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INSIDE

Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
VOL. 131, NO. 78
SEPT. 29, 2021
FLORENCE, OREGON

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Cloudy with a high of 65 and a low of 55.

Full forecast on A3

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Discarded box becomes a treasure for Pioneer Museum



Deposited with the day's trash and placed at the curb was a wooden box containing old photographs and letters.

By chance, passer-by and Siuslaw Pioneer Museum volunteer Annie Schmidt recognized the items might perhaps be of special value to someone, and inquired about the box. Receiving permission, the box was taken to the museum, where volunteers quickly realized some photos appeared to date as far back as 1880. Siuslaw Genealogy Society members and museum volunteers Pat Rongey and Sharon Waite began doing research in hopes of contacting a family member who would welcome the items.

After a full day of inspecting the numerous pictures and documents, several names and birth dates were revealed. With that information, and utilizing her research experience, Rongey located a family tree on Ancestry.com.

Emails were sent to several family members, but it seemed no one had an interest in the photos or letters.

Two weeks passed, and with their hopes dwindling, an email arrived from an excited Laura in California, who was elated to learn of the box and yes, anxious to take possession of its contents. By week's end, she received the items. From the photos she recognized family members and she concluded the items were probably from her grandmother's sister's family, then passed down to a family member.

Laura reported she "spent hours going through" the items, calling them "good stuff I can share."

Congratulations to the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum volunteers for their efforts in returning the family items home.

A treasure comes in many forms; recognizing it, is what makes it a gift.

The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, 278 Maple St., can be reached at 541-997-7884 and www.siuslawpioneermuseum.com.

Dunes City considers projects for COVID relief funding

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Dunes City Council met on Sept. 22 in person, with all councilors socially distanced. The meeting was also available to view via online streaming during the event.

City Administrator Jamie Mills led the council through the evening's agenda, which included discussions on the budgetary priorities for federal COVID relief payments and possible computer and internet upgrades for Dunes City Hall.

The meeting began with announcements, including an update on the new Spectrum Pacific West offerings for area residents, the beginning of the Siuslaw Bridge upgrade which will continue through the end of October and the passing of former Councilor Jerry Curran, who oversaw the Water Quality Testing Group on Woahink Lake.

Mills requested direction on which projects currently underway in Dunes City might be most benefited from the COVID relief funds. She also asked for suggestions on new projects which would meet

See DUNES page 7A

Financial reporting component of American Families Plan causes concerns

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

This month, Oregon Pacific Bank (OPB) and other independent banks sent out a consumer alert to inform patrons about an upcoming law that could change the information collected by banks and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Under "Improve Compliance" under U.S. President Joe Biden's American Families Plan is a section called "Introduce Comprehensive Financial Account Reporting to Improve Tax Compliance."

"Requiring comprehensive information reporting on the inflows and outflows of financial accounts will increase the visibility of gross receipts and deductible expenses to the IRS. Increased visibility of business income will enhance the effectiveness of IRS enforcement measures and encourage voluntary compliance," stated the general explanation.

The proposal would create a comprehensive financial account

See PLAN page 5A

Boards gather for September meeting

WLFEA honors life, years of service of two women

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The September meeting of the Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority (WLFEA), a joint group formed of select members from the board of directors from Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District, began with the recognition of the tragic death of Sarah Susman, a part-time employee with the ambulance district.

Susman was killed in a traffic accident last week on Highway 126 on her way to Florence.

Operations Chief Matt House spoke about his colleague.

"Sarah was a truly amazing young lady. She was very talented beyond her years, compassionate and had impeccable provider skills for her patients. Sarah was dedicated to her profession as a Fire/EMS and demonstrated this in all aspects of her life, volunteering with Lowell Fire District, working part time with the Mid-Valley Ambulance and working part time with Western Lane Ambulance," House said. "She was also recently hired on at RiverBend as an ER Tech. The underlying motivation for this was her overwhelming drive aspiring to be a physician."

"All of our personnel have wonderful stories of working alongside

Sarah and all of our personnel are hurting from the loss of amazing person with unbelievable potential. She was an example of integrity and professionalism our district strives for."

House then asked that all board members join in a moment of silence for their friend and co-worker.

There were two members of the public who commented during the meeting, R. Pilcher and former WLAD Board Director Larry Farnsworth, who both expressed their sadness at Susman's passing and their best wishes for her co-workers.

See WLFEA page 7A

Scientific Safety Review Workgroup recommends Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine booster shot after six months

On Sept. 24, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup completed its review of the federal process and has recommended a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least six months after their primary vaccination series for people older than 65 and people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. The Workgroup provided its confirmation to the governors of

California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

"COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and vaccination continues to be our path out of this pandemic," stated Oregon Gov. Kate Brown. "Seniors who have received the Pfizer vaccine, as well as Oregonians who have underlying health conditions, live in long-term care facilities, or who are at higher risk due to

occupational or institutional setting will now be able to receive the additional layer of protection provided by a booster shot. Everyone eligible who wants a booster will get one, and I'm committed to ensuring our most vulnerable Oregonians are protected from COVID-19, including those who are at higher risk due to systemic health and social inequities."

See BOOST page 5A



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