

MAPLETON ENTERS POST-SEASON PLAY

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Margaret Hamilton replaces Dr. Mary Spilde as community college's next president

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

At its Feb. 8 meeting, Lane Community College (LCC) Board of Education unanimously approved Dr. Margaret Hamilton as Lane's seventh president, after an 11-month national search.

"Dr. Hamilton is the right person for Lane going forward," said Board Chairwoman Sharon Stiles, a Florence-area resident.

Stiles said the board was thorough and deliberative in reviewing information, meeting with the finalists, weighing feedback from open forums and considering how well each finalist was suited to address the challenges and opportunities awaiting LCC.

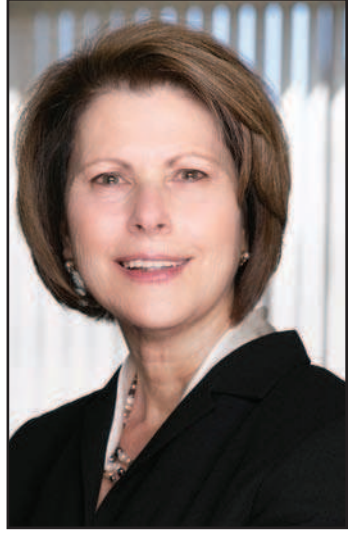
According to an LCC press release, Hamilton currently is vice president for academic affairs, institutional effectiveness and planning at Camden County College, N.J. She has 28 years of experience in the community college system.

When contacted at her New Jersey residence, Hamilton, an East Coast native, said, "Oregon was one of the few states I was looking to apply to. I have a brother that is a professor at Oregon State University. We visit each other back and forth. When my husband and I left Oregon after our very first visit, we said 'Oh my goodness, this is on the list.' Oregon is such a beautiful state."

She said her focus would be to maintain and expand the work and partner-

ships LCC currently has.

"For example, I have great experience with partnerships with business and industry. I think that is something I can bring to the table," she said. "If you think of partnerships with community colleges, the mission is either transfer or employment. With transfers, those partnerships need to be very strong and vibrant with the four-year colleges and universities."



Dr. Margaret Hamilton

See **PRESIDENT 10A**

Dowser brings class to Florence

LCC Florence class explores science, methods of dowsing

By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

Science has always relied on proof to make determinations about the physical world. However, there are some practices that predate even well-established scientific traditions. Many of these practices have to do with an individual establishing a closer than usual connection with the natural world.

There are also individuals who seek to understand the science behind the tradition or in this case, what lies beneath the surface.

Christian Landau is one of those individuals. He is what is commonly referred to as a "dowser." He is also a scientist — more specifically, he is a geologist. The incongruity that exists between the two aspects of his work is not lost on the avuncular scientist from South Africa.

"Most people associate water dowsing with 'water witching' or 'doodle bugging' or other names that have been given to it," Landau said. "A lot of people think that they are locating water. That is incorrect."

Landau moved to Florence last year and

See **DOWSER 10A**

2016 SIUSLAW AWARDS

A ROYAL AFFAIR

9th annual Florence Area Chamber of Commerce event honors Florence-area citizens, businesses



PHOTOS BY JACK DAVIS/SIUSLAW NEWS

(Left) Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bettina Hannigan opens the ninth annual Siuslaw Awards. (Right) First Citizen Ron Caputo declares himself the new "king of Florence," but instead offers a bow to those in attendance and in the community who serve.



Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County — Nonprofit Achievement Award



Future First Citizen Claire Waggoner



City Lights Cinemas — "Stu Johnston" Business Award

Nasty weather behind us?

Week of heavy rain, wind cause no serious problems

For anyone who hadn't noticed, this week has been wet — very wet. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), along with strong winds, Florence received 4.69 inches of rain on Sunday, Feb. 5, alone — more than any other city in Oregon.

According to Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller, heavy rain and high winds this past week caused minimal damage.

"We had several trees go down and we had to close 46th Street, south of Fred Meyer, for a few hours due to flooding," Miller said.

The city's stormwater system was able to handle the extra water by Monday in most cases.

Miller also said he was not aware of any power outages within the Florence city limits.

Highway 126 was closed because of flooding on Thursday when high tides and rain caused the Siuslaw River to overflow its banks in Cushman. The highway was reopened to traffic after the tide ebbed.

See **WEATHER 10A**

A full house of 245 people gathered at the Florence Events Center Wednesday evening to celebrate the best of Florence during the ninth annual Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Siuslaw Awards banquet celebration.

More than 30 businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals were nominated for nine categories. A panel of seven unidentified judges from in and outside the Florence area selected the winning applicant in each category. All winners were kept secret until the awards presentation.

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bettina Hannigan said, "I

really wanted this event to reflect the level of integrity, honor and service that these people have dedicated to our community."

Ron Caputo was selected as the 2016 Florence First Citizen.

During his acceptance comments, Caputo jokingly drew a lighthearted analogy to Florence as a kingdom, with himself as king, but then turned the tables on the role of king by saying, "I bow down to you, the citizens of Florence. You are my mentors. You make me

what I am. You are the examples that I follow. I love Florence and I will give you this pledge. I will do everything I can to make Florence the best kingdom in the world and may each and every one of you live happily ever after."

He added, "I am very humbled to join such a great group of men and women who are already first citizens. I will do my best to keep on doing what I do."

College-bound Siuslaw High School senior Claire Waggoner was chosen from among a field of five high school students to become

See **AWARDS 7A**