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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

RHODY COURT SHOWCASE CROWNING MOMENT

Hanna Anderson crowned 2016 Queen Rhododendra

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

“This would be the perfect moment for my Polaroid!” Queen Rhododendra Hanna Anderson said right after being crowned queen Wednesday night at the 2016 Rhododendron Court Scholarship Showcase at the Florence Events Center.

Anderson, a Siuslaw High School junior, and Princesses Taylor Coolidge, a junior, and Lyndsey Keppol, a senior, led 10 Junior Court princes and princesses in the May 11 showcase directed by Jared Anderson and Meg Spencer.

The theme for the 109th annual Rhododendron Festival, set for May 20 through 22, is “Catch the Wave,” and showcase organizers kept to that theme with music, introductions, costumes and a ghost story about the good ship Florence, told by local actor Jim Wellington.

Melanie Heard, dance instructor and creative director of Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW), taught the court a nautical dance to the tune of a sea shanty and The Village People’s “In the Navy.”

“We want you for the captain’s crew,” the Rhody Court sang to the audience.

The “captain of the evening” was master of ceremonies Cindy Wobbe, who, along with 2015 Queen Rhododendra Kennedy Roylance, interviewed members of the court.

Three teams performed together throughout the night. Hanna Anderson led the Whalopping Whales, Coolidge led the Jumping Jellyfish and Keppol led the Electric Eels in skits about friendship and a series of silly games.

Judges analyzed the skits and used points won during the games to assess each Senior Court Princess’s score.

The Senior Court also gave platforms and performed a talent.



Siuslaw High School junior Hanna Anderson is crowned Queen Rhododendra for the 109th annual Rhododendron Festival. The Rhody Court of three Senior Court Princesses, five Junior Court Princesses and five Junior Court Princes performed together during the Scholarship Showcase on Wednesday at the Florence Events Center.

See **SHOWCASE 10A**

‘Coast Guard City’ could be on Florence’s horizon

National designation recognizes communities that support their local Coast Guard stations

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Newly sworn in U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist Deborah Heldt Cordone and Florence Mayor Joe Henry are looking into what it will take to have Florence designated a “Coast Guard City.” The designation recognizes communities across the nation for supporting “Team Coast Guard.”

U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River was established in 1917 just off Rhododendron Drive. Its area of responsibility starts 16 miles north of the station at Cape Perpetua and extends nine miles south of the station to Siltcoos River. The station has 33 active duty members.

Cordone started volun-

teering with the Coast Guard by taking pictures of the station’s 47-foot Life Motor Boats drilling on the active surf from her home near the North Jetty. She joined U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52 officially in April and works in public affairs.

Before long, Cordone sought more ways the community could work with the Coast Guard and began looking into the Coast Guard City Program.

A city can earn the distinction of being a Coast Guard City by making special efforts to acknowledge work done in the area by the Coast Guard, by reaching out to personnel and their families and by continuing a “longstanding and enduring relationship, with an emphasis on considera-



PHOTO BY DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE

Florence Planning Department’s Wendy Farley Campbell, Eric Rines and Nilda Taylor demonstrate wearing life jackets at City Hall in support of “Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day,” which is set for Friday, May 20.

tions the community has made for the members of the Coast Guard family.”

Cordone said, “There has been a lot of community interaction and mutual support.”

She recruited Henry, a personal friend, to talk with the Florence City Council about ways the city can sponsor the application.

“Our Coast Guard is an active duty military unit in our area. I personally — and I believe so does the city — value its presence here, though we don’t often speak it,” Henry said. “We don’t recognize their contribution as much as we should.”

Henry is working with Cordone to plan a Coast

Guard appreciation dinner, where each ticket sold will include the entrance of one member of the Coast Guard and their significant other.

“We’re starting it off by proclaiming National Safe Boating Week at Florence City Council on Monday night,” Henry said.

See **CITY 10A**

ELECTION 2016

Drop off votes by Tuesday for primary

STAFF REPORT

Ballots are due Tuesday for the May 17 Primary Election in Oregon. All ballots must be received by 8 p.m., and postmarks do not count.

Drop boxes will remain open until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

In Florence, the drop box is at the Florence Justice Center, 900 Greenwood St., which is accessed by Ninth Street.

The ballot includes the presidential primary vote, where those registered Democrat or Republican will vote for their candidate, respectively, as well as voting for Oregon governor and other legislator candidates.

Local races include Lane County Justice of the Peace; school bonds for Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts; and a levy for 4-H and Oregon State University Extension Service programs in Lane County.

For more information, go online to www.oregonvotes.gov.

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