SVFR from page 1A

Two recruits have military backgrounds. Yeo was a firefighter in the National guard, while Jeffords was a medic in a war zone.

Jones, the youngest recruit, came from wildland firefighting, while Naomi is a bodybuilder.

The academy was originally scheduled for twoand-a-half months, but due to the small recruit pool, all the lessons were packed into a two-week crunch course.

"It was tough, but they prevailed," Warren told the Siuslaw News.

SVFR/WLAD Chief Michael Schick administered the oath, which found the firefighters swearing to protect the citizens and residents of the community and

member of their own family.

At that point, SVFR Operation Chief Jim Dickerson gave the honor of pinning the badges on the new firefighters to the family "of these fine candidates that they just gave to me for two weeks straight, every day."

After the firefighters were Warren (Pete Warren's wife) official, Dickerson offered his congratulations, joking, "You may now be free to celebrate, but don't celebrate too much, because you're now on duty."

After the celebration, PeaceHealth Peace Harbor's Chief Administrative Officer Jason Hawkins gave a progress report on the Mobile Health Unit (MIH), which provides in-home checkups for recently discharged patients from Peace Harbor. The program is run by WLAD and the hospito treat the people they are tal, and funded through the called to help as if they are a Peace Harbor Medical Cen-



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(From left) Jim Yeo, serving the Deadwood/Swisshome kind of mental health district, and SVFR recruits William Jones, Naomi Warren and Andrew Jeffords are sworn in.

ter Foundation.

Hawkins explained the program, which is now in its second year, is having a tremendous effect.

"The program has exceeded all of our expectations," Hawkins said. "We estimate for every dollar we spend on this program, we save five...

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So, if you're running a program for \$100,000 a year, you're saving \$500,000 in health care costs, improving patient experience, keeping people from being readmitted, unnecessary ER visits. Obviously the healthcare industry is very interested in what we're doing here and how it's working in a rural area in particular."

given an update on the newly created Mental Crisis Response (MCR) program that began operating on November 15. Based in part on the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, mental health professionals work with local law enforcement on issues to help out in situations originally just responded to four calls. handled by the local police department. "We respond to any

crisis with depression, anxiety, bipolar, and kind of suicidal ideation," SVFR's Com-

munity Support Team Coordinator Lori Severance explained. "We also do interventions after a suicide with families who have experienced a suicide. Also we work with drugs and alcohol, homeless people and welfare checks."

The MCR team is deployed through the Florence

In the immediate

aftermath of a fire

crises of life

and in the everyday

The boards were then Police Department (FPD) dispatch, both through 911 calls or through FPD's non-emergency police number. The dispatcher works from a list of criteria to determine whether or not MCR should be deployed, at which point FPD officers and MCR staff will meet at the site of the incident.

In its first week, MCR has

The program has funding secured for three years, and is being completely funded by Lane County, which has allowed the program to pay staff, instead of relying on volunteers.

"We're hoping we could maybe attract some more people in and have more responders," Severance said. "Maybe even double coverage at some point, which would be nice. Then the police could just send us calls, and not have to respond to some of these."

Finally, Schick talked about the possibility of creating a drone program for SVFR.

"The use of drones around the county has begun to grow rapidly," he said. "We had a drone up in Washington we used frequently for search and rescue, assessment of structure risk, and the police department asked to use it several times for searches."

Schick himself is just completing courses for his own drone license, and is looking to drum up support and grants to purchase drones, and find flyers.

"We were lucky in Washington, we had a company donate two drones to us," he said. "We were able to use them over the ocean, looking for swimmers. So I think it has a lot of potential, and we already have drone pilots in the community. It would definitely be a community effort."

Florence Food Share

Ask us about volunteer opportunities. 2190 Spruce Street • P.O.Box 2514 Florence, Oregon 97439 (541) 997-9110 info@florencefoodshare.org

Habitat for Humanity

ReStore processing volunteer needed to help with donation sorting process. For more information contact Floyd at 541-997-5834

Helping Hands Coalition

We are in need of volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. We need volunteers to serve food, set up for meals and also prepare meals beginning at 11:00 am and finishing at

New Location: Community Baptist Church, 4590 Hwy. 101, Florence (Across from Fred Meyer)

Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60

Meals on Wheels are available to people over the age of 60 who cannot get out much due to illness or advanced age and who are not eating properly, regardless of income. Cafe 60 is available for those who prefer to make new friends in a dining room setting. 1570 Kingwood, PO Box 2313, Florence 541-997-5673

laneseniormeals.org

Memory Care Respite of Florence

Come join the team! Memory Care Respite of Florence is looking for new volunteers to spend time socializing, playing games, listening to music, and having coffee and lunch with our participating senior citizens. Our program depends on volunteer power to stay afloat and time is running out! If you're at all interested in socializing and relaxing with seniors while their loved one takes a break, please email us for more information. We need more volunteers like YOU to keep our program going. Contact us at memcarerespite@gmail.com

Oregon Coast Humane Society

relies heavily on volunteers.

There are many opportunities to volunteer and a variety of skills and talents are always in need. Volunteer interest forms may be found online, at the shelter and at our Thrift Shop on Bay Street. www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/volunteer/

Peace Harbor Volunteers

Join the Peace Harbor Hospital Volunteers, you will find an area of interest in a caring organization. 400 9th Street, Florence

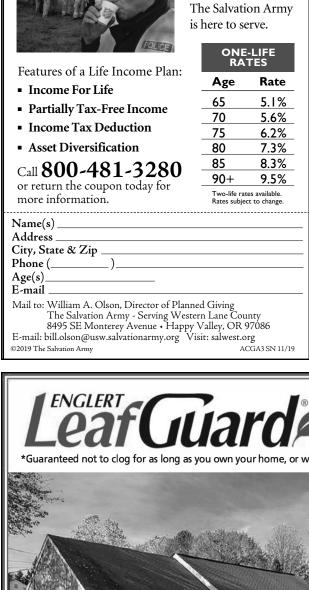
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