



SPORTS OFF TO A RUNNING START

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Car show revs up in 9th year

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Siuslaw News

126TH YEAR | ISSUE NO. 74

SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Hickson becomes Siuslaw News editor

Sports editor expands focus to the front page

Siuslaw News is entering a new era as Editor Ryan Cronk moves away and Sports Editor Ned Hickson takes the editorial helm.

If you have enjoyed Siuslaw News'

Siuslaw News Editor Ned Hickson, left, sits at his new desk as former editor Ryan Cronk heads off to his new position.

redesign over the past couple years, chances are you have seen Cronk's work as editor. Although quiet outside the office, Cronk has been a positive influence for the Siuslaw News editorial staff.

Since joining the newspaper in 2008, he has been a reporter covering news in Florence, Dunes City and Mapleton, a features editor — creating many of the Siuslaw News' special publications — and editor, designing the front cover, formatting the Opinion page and approving and providing other editorial content.

Cronk's page one designs won third place at the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

2016 Better Newspaper Contest in July.

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Now, after being editor since January 2015, Cronk has been promoted to the position of group editor for multiple newspapers in California, including Paso Robles Press and Atascadero News, all owned by News Media Corporation, the parent company of Siuslaw News. See **EDITOR 6A**

ELECTIONS

Florence, Dunes City positions run unopposed

No challengers face mayors and councilors

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Florence and Dunes City voters will not have many choices on the Nov. 8 General Election ballot for city council and mayoral candidates. Of the seven openings on the Florence and Dunes City councils, five are running unopposed and two have no one running.

Both Florence Mayor Joe Henry and Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede are running for reelection unopposed.

Two Florence City Council members, Joshua Greene and Ron Preisler, are running unopposed for another four-year term.

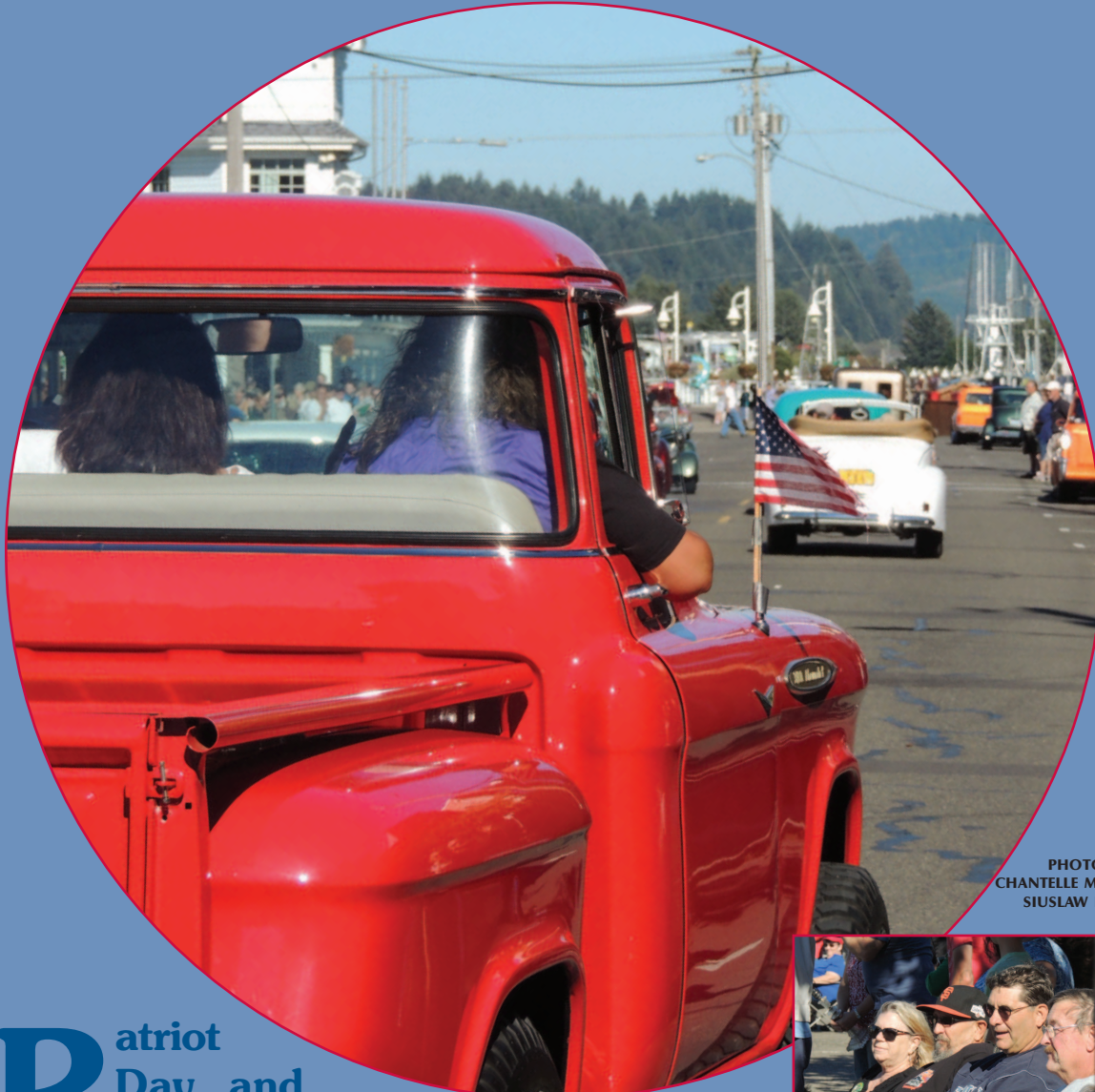
Of the three open Dunes City four-year council positions, only Tom Mallen is running unopposed for reelection for a second term.

