### 6A | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 | SIUSLAW NEWS

#### <u>SARAH from page 1A</u>

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 med 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 oth-

"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. kich had injuries. She touched a lot of lives. Even certification, she was hired as a though it's only been about six medic also drove the route and her," Schick said.

> On Monday morning, Western 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

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 cident area, he notified Western Dodge Ram then struck an eastbound Ford Mustang, operated police for information. by Jordyn Tippett.

ceased. McVay, Tippett and To- fatality in the accident.

A fellow Western Lane para-

months as an employee, she was came across the highway clowell known, worked well with sure after the four-vehicle crash the crews. They all really liked occurred on Highway 126 near milepost 37.

"He was stopped with traffic Lane first realized something was and went up to see if there's any-

> "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

McVay, was eastbound when the thing he could do to help. And he continue to work at making a difdidn't know Sarah was there, but he saw the car that was involved," Schick said.

> Once he was through the ac-Lane, who reached out to state

Western Lane and Siuslaw Val-Susman sustained fatal inju- ley posted some of the first reries and was pronounced de- ports that Susman had been the

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 beau-

> tiful 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

ference."

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 important that we talk about it and get our feelings out, and then address those early and often to help the crews. But they're all professionals, and I'm very proud of them. But it's him home when we lose a member of our family."

While a memorial service has yet to be announced, the City of Lowell and the Lowell RFPD will be hosting a "Bells Across America" and a "Sounds of the Sirens" on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 11 a.m. at the fire department, 389 N. Pioneer St. in Lowell. This is to honor firefighters who died in the line of duty, as well as Susman.

Lowell RFPD Fire Chief Lon Dragt released a proclamation, saying, "Toll a bell, pause for a moment of silence, or read a special passage to honor the sacrifices of these public servants and their families. I encourage our citizens to honor fire and emergency personnel, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to duties, have rendered invaluable service to our community and its citizens."

### <u>SOCIAL from page 1A</u>

his inspiration On 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 Flor-

ence-adjacent community

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seem to similarly recognize ked politics on its newsfeed 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 I am not accustomed to. I seen on other social media platforms.

"I like that the Nextdoor in our neighborhood." platform doesn't invite na-

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 have received lots of advice on the recent bear activity

Many communities tend

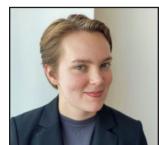
to have high concentrations of people with certain interests and Nextdoor allows them to communicate and collaborate with other local enthusiasts they would likely not have met otherwise. Outside of Florence, the Newport Nextdoor group has a small astronomical community in which members exchange advice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



**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

# Florence Senior Center's Adult Social Daycare resumes

interruption, the Adult directors and a team of Social Daycare Program, enthusiastic, caring voli.e. Coffee Club, will re- unteers has been assemsume in Florence. The bled and are busy preprogram will be located paring for an anticipated in a designated area of the re-opening in late Octo-Florence Senior Center. ber. There is a small cost to Adult Social Daycare one day a week from 10 attend, but scholarships is designed for seniors a.m. to 2 p.m., offering if needed.

vironment. 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

After a year and a half Juels Larson, a board of in a safe and secure en- Committed volunteers are son at memcarerespite@ needed to open additional gmail.com. days.

> Interested caregivers as well as volunteers can get an appli- only be taking six application by emailing Lar- cants at this time.

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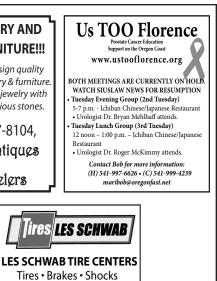
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