

SARAH from page 1A

certification, she was hired as a partner with us.”

According to Lowell RFPD, Susman became a firefighter in 2018, joining to gain experience in emergency medicine.

“I think her plans were to go to medical school at some point in the future,” Schick said. “Part of her being was that she really wanted to help people. ... It’s something that was very important to her.”

In a time when volunteer numbers are dwindling, Susman was an example of someone who went out of her way to help others.

“Those are the type of people you look for — ones that have a passion for it and are committed to it, and are willing to take those extra steps to help out your agency,” Schick said.

The news of Susman’s death has affected crews at both Western Lane Ambulance and Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, since the two emergency response agencies work so closely together.

“It’s been extremely difficult. She touched a lot of lives. Even though it’s only been about six months as an employee, she was well known, worked well with the crews. They all really liked her,” Schick said.

On Monday morning, Western Lane first realized something was wrong when Susman did not arrive in time for work. She commuted from Springfield.

Oregon State Police’s preliminary investigation revealed a Kenworth log truck, operated by Shane McVay, was eastbound when the loaded trailer tipped over. The trailer struck a westbound Toyota Prius, operated by Susman, and a Dodge Ram towing a boat, operated by Randall Tokich. The Dodge Ram then struck an eastbound Ford Mustang, operated by Jordyn Tippett.

Susman sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased. McVay, Tippett and Tokich had injuries.

A fellow Western Lane paramedic also drove the route and came across the highway closure after the four-vehicle crash occurred on Highway 126 near milepost 37.

“He was stopped with traffic and went up to see if there’s any-

The “Western Lane Ambulance Paramedics/EMTs Local 851” posted about her life, showing photos and talking about her plans for the future.

“(Sarah) was incredibly intelligent with a pure, happy and compassionate heart. Our family and community had lost a beautiful young star. Our hearts are broken and our profound condolences for all of her family and friends,” the post stated. “Live and treat others like tomorrow isn’t promised. Like Sarah, dream big and continue to work at making a difference.”

Both Western Lane and Siuslaw Valley were able to provide counseling to crews through the medical crisis response team.

“We reached out to all our employees to get them to talk about things. And we have a lot of resources available,” Schick said. “We see so many things like this in our regular their duties. It’s

“Live and treat others like tomorrow isn’t promised. Like Sarah, dream big and continue to work at making a difference.”

— *Western Lane Ambulance Paramedics/EMTs Local 851*

thing he could do to help. And he didn’t know Sarah was there, but he saw the car that was involved,” Schick said.

Once he was through the accident area, he notified Western Lane, who reached out to state police for information.

Western Lane and Siuslaw Valley posted some of the first reports that Susman had been the fatality in the accident.

SOCIAL from page 1A

On his inspiration for starting Nextdoor, co-founder and CEO Nirav Tolia stated in a Jan. 18, 2018, article in Entrepreneur that his main goal is “Creating things that make the world a better place with good people. I like to build things from scratch. It’s why I like to start companies.”

He has also highlighted the potential for security improvement through such a localized discussion board as one of the primary advantages of Nextdoor.

Members of the Florence-adjacent community

seem to similarly recognize the security benefits of the platform.

In response to a post asking about users’ favorite aspects of the platform, one user responded, “I find it valuable that pictures and information can be posted right away to be on the lookout for home and car intrusions. Most recently, 35th and even Florentine have had multiple cars broken into.”

Other users prefer the social interaction that Nextdoor enables and how it strips away some of the political contentions so often seen on other social media platforms.

“I like that the Nextdoor platform doesn’t invite na-

ked politics on its newsfeed and helps us see our neighbors as something other than the political opposition. Instead as people part of something larger than ourselves,” another user posted.

Nextdoor also has a large influence in the wildlife-watching community, as it ensures that all viewers of the post are within a reasonable distance of the sighting.

A new Florence resident posted, “I just moved here so I appreciate all the insight about the wildlife that I am not accustomed to. I have received lots of advice on the recent bear activity in our neighborhood.”

Many communities tend

to have high concentrations of people with certain interests and Nextdoor allows them to communicate and collaborate with other local enthusiasts they would likely not have met otherwise. Outside of Florence, the Newport Nextdoor group has a small astronomical community in which members exchange advice on identifying planets, star identification apps, and even used telescopes.

Additionally, the feature of being able to view the bulletins of neighboring areas can encourage residents to expand their typical area of familiarity and to visit nearby towns, cities, and natural features.

In terms of localized

community-building, Nextdoor is a refreshing new interpretation of social media and how it can be used to build real bonds between those living in close proximity. It also is evidence to the fact that technology can be used to foster community and restore tight-knit neighborhood connections without the divisive content of more traditional social platforms.

Ferris Haukom is a sophomore at Stanford Online High School who is a new intern for the Siuslaw News and an associate editor at the OHS Observer. Aside from



Ferris Haukom
journalism, he is interested in quantum physics, programming, entrepreneurship and music, specifically violin, viola, orchestral conducting and classical composition. Haukom and his family reside in the Florence area, and he often travels as a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Composer Fellowship Program.

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Florence Senior Center's Adult Social Daycare resumes

After a year and a half interruption, the Adult Social Daycare Program, i.e. Coffee Club, will resume in Florence. The program will be located in a designated area of the Florence Senior Center. There is a small cost to attend, but scholarships are available to defer cost if needed.

Under the direction of

Juels Larson, a board of directors and a team of enthusiastic, caring volunteers has been assembled and are busy preparing for an anticipated re-opening in late October.

Adult Social Daycare is designed for seniors with memory deficits to be able to meet and enjoy each other's company

in a safe and secure environment. It also allows those who care for them a few hours of time to run errands, make appointments or just relax.

The Adult Social Daycare Program will open one day a week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., offering qualifying seniors time for socialization, lunch, exercise, games and crafts.

Committed volunteers are needed to open additional days.

Interested families/caregivers as well as volunteers can get an application by emailing Lar-

son at memcarerespite@gmail.com.

Due to COVID restrictions, the Adult Social Daycare Program will only be taking six applicants at this time.

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• Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday)
12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
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