Ed Scarberry and Maurice Sanders are not running for another term and no one has filed for either vacancy.

Ruede said, "If, after the election, there are two vacancies, the newly seated council would appoint interested citizens that would serve until the next election."

Interested candidates can still run a write-in campaign.

2016 RODS 'N' RHODIES



PHOTOS BY CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Patriot Day and the ninth annual Rods 'n' Rhodies brought hundreds of visitors to Old Town Florence this weekend. View more photos on Page 1B.



Dunes City considers safe drinking water options

Councilors discuss next steps in providing water

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

During the Sept. 8 Dunes City meeting, city councilors weighed the pros and cons of creating a Local Improvement District (LID) to provide water to almost a third of its residents currently served by South Coast Water District (SCWD), a subsidiary of Oregon Water Services.

The 80 residential homes currently served by Oregon Water Services had interrupted water service for several days in July because of low water levels in Siltcoos Lake and a fractured water line.

This prompted Dunes City Administrator Jamie Mills to set up a meeting with representatives from Gov. Kate Brown's Regional Solutions team on Aug. 18 to discuss ways to prevent the problem from recurring.

"The recommendation out of the meeting is that the city should consider creating a LID that would purchase the water systems from Oregon Water Services but still continue to contract with them," Mills said.

She explained that the city could apply for state grant money to upgrade the outdated system.

"There is no money available to private commercial entities, only to governmental entities," she said.

According to Mills, the Regional Solutions team suggested creating a LID because it would receive revenues only from residents using the water service, as opposed to a citywide tax.

"The team is waiting on the decision of the council to see if they are interested in creating a LID for purposes of acquiring the Oregon Water Services water system. We would then apply for grant money and other necessary funding to make improvements and look at future expansion to include everybody who takes water out of Siltcoos Lake," Mills said.

Part of the water shortage issue is the shallow depth of Siltcoos Lake and the amount of algae that grows during the warm summer months. The algae and silt clogs the filtration system that must be backwashed to clear the filters. This reduces the amount of water being fed into the storage tank, sometimes not keeping up with summer water usage demands.

A solution would be to pipe water out of nearby Woahink Lake, which is deeper than Siltcoos Lake and less subject to summer algae blooms.

See **WATER 6A**

Siuslaw Valley responds to Florence-area fires

Firefighters battle two Tuesday blazes

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue crews responded to a structure fire off Spruce Street at 17th Street around 1:30 p.m. Tuesday after responding earlier in the day to a brush fire off Highway 101.

Neighbors took photos as a tower of black smoke stretched into the sky from a house at 2160 17th St.

"It's been a busy day and our crews are tired," Fire Marshal Sean Barrett said from the scene around 3 p.m.

Crews worked for several more hours to extinguish the fire.

Four fire engines and 20 volunteers responded to the fire. Reedsport also provided mutual aid with two engines and six



more volunteers.

Earlier on Tuesday, Siuslaw Valley responded to a brush fire north of town off Highway 101.

"It must have been around 10:30 a.m.," Barrett said. "Oregon Department of Forestry is still working on it."

As of press time at 5 p.m.,



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

both fires were still under investigation.

"The weather is not helping right now. It's windy and dry, with very little humidity. The weather is making the fires bigger," Barrett said.



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