

# Watershed Council receives special award

The Society for Ecological Restoration — Northwest Chapter presented the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) with the "Restoration Project of the Year Award" at its annual conference in Portland, Ore., on April 6.

"The board selected the work of the Siuslaw Watershed Council due to its comprehensive watershed approach to restoration, which includes the Five Mile Bell project of intensive wood placement, re-grading and native plant community restoration, as well as road decommissioning," said a representative of the Northwest Chapter.

In addition, the chapter called the Siuslaw Watershed Council "exemplary in its community involvement for both water quality monitoring and



COURTESY PHOTO

Siuslaw Watershed Council members display their recent award of recognition.

native plant distribution and 24 years of smolt trap monitoring in the Knowles Creek subwa-

tershed."

The Siuslaw Watershed Council thanked its partners

and volunteers, particularly the Forest Service for its lead in many of these projects.

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## Chamber from 1A

"Nancy's talents and enthusiasm will be well appreciated both in the office and in our community. She is working hard," Hannigan said.

Pearson takes over from former events coordinator Sherri Bollinger, who worked at the chamber from August 2015 until April.

"I've been working at the chamber in a freelance capacity," Pearson said. "I started as events coordinator for Rhody Days, and Bettina told me I got the job Thursday morning."

She initially stepped into the role on an interim basis to help the chamber prepare for the annual festival and the Grand Floral Parade.

Pearson has a background

in business ownership, advertising, marketing and production. Most recently, she and her husband Michael were the co-owners of Sandpines Golf Links until October 2014. Her skills include organization, communication, creativity and design.

"I used to do a lot of promotion and advertising for Sandpines. This seemed like a natural fit for me," Pearson said. "I love Florence, it's an amazing city. I'm looking forward to working with the chamber — and hopefully there aren't any snafus with the parade."

Look for Pearson during the three-day Rhododendron Festival in Florence, or at the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center, 290 Highway 101.

## Budget from 1A

The budget includes \$11.5 million for capital projects, which Reynolds called an "investment into the community;" City Parks funding dependent on grants; \$1 million in water expansion projects; \$40,000 in partnership with Siuslaw Outreach Services to fund safety services for at-risk situations; \$3.3 million for a new Public Works facility; and \$150,000 for potential remodels to City Hall.

The budget also includes long-term planning for projects through 2021.

Last year's budget message said fiscal year 2015-16's budget was \$33.8 million, with citywide net spending at \$17.8 million.

The budget committee will meet next on Monday, May 9, at 6 p.m., and Tuesday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. The meetings are open to the public and City of Florence department heads will be able to answer questions.

"I am excited to present this budget to you and just as excited to see the work funded through the budget get completed," Reynolds said.

For more information on the budget, go to [ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us).

## Band from 1A

Rowbotham added, "So freshmen and sophomores are asked to play junior/senior level literature (band music) because in order to qualify for state, you have to play a required piece from the 4A list. That list is usually grade-4 literature (advanced high school/lower level college). It is hard on freshmen and sophomores."

In addition to the burden of freshmen and sophomores being expected to perform at college level, the band size is diminutive in comparison to many other 4-A bands. The Siuslaw band is currently made up of 32 members, while competing bands like North Bend, last year's 4A winner, has 70 members.

These handicaps did not keep Siuslaw from qualifying. They already beat out 30 other 4A bands to get this far.

The elimination process started at the Western Oregon Band Festival in March.

"We received qualifying scores from the judges at the Western Oregon Band Festival

that put us into a pool where another panel of judges listened to a recording and decided we were state material," Rowbotham said. "We found out we qualified near the end of April."

The band will play four pieces during the competition - three of their own choosing and one selected from a list given to them by the OSAA committee, "Velocity" by Larry Neeck; "Elegy for a Rose" by Barry E. Kopetz; "The Great Locomotive Chase" by Robert W. Smith and the band's OSAA selection, "Cajun Folk Songs" by Frank Ticheli.

The band has about 18 to 19 minutes of music to play, but they only have 30 minutes from the time the band's first foot hits the stage until the last member is off the stage, or they lose points.

"I have students that have been with me since beginning band," Rowbotham said. "They know how I do things. They know the level of expectation I set for them. They know what our goals are for the year. This year one of those goals was to go to state."

## Festival from 1A

According to Rhody Court adviser Cindy Wobbe, the kindness campaign came from an idea by Sally Rash to promote positive and intentional acts of kindness. The project is sponsored by The Good Deed Project, an area nonprofit.

The "kindness" T-shirts are part of the Rhody Court's mission of being ambassadors to the community. They are available at the Visitor's Center, 290 Highway 101, and 100 percent of the proceeds are donated to the Rhody Court Scholarship Program.

Through the senior princesses' speech platforms, volunteering, visiting clubs like Rotary, Kiwanis, the Elks and Soroptimists and appearing at Monday's Florence City Council Meeting, all 13 members of the courts are demonstrating that the youth of today still have something to offer.

"Our kids saw first hand the transformational power of kindness," Wobbe said. "Our hope is that they take those life lessons with them back to school and practice them on the playground, in the classroom and after school."

Bartlett said, "We tried to be really great ambassadors for not just the Rhody Festival, but also Florence. We've been doing a lot of visits to try and bring a little cheer to people. Each senior court member also has a community service project that they've been working on with their teams."

The Scholarship Showcase is Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Events Center. For tickets, go to [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

"It's going to be a blast and different from any showcase you've ever seen," Bartlett said.

Later in the meeting, City Recorder Kelli Weese presented the application for a one-block street closure on Maple Street for the Rhody Days Vendor Fair. The city council approved the street closure.

"We have quite a few members of the chamber here to represent: Jenna Bartlett, chamber president, 'Rhody Days Extraordinaire' Jim Martin, Nancy Pearson — and they even pulled (former chamber director) Cal Applebee out of the woods as well," Weese said.

The chamber annually requests to close Maple Street from Bay to First streets for a vending area for food carts, produce, artwork, crafts, souvenirs and other small items.

"This is the fifth year of the Vendor Fair. They propose to close that block of Maple from Friday, May 20, at noon, to Sunday, May 22, at 7 p.m.," Weese said.

The proposal involved a detailed site plan, sanitation facilities, security, hours and "no parking" signs. In the future, the committee will also look into providing recycling, at the request of City Councilor Susy Lacer, who is a Master Recycler in Florence.

Martin has been involved with the Rhody Days committee for three years. He said, "We're looking forward to the fair. This looks like a good set up, with basically the same type of things we've had in the past."

"And kettle corn is coming," Pearson added. "We're so excited."

For more information about the Rhododendron Festival, go to [www.florencechamber.com](http://www.florencechamber.com).

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