

FINAL AT BAT FOR VIKS

SPORTS — B



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

POLICE

County continues investigation into inmate's death

Hospital confirms 2 injured police officers released from care

The Lane County Interagency Deadly Force Investigation Team continues to investigate an incident that occurred Monday, May 8, at the Florence Municipal Jail, which left one 40-year-old inmate dead and two Florence Police officers seriously injured.

According to Oregon State Police (OSP) Sergeant Andy Kenyon, the two injured officers were 24-year veteran Officer Ken Larson and one-year veteran Corrections Officer Stephanie Sansom. Both were hospitalized.

The deadly force team includes representatives from Oregon State Police (OSP), Lane County Sheriff's Office and Eugene, Springfield and Cottage Grove police departments.

Florence Police Department is not represented because it is a part of the ongoing investigation.

The Lane County Deadly Physical Force Plan was one of the first of its kind in the state and was implemented in 2008.

Lane County Chief Deputy District Attorney Eric Hasselman said, "The autopsy (on the deceased inmate) has been completed, but the toxicology report

See **POLICE 9A**

READY TO RHODY

2017 RHODODENDRON COURT PREPARES FOR MAY 18 CORONATION WITH A RETURN TO TRADITION

SENIOR COURT — PRINCESSES



Eyza Abbas



Jewel Roby



Chehalis Stinger

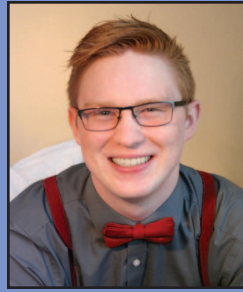


Claire Waggoner



Abby Watkins

SENIOR COURT — PRINCES



Benjamin Cahoon



Kyle Doran



Michael Larson

JUNIOR COURT — PRINCESSES



1st-grade: Clover Holbrook



2nd-grade: Chloe Clark



3rd-grade: Madi Jerabek



4th-grade: AriAnna Williams



5th-grade: Ava Center

PHOTOS COURTESY OF 2017 RHODY COURT COMMITTEE

The members of this year's Rhododendron Court Committee are showing they are "Always Ready to Rhody" by hearkening back to 110 years of the Rhododendron Festival. Led by the family team of Pat Sapp and Wendy Krause, along with Brynne Sapp, the Rhody Court Coronation will feature several fresh takes on tradition.

The Coronation of Queen Rhododendra and

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

King of the Coast will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. Tickets are \$10, and \$6 for those 18 and under.

Krause said, "We've all been involved on the court, and all of us were past royalty."

All three women have helped the Rhody Court Committee in various ways over the years, from leading the process, emceeing, judging, working backstage and choreographing dance numbers.

"Because we already had experience, we wanted to help out and put a fresh spin on it," Krause

said.

The first of those spins was returning to some of the Rhododendron Court's traditions. With 110 years of history, it was relatively easy to return to favorite moments from the past.

"One of the things my mom wanted to do was bring back the older style buttons and incorporate incentives," Krause said. "It brings back the tradition when they used to give out free bowls of clam chowder."

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce is working with local restaurants to offer \$1 off a bowl of

See **CORONATION 7A**

Autism Walk goes for a stroll at Miller Park

Community invited to participate in 'fun' awareness event May 20

The Autism Society of Oregon is sponsoring the organizations first

Florence Autism Walk on Saturday, May 20, at Miller Park.

Sign ups for the walk start at 2 p.m. and the walk begins at 3 p.m.

The walk is intended to be family oriented and fun, and it will take place on a fully accessible one mile loop at the park.

There will be tables with face painting artists and arts and crafts, a bounce house, a sensory table and Autism awareness items. A free lunch will also be provided for registered walkers.

Walk coordinator Karen Holmes said on one level the initial Autism Walk is about increasing the public's understanding about the syndrome, but there is a more immediate purpose for the walk.

"Awareness is one of the factors, but more importantly, we are trying to bring resources to the coast and to build stronger community ties," Holmes said.

The State Capitol is holding a special series of forums over the spring and summer to explore issues pertaining to Autism Spectrum Disorder, which affects 1 in 68 children.

Florence residents who traveled to Salem in March shared a plea for restoring services on the coast, which have been reduced in recent years.

See **AWARENESS 9A**

Peace Harbor offers recruitment, nurse update

PeaceHealth CEO said nurse contract negotiations are moving forward after May 8 meeting

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

During a PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center editorial board meeting, held at the hospital May 11, representatives from the medical center and PeaceHealth Medical Group updated the media on the hospital's ongoing search for care providers and the results of the latest round of mediation between PeaceHealth and the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) contract negotiations.

Peace Harbor Operations Director Nena Harvey said, "Since June of 2016 and February, we have brought on seven primary care

providers. Two are physicians, and the rest are advanced practice clinicians."

Harvey said the medical group has a half-time OB-GYN physician starting in September, a primary care provider starting in October and a second primary care provider starting in October 2018.

"We had about 6,000 patients that were displaced when the primary care providers left in 2016. We have offered all but 1,200 of those patients a new primary care provider," Harvey said.

According to Harvey, the 1,200 patients that have not been offered a new primary care provider yet have not required medical treatment for

more than two years.

"They weren't real active patients," she said. "We went through the list when providers left and anyone who came in less than two years got top priority. Now we are going back through and seeing who is left."

Harvey said new residents to Florence are placed on the list based on visits to the walk-in clinic.

"We have about 1,800 people on our new patient wait list. We are starting to work on that," she said. "We have had people on that list since 2012, but we are up to the middle of 2015 right now."

"Between the ones that are more than two years and the ones that

have not had a provider before, there are about 3,000 people."

According to Harvey, the medical group receives more than 100 calls per month from people new to Florence who are looking for a primary care provider.

One of the popular new features offered by the walk-in clinic is the real-time on-line posting of wait times for patients waiting to see doctors, Harvey said.

"We are not having the huge deluge of patients early in the morning. People are watching the wait time and coming in when the wait time isn't as long," she said.

See **PEACEHEALTH 9A**