

TRACK CHAMPS

SPORTS — B



RHODY FEST 2016

SPECIAL PROGRAM INSIDE



Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Bay Street open for business

ODOT construction under bridge cleared for Rhody Days

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) promised that no lane closures will take place on Bay Street in Old Town after 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 19, through the end of the Rhododendron Festival on Sunday, May 22.

Assistant Project Manager Mike Stennett said ODOT crews will most likely still be working, but will work within the containment system rather than block traffic during some of Florence's busiest days.

Both lanes of Bay Street are open under the bridge to allow full access to the Veteran's Memorial Park and additional public parking by the old Lotus Restaurant.

"Some parking is still affected," Stennett said.

He said a sandtruck and some other ODOT equipment remain parked near the construction site. The entire small parking lot south of Bay Street and directly under the bridge is closed to public access.

ODOT's Siuslaw River Bridge Cathodic Protection Project is making repairs to the bridge's existing concrete and reinforcements and applying-protection and seismic restraints to help maintain the integrity of the bridge.

Crews are also replacing the ornamental bridge rails and improving pedestrian access to the bridge.

Work is to be completed by the end of March 2019.

Work will continue on the north end of the bridge within the containment above the parking lot south of Bay Street and on the first over water span.

109TH ANNUAL RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL RIDE THE WAVE



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Davis Amusement Carnival prepares to "Catch the Wave!" at the Port of Siuslaw with the 109th annual Rhododendron Festival, which starts Friday and runs through Sunday, May 22. The carnival's rides and treats will be open to the public today at 4 p.m. and throughout the rest of Rhody Days. For more information, look in today's paper for a special Rhododendron Festival program.

DUNES CITY

Triathlon nets \$4K thanks to sponsors

Event turns a profit for the first time in its 4-year history

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede announced during the May 12 city council meeting that the Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon event, held earlier this month, turned a profit for the first time in its four-year history.

The event netted approximately \$4,000 after expenses, according to Ruede. She attributed the significant increase in revenue to the overwhelming financial sponsorship support provided by 34 local businesses, organizations and individuals.

Athletic participation was also up for the fourth straight year, with more than 300 athletes competing. Ruede confessed that the Dunes City Council team finished second to the team fielded by state Sen. Arnie Roblan, but they did beat the City of Florence team due to the fact that they were a no-show.

"We couldn't have asked for a more Dunes City Chamber of Commerce day. It was beautiful. Everyone was on cloud-nine," Ruede said. "It was a great event."

Dunes City Manager Jamie Mills said, "One local Florence business hosted a gathering for the volunteers and athletes following the event. They contacted city hall shortly after to tell us that was their biggest film night in the history of that business and they will be more than happy to do it again next year."

See TRIATHLON 9A

ELECTION 2016

Looking for election results?

Readers looking for results from the May 17 Primary Election in Oregon will have to wait until Saturday's issue of the Siuslaw News to see them in print.

The results were made public last night beginning at 8 p.m., after the paper's print deadline, but an updated tally can be found online under Breaking News on our website www.TheSiuslawNews.com.

Lane County Elections will continue to provide updates on the results until all ballots are processed.

FAHS now known as Oregon Coast Humane Society

Florence animal shelter's name change focuses on regional partnerships

STAFF REPORT

Florence Area Humane Society announced Monday that it is officially changing its name to Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS). The humane society board of directors has been pondering the name change since earlier this year.

"The name change reflects the organization's focus on network and outreach programs with myriad animal welfare facilities across the state," the announcement said.

The name change also clears up confusion stemming from a humane society located in Florence, S.C., with a similar name. Local shelter staff receive multiple calls and social media mes-

sages each week about lost pets, adoption programs and even donations from the community in South Carolina.

Becoming OCHS should help both Florences provide better service to their area shelters.

"It takes all of us to do this work," said OCHS Shelter Manager Tanya Garrett.

The humane society has developed relationships with the Cat Adoption Team in Sherwood, Ore., and the Willamette Humane Society in Salem, Ore., to help Florence-area cats and dogs find their forever homes.

"The more lives we can touch by developing new partnerships directly

increases the number of animals who get to spend their nights in a loving, responsible home instead of a shelter," Garrett said.

The shelter's reach recently expanded into southern Oregon through diligent follow up by OCHS staff, volunteers and a tabby-striped Scottish fold named Buddy, who entered care at the humane society last year after his owner passed away.

"Developing new partnerships directly increases the number of animals who get to spend their nights in a loving, responsible home instead of a shelter."

—TANYA GARRETT, SHELTER MANAGER

Buddy has Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV+) — a disease transmitted to other cats through bodily fluids and nontransferable to humans — and was

Florence's only FIV+ cat.

It was a perfect fit to move Buddy to Sanctuary One in Jacksonville, Ore., which houses one of the only specially designed FIV+ facilities in the entire state. He can now live out his days in the lap of luxury at the new facility, but he and the five other FIV+ cats there also are available for adoption.

"The trip proved successful for all," said OCHS Marketing Director Alison

Taplin. "We found Buddy a new home, solidified the budding relationship with the Sanctuary One team and forged a new one with the Southern Oregon Humane Society."

See SHELTER 9A

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
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