lucio and Councilor Joshua Greene during the council’s July 15 meeting. A small number of the public and city staff were in attendance during the meeting and, although the subject of public art was not on the evening’s agenda, it was intensely discussed nonetheless.

The meeting began with the introduction by Florence Police Department Chief Tom Turner of a

new city employee, Angel Ray, who will immediately assume her duties as a communications officer.

During the public comment period, four residents shared concerns with the council. Among them was the suggestion for a more proactive approach to addressing the needs of the homeless, a topic raised by two members of the public — one advocating that the city provide more services for the homeless, and the second calling for the police and the city council to act to remove the homeless from property near his home on 16th and Zebra-wood streets. In addition, the idea of extending a warm welcome to immigrants and all travelers, regardless of the individual’s residency status, was also

suggested to the council during public comment.

Lastly, a request was made for a resolution from the city council to directly address what community member Michael Allen termed the “climate crisis.” Henry was mentioned by name in the proposed resolution and cited as a reason for the need to adopt the resolution.

“Whereas, the president of the United States withdrew us from the Paris Climate Agreement, and whereas, the mayor of Florence declined to sign on to becoming a Climate Mayor, and whereas, the Oregon State Legislature failed to pass a Climate bill ...,” stated Allen as he read his requested resolution into the record.

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VOL. 129,
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**NEWS & VIEWS THAT
DEFINE OUR
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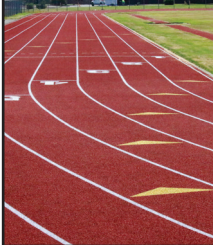
WEATHER

 Sunny and windy with a high of 71 and a low tonight of 56.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY


CROW kids sing & dance at Power of Florence
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS


Siuslaw High School now on track
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Inside — A2
SIDESHOW
Inside — B4
CLASSIFIEDS
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