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fire, along with the response of multiple types of emergency apparatus led to numerous calls to SVFR and to the Siuslaw News requesting information on the incident.

“We noticed the many posts on social media commenting on the number of lights, sirens and emergency apparatus on the scene,” said Schick. “Even though this fire fortunately turned out to be very small, our response was based on the possibility that it could have turned into a major fire,” Schick said,

The Goodwill store was not occupied at the time of the fire and the cause of the fire is currently being investigated by the fire marshal.

“We are very fortunate in this community that we have a very strong and capable group of volunteer firefighters who work directly with our career firefighters to get our vehicles to the scene, attack these fires and take care of our citizens,” Schick said.

A typical fire response often includes a minimum of one fire engine, a ladder truck, at least one water tender, a chief officer, law

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NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Local EMS responders from Siuslaw Valley, Western Lane and Florence Police respond to an accident that snapped a power pole along Highway 101.

enforcement personnel, a fire investigator and members of SVFR/WLAD’s community support team, the chief said. Additional fire engines and water tenders may be called to the scene as needed.

Later that same morn-

CENTER from page 1A

“We are having talks with Habitat for Humanity to have their office, Re-Store and a form of housing on the property as well,” Ross added.

The concept of a self-sustaining, locally-based center combining shopping, eating, exercise and educational classes on this scale is unique to the region.

Physical fitness is a central component of the planned center, which will focus on offering a sched-

ule of activities, lessons and hikes to encourage residents to find an activity they are interested in and incorporate a workout with a meal or picking up groceries for dinner.

Ross explained the scope, saying, “There will be bike rentals, recreational swimming and swim teams, multi-court indoor sports, basketball courts with bleachers, pickleball, tennis, volleyball, badminton, an indoor track and a rock-climbing wall.”

One of the more interesting plans the two entrepreneurs have for recreation will be centered away from the main SRCRC, at the presently closed Mapleton pool which, in an earlier incarnation, was a social and fitness mainstay of both the Mapleton and Florence communities.

“The aquatic center has been a very important community gathering place within the Siuslaw Region for decades,” said Ross. “Many active community members learned to swim there, and it was a place for both young and old. The SRCRC will help in the refurbishment of the aquatic center, as well as provide a monthly sustainable gift to maintain the facility.

“This community needs an accessible place where you can learn to swim,

practice your kayaking, race your neighbors from across the state, learn how to complete a pike dive, develop your SCUBA, improve your confidence with lifesaving skills, feel better because of aquatic therapy or just play ‘Marco Polo.’”

SRCRC will supplement the food offered for sale with a series of food-related classes focusing on nutrition, ingredient selection and healthy preparation.

Ross and Vander Bogaart are working with the esteemed Northwest Culinary Institute (NCI) to oversee their nascent cooking programs.

“The NCI is a nine-month Chef’s Technical College, which we hope will teach local students a kitchen classes, foraging and indigenous cooking with Native American chefs, and educational courses from the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association for current Siuslaw region hospitality workers and management,” Ross said.

The planned facility will also have a food and preparation demonstration theater and offer classes with local bakers.

As with all new development projects, finding sources of funding and other types of material support will be the most

ing at just before 11 a.m., emergency units were dispatched to an area off Highway 101 between 20th and 21st streets after a vehicle collided with a power pole in front of McDonald’s.

The impact caused the pole to splinter and separate approximately 15 feet from the ground. The broken half of the pole came down onto the front section of the vehicle and also brought down the two power lines connected to it.

Fortunately, the lines — which ran parallel to the highway — only drooped but did not touch anything below 15 to 18 feet from the ground.

Units from SVFR, WLAD, local and state police, as well as Central Lincoln PUD and Oregon Department of Transportation were on scene.

As a precaution, all northbound traffic heading toward 20th Street and southbound traffic heading to 21st Street along the highway was detoured as crews worked to assist those involved in the crash — who suffered only minor injuries — and to secure the power lines.

Traffic was re-opened in both directions along Highway 101 less than 45 minutes later.

difficult aspect of the project to pull together — especially during the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are working on obtaining financial support from a mixture of federal, state and private grants, corporate sponsorships and SRCRC partnerships, as well as through naming rights fundraisers, private citizen and business donations, and low-cost opportunities for everyone to participate in funding — such as buying a park bench, diving board, basketballs, etc.,” Ross said.

The SRCRC complex is one of the most ambitious of the numerous developments underway in Florence, incorporating a multitude of community-based services, entertainment and fitness alternatives — all within one broad-based community center. The center is still in its initial stages, with hopes of completion in 3 to 5 years.

The project has a basic website established, where it shares the initial plans for SRCRC, as well as the needs, timeline and options being considered for the development. A virtual informational meeting is planned at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Those interested in learning more can visit www.siuslawregion.org.

Bob Steele

Rotary

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Bob’s many contributions to Rotary include:

- Instrumental in the Annual Dictionary Handout and School Supplies Programs
- Member of the Community Services Board assisting in the Coordination of the Club Services Provided in our Community
- Rotary Youth Club Committee Secretary working with our kids
- Volunteers his selfless time to our Annual Cool at The Coast Golf Tournament and Club Auction.
- Future Rotary Club of Florence President and Board Member 2022 -23

Outside of Rotary Bob has been an Active Community Volunteer

- City of Florence Transportation Committee Member
- Siuslaw Vision Board Member
- Bob received The **Rotary Passion of the Heart Award** that goes to those Rotary Club Members who have shown a deep-seated passion for community service

BOB WAS TO BE ALICE IN WONDERLAND’S RABBIT AT THE 2020 ROTARY AUCTION. COVID19 CANCELLED THE 2020 AUCTION

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