

FIRE from page 1A

In addition, the bedroom door was closed, which limited the majority of fire damage to the one room.

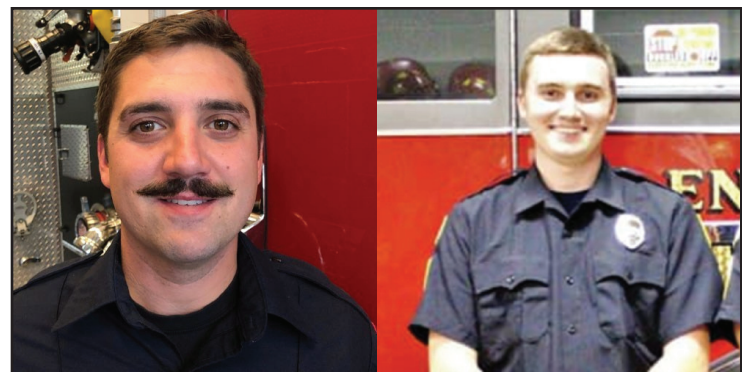
According to Schick, the single occupant of the apartment was transported to Peace Harbor Medical Center with minor injuries.

At the scene, SVFR was assisted by the Florence Police Department as well as a fire engine from the Reedsport Fire Department.

An investigation into the cause of the fire is being led by SFVR Fire Marshal Tony Miller.

This fire followed several calls this week for the fire department, including a large-scale blaze that destroyed a house on Christmas Day.

Also on Tuesday, Schick announced the hiring of two new employees, Conway Pebley and Nick Terrell, to fill open firefighter/engineer positions at the district.



(From left) Conway Pebley and Nick Terrell have been selected as the new career firefighters/engineers at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue.

He described the two in a statement: "Conway, of course, is well known to everyone here as one of our SVFR volunteer firefighters for the last three years and a part-time EMT with WLAD for almost two years. Nick is currently a career firefighter with the Charleston Fire District in Coos Bay as well as an assistant instructor with Southwestern Oregon Community College in their Fire Science Program. Nick grew up in Oakland, Ore., and started his fire career as a volunteer firefighter with the Oakland Fire District before being hired by

Charleston in 2018."

Schick was complimentary of all of the individuals who applied for the openings.

"I interviewed the top four with the highest scores from an initial pool of 36. With so many outstanding candidates it definitely made this a very tough decision," he said. "I wanted to say how impressed I was with all of the candidates who went through the hiring process for our new career firefighter/engineer positions, especially our internal candidates."

This included five SVFR firefighters, "who per-

formed very well during the testing process," Schick said. "I would have been comfortable in selecting any of them and they will remain on our hiring list."

With these hires, SVFR now has a total of six career firefighters, with two on duty around the clock.

"The District Board of Directors felt it was very important for us to have 24-hour staffing at Station 1 to supplement our volunteer firefighter response," said Operations Chief Matt House. SVFR began 24-hour staffing using a combination of career, part time and volunteer firefighters in April 2020.

"We have definitely noticed that we are able to respond to fire and medical calls much more quickly with our firefighters already at the station and ready to respond," Schick added.

For more information about the department, visit svfr.org.

Free parenting class starts Jan. 5

Jen Nelson, Parenting Now! Parent Educator, will be offering a free parenting curriculum called "Make Parenting A Pleasure." Classes will begin Tuesday, Jan. 5 and will meet each Tuesday for 12 weeks from 6 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Parents will have an opportunity to share the joys and challenges they are experiencing, as well as learn the most current evidence-based information about being a parent. Participants will also learn

practical stress and anger management techniques, effective communication skills, gain greater understanding of your children, learn useful parenting strategies and positive approaches to discipline.

To enroll, call Parenting Now! at 541-434-4343 or contact Jen for more information at 541-999-4880 or email her at jenn@parentingnow.org.

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COUNTY from page 1A

extreme risk level, five at high risk, zero at moderate risk and seven at lower risk.

Lane County remains at extreme risk, though neighboring counties Douglas, Lincoln and Coos have shifted down to high risk.

"After weeks of diligent work by local leaders and public health officials to implement health and safety measures in their communities, this week's county data is a welcome sign that we are making progress in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon," said Brown. "The county risk level framework is meant to put us on track to reopen our schools, businesses and communities. It is not easy."

In Florence, cases of COVID-19 have surpassed 80 as four cases were reported from one social gathering. Of those, three have been hospitalized. According to PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center, all of PeaceHealth Oregon's hospitalized COVID-19 patients are treated at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield.

According to the governor, "high risk" is the first county level in which some businesses and facilities can resume offering indoor services with health and safety measures and capacity limits in place.

"Oregon families and businesses have made incredible sacrifices," Brown continued. "If we work together, we will see more counties begin to lower their COVID-19 risk levels. If communities let down their guard too early, we could see our hard-won progress unravel just as quickly."

The Oregon Health Authority will examine and publish county data weekly. County risk levels will be reassigned every two weeks. The first week's data will provide a "warning week" to prepare counties for potential risk level changes. The next assignment of risk levels will take effect Jan. 15.

In the meantime, the state has begun providing vaccinations to health care workers.

"Every week, more Oregonians are being vaccinated against this deadly disease. But, until vaccines are widely available with high participation rates, the surest way to open our communities is to continue practicing the measures we know are effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19 — wear your

mask, keep physical distance from others, avoid gatherings, wash your hands

often, and stay home when you are sick," Brown said.

Updates to Warning

Week data and county risk levels will be posted at coronavirus.oregon.gov.

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