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SPORTS — B



Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Chamber moves forward under new president

Bobby Jensen, new board take on 'the mantle of leadership'

By CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed new members and President Bobby Jensen to the board on June 15 during the chamber's annual meeting and installation. Jensen and the new board will lead the chamber for the next year in its efforts to promote business, networking and the Florence area.



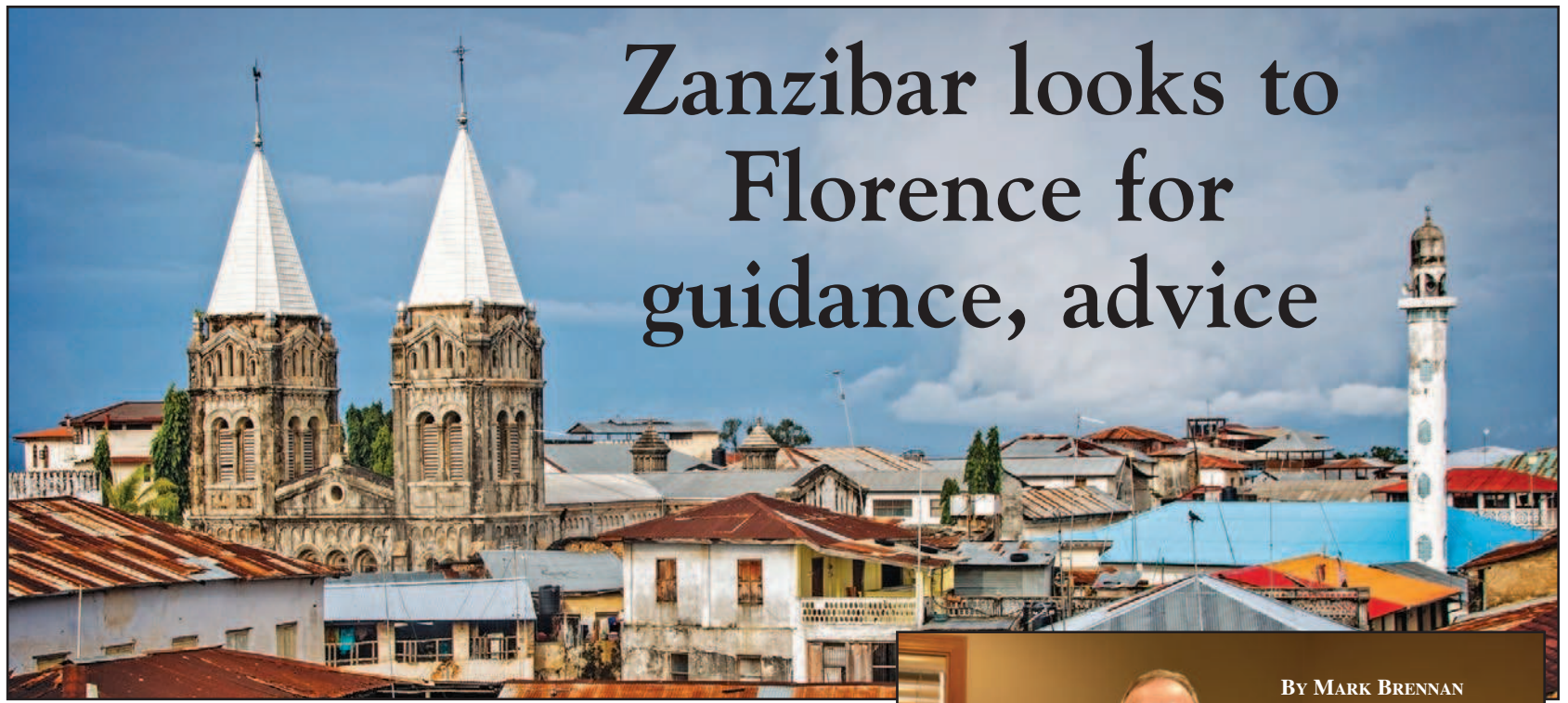
Bobby Jensen

Chamber Executive Director Bettina Anderson opened the meeting.

"It's my job to help your business be successful so that you can help people. And that's the heart of the chamber. We're here to help people. We're here to help your nonprofits, as you expand your employee base, bring better resources to your employees and to help you be a resource in turn," she said. "Our hearts have chambers, but our chamber has a heart," she said.

Using the theme of "Sharing the Heart of the Chamber," Hannigan expressed gratitude for the 22 Visitor Center volunteers, many Chamber Ambassadors and dozens of committee members.

See **CHAMBER 7A**



Zanzibar looks to Florence for guidance, advice

PHOTO BY ROGER BENNETT

(Right) Roger Bennett recently returned from almost two months in the East African Country of Tanzania, where he assisted in the creation of founding documents that may become the basis for a new constitution for the semi-autonomous area of Zanzibar.

