

# VIKS LOSE TO PIRATES

SPORTS — C



# Local Red Cross ready for action

COAST LIFE — B



# Siuslaw News

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

# HONEY of a HOBBY

Florence resident one of only five certified journey beekeepers in Oregon

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

It started out as a simple plan. Take 10 acres of recreational land up the North Fork of the Siuslaw River, plant some apple trees and enjoy the fruits of your labor. That was the idea Max and Clara Kuhn had for their land.

"After two to three years, the trees weren't doing very well," Max Kuhn admitted. "I tried to figure out why and learned that there were practically no bees up there.

"As I investigated, I became introduced to the honeybee. Since then, I've become more and more interested in honeybees and less interested in the orchard. But now they are both doing fine," he said.

Kuhn has taken to beekeeping like a bee to honey. He has recently been certified as one of only five journey beekeepers in Oregon and is studying for his master beekeeper certification.

Currently, Oregon does not have any certified master beekeepers.

See **BEES 7A**



COURTESY PHOTO

Beekeeping enthusiasts learn to extract honeycombs from one of 13 beehives on Max Kuhn's 10-acre orchard near the North Fork of the Siuslaw River.

## A TASTE OF ROYALTY



The festival included clam chowder samples, live music at Gazebo Park and commemorative wooden nickels given out by "King Ferdinand" and "Queen Isabella," Jared Anderson and Meg Spencer.

PHOTOS BY CHANTELE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS



## Festival dishes up coast's best chowder in Old Town

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

The fifth annual Columbus Day Chowder Festival had more than 250 taste-testers in Old Town Florence on Sunday. Eight vendors were part of the four-hour chowder fest, centralized around Gazebo Park on Bay Street.

Surfside Restaurant at Driftwood Shores Resort won first place for its chowder, followed by Mon Ami Cafe in second and Bridgewater Restaurant in third.

A special feature of recent festivals is the presence of royalty, as Meg Spencer and Jared Anderson dressed as Queen Isabella and

King Ferdinand, rulers of Spain while Columbus voyaged to America.

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Cal Applebee said the chowder fest exceeded last year's attendance by 30 percent.

On Saturday, Marianne Brisbane organized a wine walk

to nine galleries, cafes, shops, restaurants and Old Town Barbershop during the Second Saturday Gallery Tour.

"I heard it was a smashing success despite the inclement weather," Applebee said.

Guy Creighton, of San Francisco, won a treasure chest during the two-day festival.

## Pepperoaks 'pocket park' earns upgrade

Grant provides funding for play equipment, landscaping

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council made a resolution to accept a grant from the Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department at the city council meeting Oct. 5.

The City of Florence applied for a LGGP grant in January 2015 to rehabilitate Pepperoaks Park. LGGP approved the grant application in September.

Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller said, "The grant provides the city with \$24,712 in funding. The required match is \$16,750."

According to the staff report, the city's match can be in the form of funds or equivalent amount in labor, materials or services.

"It is our intent to purchase the playground equipment with the grant proceeds and install/rehabilitate the park by utilizing city staff and equipment, thus minimizing the expenditure of general fund dollars," the report said.

Pepperoaks Park is a "pocket park" off 35th Street on 34th Place and south of Rhododendron Drive. It currently has a basketball court and tetherball.

The project involves replacing existing playground equipment, applying a wood fiber fall surfacing and installing a handicap accessible ramp.

During July's Power of Florence, city volunteers removed old sod and did cleanup in the park.

"What we've done recently is brought in material for topsoil, so we can have a nice planted area," Miller said.

The play equipment will consist of three different structures: an all-in-one structure with climbing and slides; a climbing structure featuring ropes and handholds; and a swingset. The basketball court will also remain in the park.

"They are very nice pieces of equipment," Miller said. "It's going to be very well received for that park. It's something that is desperately needed in that park for play."

He added, "There are a lot of children that live in that area. It's kind of changed, ... with more homes in that beginning, entry level. That means a level of increase in children."

Mayor Joe Henry said, "It's another step toward our goals of developing parks."

"I've seen some of these new playground installations and they're really fun, colorful and with a whole modern look to it — and safe," Councilor Joshua Greene said. "I'm glad to see that we're doing this."

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**THIS WEEK'S WEATHER**  
Full Forecast, A3

**TODAY**  
68 51

**THURSDAY**  
68 51

**FRIDAY**  
65 56

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62 55

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