



## Texas 4000 rides into town

SPORTS — B

## GRAB SOME FLOGRO

INSIDE — A3



# Siuslaw News

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## Rhody Drive upgrade begins

*Florence City Council approves two road repair, maintenance projects*

BY CHANTELLE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Rhododendron Drive will finally start to see improvements beginning later this month.

Following its stated goals and objectives for 2015, the Florence City Council awarded two bids for projects on Rhododendron Drive on July 6.

“The next items on the agenda are very near and dear to my heart: Rhododendron Drive improvements,” said Florence Mayor Joe Henry.

The first bid went to Wildish Construction Company for the North Rhododendron Drive Paving Improvement project.

The \$205,593 project includes all labor, equipment and materials necessary for a grind/inlay of a two-inch thick hot mix asphalt cement (HMAC) roadway surface along Rhododendron Drive from Ninth to Wildwinds streets, including the installation of 12,000 square yards of geo-textile paving fabric that will be placed prior to repaving the street and 250 square yards of roadway reconstruction to address an area of severe settlement and road base failure.

Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller said, “We are taking material out and putting it back in, following the fog line (solid white line). The geo-textile material keeps whatever is underneath, like cracks or fractures, from reflecting back through the pavement. It should provide a long-lasting surface.”

Miller said that this surface should last 20 to 30 years, with maintenance.

“We were very happily surprised with the bids and the outcome,” he said.

Henry said, “I was really happy to see that in there, especially at that price.”

According to the city council packet, Wildish’s proposal was \$91,552 below the engineer’s cost estimate.

See **RHODY 7A**

## Mapleton resident fills port commission vacancy

*Mike Buckwald will be sworn in as commissioner next week*

BY JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

During a special meeting Thursday, Port of Siuslaw commissioners unanimously voted Mike Buckwald to fill

the commission seat vacated by Jay Cable on May 26.

Competition for the vacancy was stiff. Of the seven applicants applying for the seat, four were selected for interviews by the board.

Applicants were interviewed over a two-day process.

Buckwald, a certified public accountant, served on the Mapleton School Board for 25 years. During the interview, Buckwald said, “The primary responsibility of the port is to facilitate economic development and community growth.”

Buckwald felt his background as a CPA would benefit the board.

“I know a lot about budgets, Oregon budget law and financial statements,” he said. “There was a time when my partner and I did the fieldwork for the Port of Siuslaw audit.”

Buckwald said he saw his

role as port commissioner was to “get along with everybody, to listen and to set policy; to give direction to management as to how the port is to be run. I don’t have any axes to grind and I’m going nowhere on the political football field.”

See **PORT 7A**

# SUMMER SLICK



*Response crews from the Florence Police Department, Port of Siuslaw, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Siuslaw River Station arrived at the port’s docks Friday morning to take care of a 20-gallon diesel spill from the fishing vessel Summer Breeze, owned by Greg Helmer. SVFR Fire Boat-1 assisted the USCG in laying booms and absorbent pads to soak up the diesel. Port Manager Bob Forsythe said, “The people that are responsible end up paying for this stuff. It will be rather expensive for them.” According to officials, it will take a couple days to clean up the spill.*



PHOTOS BY SVFR FIRE CHIEF JIM LANGBORG

## DANCING DOWN THE COAST

*Florence Events Center unveils ‘Dancing with Sea Lions’ program for 20th anniversary in 2016*

BY CHANTELLE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Florence Events Center (FEC) is bringing attention to sea lions in honor of its 20th anniversary next year.

FEC Director Kevin Rhodes and marketing specialist Jennifer Connor met with the Florence City Council to reveal the project during a work session last month.

“Our staff is always brainstorming ideas for new events,” Rhodes said. “Out of those conversations came an idea that incorporates public art, a fundraising opportunity and the FEC’s 20th anniversary.”

“Dancing with Sea Lions” is a program that will include the installation of 20 fiberglass sea lions along the central Oregon coast.

“Right now we have plans for a trail of sea

lions to go from Newport, down to Yachats, primarily in Florence and extending down to Reedsport and Winchester Bay,” said Connor, who is spearheading the project.

She added that the trail of sea lions will end at the Umpqua Discovery Center in Reedsport. These sea lions will be painted by local artists, like the Cow Parade sculptures that started in Zurich, Switzerland, in the late 1990s.

“You can see these projects everywhere,” Connor said. Other “animal parades” have included whales, lions, cats, pelicans, bulls, buffalo and ducks.

See **FEC 7A**



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Four blue signs mark the locations of two construction projects taking place on Rhododendron Drive in July and August.