

ALL-STAR BASEBALL

SPORTS — B



CROW begins renovation

INSIDE — A3



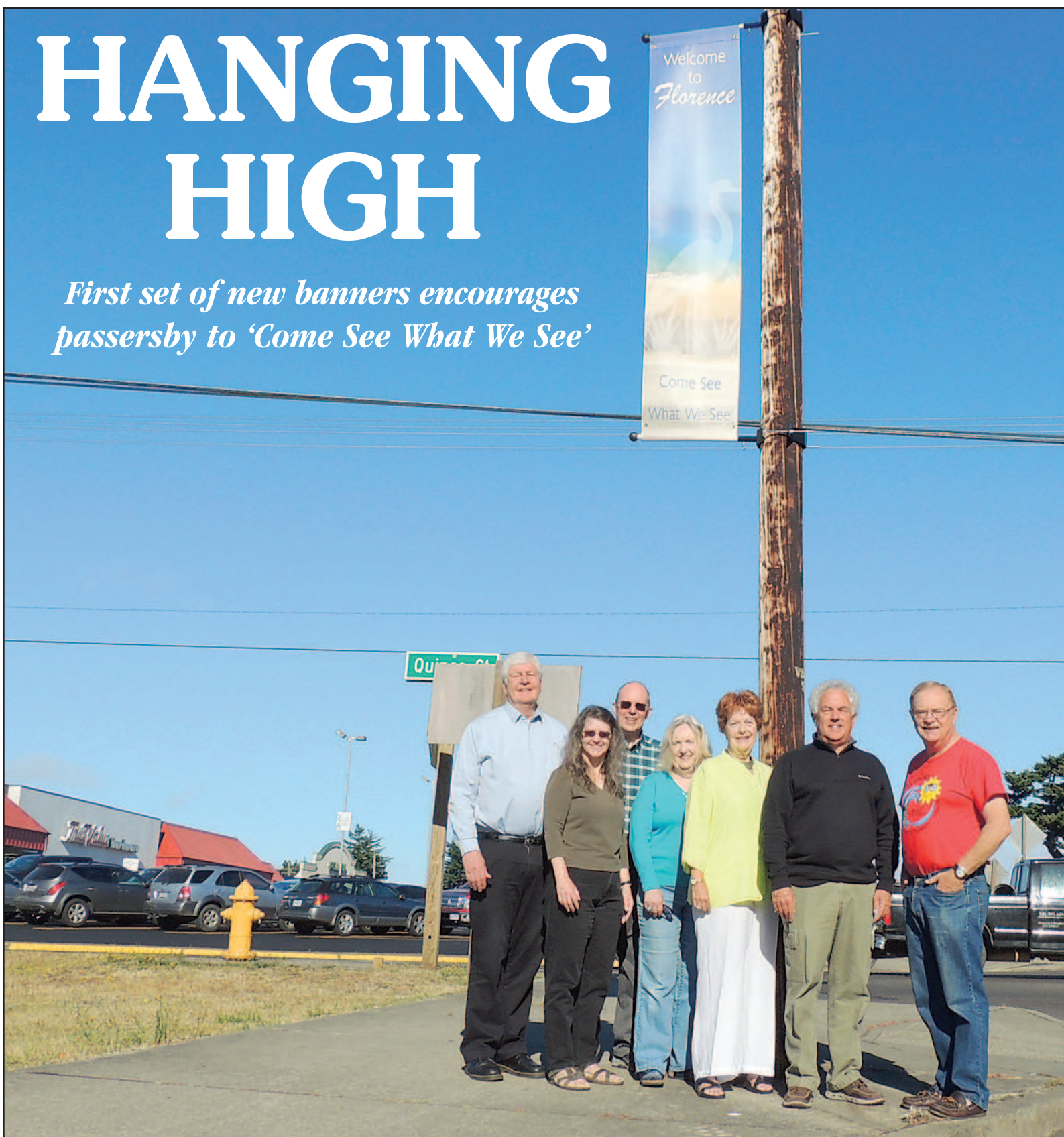
Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

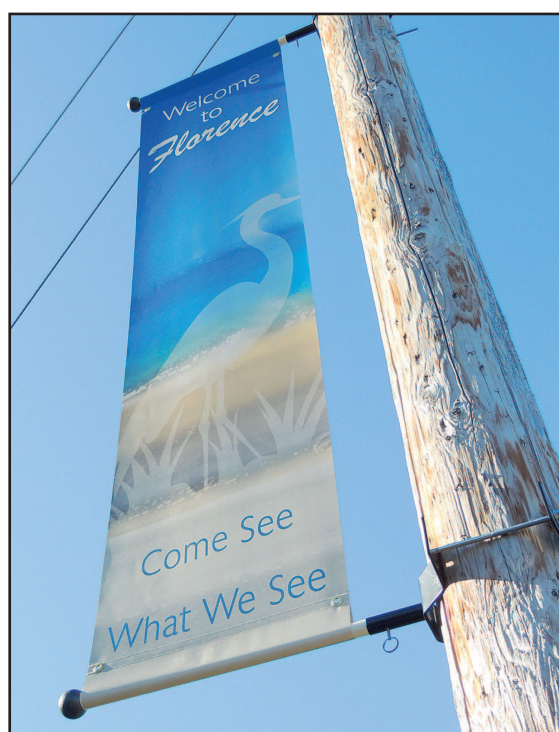
HANGING HIGH

First set of new banners encourages passersby to 'Come See What We See'



PHOTOS BY RYAN CRONK/SIUSLAW NEWS

Members of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Downtown Revitalization Team (DRT) stand underneath one of two canvas banners hung up last week on streetlight poles off Highway 126 and Quince Street to encourage travelers to stop and stay in the area. The DRT project includes a total of 21 banners — each 8 feet tall and 20 inches wide — that will be placed this summer along main thoroughfares into the city. Local graphic artist Susan Johnson created the banner design, which features a heron on a seaside backdrop and the chamber's slogan, "Come See What We See." Other phrases on future banners will include "Historic Old Town" and "Mainstreet District."



Quality Child Care of Florence to close

June 30 marks last day for struggling facility that lost \$35K since January

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Parents and staff members received written notice last week that Quality Child Care of Florence (QCCF) will cease operation after June 30 due to lack of funds, according to Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County Vice President Chuck Trent, who announced the decision Monday.



JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Boys and Girls Club took over the Quality Child Care facility at 2355 Oak St. last year.

QCCF was established in 2009 to offer local daycare for children from 6 months to 6 years old. The Boys and Girls Club assumed responsibility for operating the cash-strapped facility, including signing a five-year lease with Siuslaw School District, on whose property the building is situated, in May 2014.

"When the Boys and Girls Club board took on QCCF it was absolutely the right thing to do for the community," Trent said. "The heart, the passion, the desire was there. Hindsight ever since that point has shown that it was absolutely the wrong thing to do for the Boys and Girls Club."

The club board of directors oversees three separate entities, Boys and Girls Club activities, ABC Preschool (ABC) and QCCF. The preschool and childcare facilities were acquired in 2014 under the aggressive leadership of newly selected Boys and Girls Club executive director Jonathan Hicks.

All three entities have struggled financially since the acquisitions. In January, just prior to Hicks being placed on administrative leave, the board held a series of town hall-style meetings to receive community input as to how to cope with the looming financial crisis.

"It goes back to what we said in January," Trent explained. "Each entity has to pay its own way and be able to retire its own debt. If it doesn't, we will not jeopardize the Boys and Girls Club."

See CARE 7A

COOL PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

SPECIAL FEATURE: This summer we are highlighting unique spots that make the central Oregon coast one of the coolest places to live and play. A new location will be featured each week.

Oregon Coast Military Museum

2145 Kingwood St., Florence | 541-902-5160

AT A GLANCE: The mission of the Oregon Coast Military Museum is to educate the community about the role that military members (both past and present) have played in defending the freedoms we all enjoy; and to provide an avenue for veterans to display and share their personal artifacts, memorabilia and memoirs as a history of their honorable military service.



COURTESY PHOTO

Join the Grand Opening celebration Saturday, July 4, at noon for this building, which is a testament to the generous support of this community. The museum has been built with donations of time and money, and is completely debt-free.

Festivities include a short ceremony, food and tours of the facility. Be sure to try some candy from the old-fashioned Candy Shoppe when the tour concludes.



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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
Full Forecast, A3

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SATURDAY
68 53

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