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# Siuslaw News

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FLORENCE, OREGON

**Florence Mayor Joe Henry (center) stands with City Councilor Susy Lacer and City Manager Erin Reynolds before the duathlon began last weekend.**

PHOTO BY MEGAN MESSMER

## FLORENCE WINS MAYORAL DUATHLON CHALLENGE

*Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon features first city vs. city contest*

**BY CHANTELLE MEYER**  
Siuslaw News

During Dunes City’s third annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon, the competition was fierce. Of the eight teams running and biking in the sprint duathlon

relay, two teams in particular were racing the clock and each other.

The whole rivalry began when Dunes City Mayor Rebeca Ruede invited Florence Mayor Joe Henry to form a team to compete in the duathlon.

Both cities made teams consisting of city officials.

The Dunes City Councilors, a team of councilors Maurice Sanders and Duke Wells, was sponsored by Ruede. They have competed in the event before.

Team Florence, consisting

of City Manager Erin Reynolds and Councilor Susy Lacer, was sponsored by Henry.

On race day, Team Florence finished with a time of 1:35:58.

See **RACE 7A**

City letter stresses water protection

Sen. Roblan, city council discuss importance of Florence aquifer

BY CHANTELLE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Area legislatures discussed the preservation of the Florence aquifer during the May 2 Town Hall and the May 4 Florence City Council meeting.

Sen. Arnie Roblan held the Town Hall to meet with local Democrats. He answered questions about the law process, funding, school budget and pesticide spraying, both locally and across Oregon.

One citizen asked, “Do you have any plans to help reduce the risk of pesticide impact?”

Roblan said that there have been nine pesticide bills in the State House and Senate. A team of senators and representatives then decided which bill they would pursue.

“I have told people we have to do stuff on pesticides,” he said.

The bill is currently in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

“However,” Roblan said, “apparently the conversation is still going on about what will be in that bill.”

Florence City Council hopes a letter written by Councilor Joshua Greene and his employee Shawn Penrod will help make sure that bill goes to a vote.

Mayor Joe Henry said, “As a result of your concerns, and concerns that the city and the council share to a great extent, we have agreed to write a letter.”

The letter is addressed to Roblan, District Rep. Caddy McKeown and the other state senators and representatives.

“It has become clear to us on the Florence City Council that Oregon’s regulations regarding the spraying of chemical pesticides are woefully inadequate,” a draft of the letter said.

“Although this issue is of great importance to Oregonians in general, it is particularly important to Florence and surrounding area residents.”

Some of those residents are part of Protect Florence Aquifer, a local group started by Shauna Boyd and others who wish to preserve the area’s sole source aquifer, the only one in the state.

See **WATER 7A**

RHODY DAYS

PHOTO BY CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

PHOTO BY NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Rockin’ Rhody

**F**estival-goers of all ages appear to be enjoying the sights, sounds and flavors of the 108th Annual Rhododendron Festival, which continues through the weekend. Airboat tours on the Siuslaw River (below) began Thursday and are a new feature this year, while the carnival returned this week to the Port of Siuslaw (at left). On Friday, the ladies above showed off their festive costumes during the Rhody Mosey down Bay Street. See page 7A for a complete schedule of festival events.

PHOTO BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS