

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

SPORTS — B



Florence Events Center celebrates 20 years

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



More than 115 students have enrolled in the Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County fall sports, cheerleading and drum corps programs.

The club's tackle football program has a roster of 30 fifth- and sixth-graders, five more players than last year.

The first of five home games will be played Saturday, Oct. 1, against Siletz. The season wraps up on Nov. 11.

Six of the 11-member Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County drum corps, "The Tsunami," practice under the direction of professional drummer John Aaron.

Teen Center Director Tracy Aaron said, "We are currently looking for parents and older teen volunteers to help with officiating games, running the clock, announcing the game and working in the burger wagon."

In addition to tackle football, 43 first- through fourth-grade students are enrolled in flag football, making up four teams, an increase of nine players from last year.

The teams will play through Thursday, Oct. 27.

Seventeen third- through sixth-grade girls have signed up for volleyball.

The season wraps up Nov. 2.

The club has two cheerleading squads this year.

The "littles," in grades one to four, have a squad of five girls. The older squad, in grades five

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

through eight, has 12 members. They will be cheering for the Boys and Girls Club tackle football team this fall and the club's winter basketball games.

According to Aaron, both squads are being coached by former Siuslaw Viking varsity cheerleaders.

Cheerleading coach Ali Brown said, "The girls are really talented and I'm excited to see how much they improve over the season and grow as a team."

The newly formed Boys and Girls Club drum corps, called "The Tsunami," has 11 members enrolled.

See **CLUB 7A**

'Always Ready to Rhody'

Chamber selects U.S. Coast Guard as 2017 Rhododendron Festival grand marshal

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

On Thursday, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce appointed U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River as the grand marshals for the 2017 Rhododendron Festival in May.

"We're excited to make this announcement," Chamber President Jenna Bartlett said. "We'll be celebrating both the 100th anniversary of the Coast Guard's service to the area as well as the 110th annual Rhody Days."

Since the U.S. Coast Guard's motto is "Semper Paratus," or "Always Ready," this year's Rhododendron Festival theme is "Always Ready to Rhody."

"It's such a 'go-getter' sounding theme," said Bettina Hannigan, executive director of Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. "This year, we'll always be ready for a party."

The U.S. Coast Guard began serving on the Siuslaw River in 1917. In honor of its upcoming 100th anniversary, the City of Florence is applying to be a nationally-recognized "Coast Guard City."

"It just made sense to pick the Coast Guard to be grand marshals now, with this application in process. It will really honor the Coast Guard and its long tradition here," Hannigan said.

See **RHODY 7A**



DAY OF CARING COMES TO THE COAST

United Way of Lane County extends community outreach to Florence, Mapleton

United Way volunteers from the Eugene and Springfield area descended on Florence and Mapleton, Thursday, Sept. 22 as part of the county wide Day of Caring, sponsored by the Lane County chapter of United Way.

This year, 783 Lane County United Way Day of Caring volunteers partnered with 36 nonprofit partners and 43 businesses to reach five cities in the county, providing a total of 2,984 hours

See **VOLUNTEER 7A**

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News



United Way volunteers descended on Florence and Mapleton to help paint and distribute food during the organization's Day of Caring on Thursday. This is the first year this countywide event has extended to the coast.

JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

Habitat for Humanity seeks help for troubled neighborhood

Council reads National Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation, approves \$2.6 million Rhododendron Drive bid

During the Sept. 19 Florence City Council meeting, councilors heard a report from Habitat for Humanity and received a bid update by Mike Miller on the Rhododendron Drive improvements. Mayor Joe Henry also read a proclamation naming October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Habitat Neighborhood Revitalization Manager Ken Gaylord talked

about the issues Habitat was having with the Keener Place neighborhood.

"There is no storage and no place to park. It has been a bit of a mess," Gaylord said.

He added that Habitat is getting four of the homes back, two through people moving, one in lieu of foreclosure and one through foreclosure.

"The good news is that it will be our first foreclosure since we have been

here in 1999. We are going to rehab those homes and get them back out to new Habitat families," Gaylord said.

He said Habitat was going to refurbish the homes, including adding wider driveways to accommodate two cars and add storage space to help eliminate yard clutter.

He also said the neighborhood had, "A whole lot more problems than that. We have a lot of drug trafficking. There is a huge amount of traffic all night long cruising through that neighborhood."

Gaylord said people were passing through the neighborhood dealing and using drugs and that neighborhood families were finding drug paraphernalia, including used syringes, in the area.

"We need the city's help to revitalize that neighborhood so that it is family friendly," he said.

Later in the meeting, Public Works Director Mike Miller reported on the bids received to complete the Rhododendron Drive street improvements.

See **COUNCIL 7A**

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Courts A2
Library Tidings A5
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