

Douglas County school board member honored

By Tricia Jones
For The Sentinel

Sgt. Jeff Frieze of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office keeps a cool head

at crime scenes, arrests and traffic stops. But he admits to suffering from a mild case of nerves during an April 27 drive from Roseburg to Salem with his boss, Sheriff John Hanlin.

That's because Frieze thought he was headed to a meeting where Hanlin would deliver a speech that would require Frieze's input. Yet whenever Frieze asked Hanlin what facts he'd need or more about the target audience, Hanlin waved him off with a breezy, "Oh, we'll just wing it."

It wasn't until Frieze heard his name announced that he realized the truth. He wasn't there to help with a presentation. He was there to collect a PACE Outstanding Individual Award.

PACE, which stands for Property and Casualty Coverage for Education, is an insurance pool providing insurance coverage for Oregon public school districts, charter schools, community colleges and education service districts. The recent award ceremony in Salem recognized people and programs making significant contributions to safe and secure schools in Oregon.

Frieze recalls being relieved that he was off the hook for the non-existent law enforcement speech. "But my first thought was, 'Why am I getting an award? I haven't done anything,'" he said.

He's the only person to think so. A North Douglas School Board member who just started his

second four-year term, Frieze was nominated for the award by North Douglas Superintendent John Lahley.

"Jeff has done so much for school safety and given so much of his time," Lahley said. "To be honest, I was surprised this award would go to someone in a small, rural school district – but I can say he has definitely earned it."

Lahley's praise is echoed by Hanlin, who described Frieze as a "tremendous asset" to the Sheriff's office.

"He demonstrates the qualities I seek when hiring member of this office," Hanlin said. "He is professional and knowledgeable, and well connected with the community in which he lives and serves."

Lahley noted on the PACE award nomination form that Frieze's professional background isn't his sole contribution to the school district. From 2008 to 2014, Frieze was a member of the North Douglas Parks and Recreation Board, also doing service as a youth sports director. Much of his off-duty time has been spent coaching, planning or scheduling sports events. Countless kids in Drain, Yoncalla, Elkton, Sutherlin, Oakland and Glide could point to him as a role model, if not a mentor.

Frieze's concern for Douglas County kids comes naturally. A 1993 graduate of North Douglas High School, he entered law enforcement as a reserve officer for the Sutherlin Police De-

partment in August 1997, eventually becoming a corporal with that department before joining the Douglas County Sheriff's

Office in 2002. He's currently the sergeant overseeing the Drain and Reedsport substations.

Lahley said perhaps Frieze's most valuable contribution to the district can be found in the time he gives to providing ongoing reviews of school property to bolster safety and security. On many occasions, Frieze has led school safety workshops and training sessions to school administrators and staff members. The need for such plans was thrust into sharp clarity following the October 2015 shooting at Umpqua Community College. But Frieze's desire to learn more about school protection predated that incident by many years.

Ten years ago, Frieze's interest in learning how to make schools safer from attacks by what police call "active shooters" led him to hook up with retired DCSO Deputy David Lee, whom Frieze describes as "very knowledgeable and passionate about teaching lockdown drills to as many schools as he could." In 2009, Frieze, Lee and DCSO Sgt. Jerry Tilley crafted a basic lockdown procedure they then presented to Douglas County school district superintendents. Since then, many schools have either followed the recommended basics or come up with their own versions. They've also turned to trainers who promote models that train school staff and some older students to fight back

or otherwise distract a shooter.

While some debate which method is best, Frieze said the most important point for school administrators to remember is that they need to at least start with a traditional plan, then be prepared to adapt it to the needs of their schools.

"School districts have to do their part on the front end. Not every school is the same," he said. "The physical layouts are different, the strengths of the staff are different."

"The important thing is to not put your head in the sand and say, 'It can't happen here,' and to be willing to change and update your plan as times change."

His message resonates with Lahley, who wrote on Frieze's award nomination form that Frieze is "doing all he can to support and provide for the future – the children of our communities."

As he walked around North Douglas Elementary in uniform on a recent morning, kids headed for the playground exchanged waves and greetings with Frieze, visibly glad to see him at school. Their willingness to be guided to do what's right and look out for each other is a large part of his reward, Frieze said.

Yet he hasn't forgotten Hanlin's ruse to get Frieze to Salem to collect his award.

"Oh, I will get him back," Frieze pledged more than once.

City selling candy bars to pay for Symphony

For a \$5 donation, residents of Cottage Grove can be the proud owners of a Symphony; the chocolate bar that is. The concept, however, is not quite as far from the truth since the city of Cottage Grove is selling Symphony chocolate bars to help fund the symphony show scheduled for this summer.

"It's a great event," said Cottage Grove City Manager Richard Meyers. "People have come here and said it's a much better experience because you're sitting in the park listening to this beautiful music and there's kids tossing a ball over here and people walking their dogs over there. This is hometown, this is

Americana," he said. "It's a better experience than sitting in a theatre."

The Eugene Symphony is scheduled to hit Bohemia Park July 24 at 7:30 p.m.

"We haven't paid for it yet," Meyers said. "We pay for it after. We'll probably be selling Symphony bars through September," he joked.

The approximate cost to bring the show to Cottage Grove is \$30,000, an amount Meyers hopes to garner strictly through fundraising. To purchase a chocolate bar, visit city hall or call (541) 942-5501.

Countdown to the 58th Bohemia Mining Days

The 58th annual Bohemia Mining Days festival is now three weeks away, July 13-16. Here's a few steps to take now to get ready for four days of summer fun:

Volunteer to help.

Set-Up, Tear-Down, Historical Treasure Hunt & Festival Information Booth and Parade Intersection Safety Guards are the areas where we need the most help.

Minimum 2-hour shift shared by two people. Invite a favorite friend or relative you'd like to spend time with and sign up as a team. Call Volunteer Coordinator Wendy Johnson at 541-543-4869.

Be a vendor.

Applications still being accepted.

Enter Parade or the BMD Gold Rush 5K Run.

Details on website

Save money on All-day Carnival Rides.

Discount Carnival Ride Bracelet Coupons are now at Cottage Grove Bi-Mart. \$22 in advance & \$30 on site. Save even more with 2 for 1 "Buddy Day" on Thursday (6/13). Limited number of coupons available while supplies last before July 13.

Enter Drawing for Home Free Concert Meet & Greet VIP Ticket Package.

Tickets: \$5 Order online on BMD website or call festival office.

Downloadable applications for vendors, parade and volunteers are on the festival website or at KNND, CG Sentinel, and CG Library & CG Community Center Information Desk.

More information is available at www.bohemiaminingdays.org or call 541-942-5064.

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\$26,500



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17U27

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17T58B

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16U103

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