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FLORENCE, OREGON



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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

A true Oregon pioneer

Abigail Scott Duniway was a leader in the fight to acquire voting rights for women

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

March is National Women's History Month. The designation and official recognition of this month is an effort to acknowledge the many contributions that women have

Abigail Scott Duniway (center), shown with Oregon Gov. Oswald West and social rights activist Viola M. Coe, authored and signed the 1912 proclamation allowing women to vote in all elections in the state of Oregon.

made to America and to its culture. One issue, that of women's participation in the voting process, was once again front page news during the most recent election cycle.

Women's marches have found the media spotlight in the post-election frenzy of 2017, reinforcing women's desires to have their concerns and needs addressed in a substantive way. Florence had a Women's March in January that drew hundreds of participants to the streets, demanding acknowledgement of their ongoing concerns.

One of the first and most important stages of the women's movement was the fight for the right of women to vote. This struggle culminated

in 1920 with the passage of the 12th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited voting discrimination based on gender.

Unfortunately, the struggle to obtain what we now consider an unquestioned right for women was long and arduous, both in Oregon and nationally. In addition, although Oregon was the seventh state to pass a law permitting the vote for women, the battle was a decades-long campaign. The individual most often given credit for the success of the fight in Oregon is Abigail Scott Duniway.

See **HISTORY 7A**

Central Lincoln PUD chosen for national study program

Utility one of four across the nation selected for policy academy study

Oregon Department of Energy chose Central Lincoln Public Utilities District (PUD) to represent Oregon in a 15-month grid modernization study by the

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

National Governors Association (NGA).

Only four states, Oregon, Washington, Rhode Island and Kentucky, were selected, with one PUD chosen to represent each state.

According to Department of Energy Senior Analyst Adam Schultz, the NGA picks different sectors of the economy to study. In the past they have done studies on healthcare, emergency management and homeland security.

Schultz said, "Oregon Department of Energy decided to approach one of our 37 consumer utilities providers to look at grid modernization work and how distributed energy resources could be used to enhance local grid resiliency, particularly, but not exclusively, in response to the threat from a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake."

Schultz said his department reached out to Central Lincoln PUD because they are located on the central Oregon coast and the utility is at risk for an earthquake event.

"Also, a couple of years ago they finished a major smart grid investment, funded with a \$9.9 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy. That is a significant award for a utility of their size. That was a feather in their cap," Schultz said.

The Oregon team is made up of representatives from Central Lincoln PUD, the Department of Energy and the governor's office.

"We were selected in December. We did our first workshop in San Diego at the beginning of February. The study will run through this year and wrap up first quarter of 2018," Schultz said. "Over the next 12 months we hope to help consumer utilities identify what the opportunities and challenges are and how to incorporate these changes into their future planning."

Schultz said one of the goals is to learn how to make critical public infrastructure such as police, fire, hospitals, water-pumping stations and communication towers more resilient.

"Many of these already have backup power like diesel generators, but one thing that was learned from hurricane Sandy, in the New York

See **STUDY 7A**

Champion for Children gets 'mudded'



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw Elementary School Principal Mike Harklerode was awarded the Oregon PTA's 'Champion for Children' award. His reward for receiving this statewide recognition was to be "mudded" during a school assembly on Friday.

CONTINUING RIPPLE

Dancing with Sea Lions wins awards for impact, innovation

When Florence Events Center (FEC) Marketing Director Jennifer Connor conceived the idea for Dancing with Sea Lions, a year-long celebration of the events center's 20th anniversary, she spoke of the ripple effect the arts have on communities

and visitors to an area. Ripples created from the Friends of the FEC's Dancing with Sea Lions public art project continue to be felt along the coast and in the state. Most recently, Oregon Festivals and Events Association awarded the

BY CHANTELLE MEYER
Siuslaw News

project the Impact Award in March.

In 2015, the nonprofit group Friends of the FEC was looking for a creative way to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the events center. Connor used Dancing with Sea Lions to promote the impact of the arts, highlight 21 area artists and partner with area businesses and organizations to sponsor the

See **SEA LIONS 11A**

Rhody, the smallest member of Dancing with Sea Lions, shows off the Friends of the Florence Event Center's Impact Award.



CHANTELLE MEYER/SIUSLAW NEWS

Deeds of Valor proposes General Ben King memorial park

BY JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Four members of Deeds of Valor, Inc. (DOV) met with Florence City Council during the council work session held on March 22 to request approval to proceed with a proposed General

Ben King Memorial Gateway adjacent to the south end of the Oregon Coast Military Museum on Kingwood Street.

The outdoor park would be named after Florence resident U.S. Air Force (USAF) retired general and World War II and Korean conflict fighter ace Ben

King, who died in 2004.

DOV is an Oregon Domestic Nonprofit whose mission is "to promote and support military heritage in the greater Florence area."

Park features would include a pedestal mounted fighter jet, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel, an army vehicle or artillery piece, a gazebo and

possibly an Asian-styled bridge and walking paths.

DOV President Sam Spayd said the purposes of the presentation was to brief the council on the project and get the council's approval to proceed.

See **MEMORIAL 7A**