Former city manager Roger Bennett travels to Africa to create founding documents

Once in a while, an individual gets to make a real difference in the world. Imagine having the opportunity to make a contribution that will significantly impact tens of thousands of people. That is clearly the case for Florence resident Roger Bennett.

Bennett is a former Florence City Manager and currently a senior member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). ICMA members, like Bennett, work with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

to tackle challenging democracy building situations around the globe.

The goal of the two separate organizations is to assist local officials from around the world in setting up the legal and logistical framework needed to have an effective municipal or even a national government. Most important is to help to establish a government that is accepted and respected by the people that it represents.

Bennett has been a professional administrator for more than 30 years and is familiar with a wide range of governmental models.

"I was asked to Zanzibar to help draft new

foundation documents for an organization called ZALGA, The Zanzibar Association of Local Government Authorities. It is the present system of local governance," he said.

Currently, the area's elected officials have very little say over what happens in their locality.

See **ZANZIBAR 9A**



By MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Oregon Small Woodlands Association holds 3-day conference in Florence

Rankin award brings 150 conference attendees to town

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

In November, Oregon Tree Farm System voted area residents Dave and Dianne Rankin Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for 2016. This was a good thing for Florence.

Because of this, Lane County was chosen to be the host county for the 2017 Oregon Small Woodlands Association's (OSWA) annual meeting.

And because the Rankin tree farm is located just outside of Florence, Three Rivers Casino Resort was chosen as the location for the 150-member, three-day conference, culminating in a tour of Rankin Woodlands on June 17.

The meeting had two days of sessions and informative talks, including some by local residents.

Jesse Beers, representing the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and

Siuslaw Indians, spoke on the Cultural History of western Lane County and Del Phelps, from the Florence Historical Society, talked about the history of the area.

The Rankin Woodlands tour started at 8 a.m. on Saturday and was divided into information stations. The 150 participants loaded into nine vans and were transported to three stations located around the tree farm.

See **WOODS 7A**

BPA to begin 3-year, \$20M upgrade

Service transmission poles on Highway 126 to be replaced

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) representatives met with the public during an open house at the Florence Events Center Wednesday to talk about a \$20 million dollar, three-year construction project that will begin in July.

BPA's project will start at the west end of the Wendson substation, near Florence, and replace the 70-year-old wooden power poles between Florence and Eugene.

BPA Public Affairs Specialist John Tyler said, "The Lane-Wendson transmission line was originally constructed in 1947. The wooden tower polls that are used to support the transmission lines have outlived their useful service life. There is a need to replace those aged power poles with newer ones to ensure that we are able to continue to transmit electricity reliably."

The 2017 phase of the project will focus on replacing polls between the Wendson substation and the Mapleton

substation. "In 2018, we will focus work between Mapleton and the Walton substation. The final phase in 2019 is between the Walton and Lane substations, close to Eugene," Tyler said.

He said the most challenging part of the project is the stretch of poles going over the coast range, between Mapleton and Walton.

BPA provides electricity generated from 31 federal hydroelectric dams on the

See **UPGRADE 7A**



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Port of Siuslaw dock walkways and Novelli's Fish Market slope Friday morning after low tides leave them partially sitting on the banks of the Siuslaw River.

Port Commission considers dredging options

By JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Over the Memorial Day weekend, when the first minus tide of the summer season hit, Port of Siuslaw employees came to an inevitable conclusion: The marina has to be dredged.

"Staff witnessed some of our docks sitting in the mud," Port of Siuslaw Acting Director Dina McClure said during the port's monthly public meeting on June 22. "The walkway between G and F dock was considered unsafe to walk on. The bottom of the gangway next to ICM was

partially airborne due to the tilt of the dock.

"Dredging isn't a popular subject," McClure added. "It's very expensive and it involves a lot of regulatory paperwork. The only return on investment is protecting our docks and maintaining the water depth."

Generally, marinas need to be dredged every five years, though the Florence marina hasn't been dredged since 2009. And, at that time, it was expensive.

During the last dredge, the port spent \$229,000 to remove 30,000 cubic yards. \$154,000 of that total was funded by grants, but the port had to take out a loan of

\$75,000 to cover the rest. \$56,000 is still owed on that loan.

According to McClure, it could cost up to \$400,000 to dredge this time, depending on how much material is removed.

Commissioners fear the issues will become more prevalent as the summer progresses.

"What I can tell with the summer tides, they're not even as low as they were the year before," said Commissioner Nancy Rickard. "We're getting all of this happening now without the lowest tides that are possible."

See **DREDGING 9A**

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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER
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