

# TWO-TIME CHAMPION

SPORTS — B



# JUNE EVENTS CALENDAR

INSIDE — A10

# Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 42

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## RHODY REUNION



PHOTOS BY SIUSLAW NEWS STAFF

Thousands of people attended this past weekend's 109th annual Rhododendron Festival in Florence. Clockwise from top left: Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) wins the Grand Marshal award for its float; Siuslaw High School Class of 1966 members celebrate their 50th class reunion during the parade; youth ride a curious dragon at the carnival; a woman shows off her colorful dress for the parade; and classic cars take a cruise along Bay Street. Below, the parade travels down Highway 101.

# CATCHING WAVES

## Florence welcomes thousands to its 109th annual Rhododendron Festival

By CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

**F**lorence's 109th annual Rhododendron Festival splashed through the weekend of May 20 to 22 with a theme of "Catch the Wave!" Luckily, Saturday's rainy conditions subsided for the majority of Sunday's Grand Floral Parade.

The weekend featured the return of Davis Show Northwest's Amusement Carnival at the Port of Siuslaw parking lot and many events in and around Old Town.

## RHODY FEST COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM INSIDE



The Davis family's carnival has been coming to Florence since 1950. Owner Pat Davis has spent all but two of his 59 birthdays in Florence for Rhody Days.

"The chamber sold 1,084 presale tickets to the carnival," said Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bettina Hannigan. "We've never sold anywhere near that many before."

The Visitor's Center fielded the influx of requests with additional volunteers and help from new Events Coordinator Nancy Pearson.

An estimated 20,000 people were expected to attend this year's festival.

The fifth annual Maple Street Vendor Fair brought 22 food, service and product vendors into the heart of Old Town from Friday to Sunday. Visitors could taste samples of fresh popped kettle corn and Face Rock Creamery cheese curds.

On Saturday, Homegrown Public House featured live music at its first Homegrown Underground event just up the street from the Vendor Fair.

Saturday was a busy day citywide, starting with the 37th annual Rhody Run 5K and 10K and ending with the Coast Radio Classic Car Cruise.

See **FEST 7A**

## District seeks to hire School Resource Officer

### Full-time position to promote student relationships, improve attendance

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

During the May 11 Siuslaw School Board meeting, members voted to pursue hiring a School Resource Officer (SRO) in collaboration with the City of Florence and the Florence Police Department.

The SRO will be a uniformed Florence police offi-

cer working full time at the three Siuslaw schools.

Siuslaw School District Superintendent Ethel Angal said, "The right person can really build relationships with kids and parents. They can support parents and help them get their kids to school. It is very different than sending out a truant officer because it is someone that is already

known to our students and families. They really become part of the school staff."

Angal has had prior experience working with an SRO when she was middle school principal for the Hillsboro School District.

"He was able to build relationships with kids and really support attendance," she said.

"For some of our kids they only see the police when there is trouble. What we want them to understand is that the police can be a friend and a resource.

We are not looking for a resource officer to be a policeman in the school. For our part that officer will be part of our staff, part of our school community."

According to Angal, the goal is for the officer to be a positive role model for students, as well as to build relationships and work to reduce absenteeism, a problem that continues to plague the high school and negatively impact graduation rates.

"Attendance is certainly

one of the areas a resource officer can help with, especially if it is a child and family they have built a relationship with," Angal said. "The officer may already know that the parents are struggling to get their high school student to come to school."

Whether the SRO will be an existing Florence police officer or someone hired by the department specifically to fill the position has not been decided.

See **SCHOOL 7A**

## Early deadlines for Memorial Day

Siuslaw News will join other area businesses by being closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 30.

Deadlines for the following Wednesday's issue, June 1, will be advanced to accommodate the shortened work week.

All display advertising and legal publication deadlines move to noon Thursday, May 26. By-the-word classified deadlines advance to 5 p.m. Friday, May 27.

Deadline for news articles and press releases is noon Thursday.

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