

Recognition from 1A

"Overall, I think we all worked together, adapted and overcame the challenges both of these events caused."

Florence Mayor Joe Henry expressed that these occurrences had a profound effect on the community and first responders. He shared his appreciation for local public safety emergency responders.

"Our police department is a reflection of our community...

Our officers and our responders are very special people in that they are out there on the front line for you and me every day, protecting our community," Henry said. "They are also regular people, just like the rest of us, with families and all the challenges that you and I face every day. So as the mayor, I want to say 'thank you' to Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Western Lane Ambulance District and the other first responders. You make me proud

to be mayor and proud of our community."

Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds continued the evening's welcome by thanking city employees and recognizing the important role that family members have in supporting first responders.

"While these two events that we are recognizing tonight weren't wished for or hoped for, one thing I am proud to say is we do train and plan for unfortunate events," Reynolds said. "I am proud of the service these individuals gave to our community. While they were unfortunate, both incidents highlighted some of the best of us. ... It makes me happy to see family here because family is so important to the jobs we do every day."

Reynolds explained that events like those in May and June highlight the best of local families, the best of the departments and the coordination that

comes in responding to events like these.

"It highlights the best of our partner agencies. It also shows how great our community is. Of course, we know that, but it is important to recognize that," Reynolds said. "I am proud to be the city manager and proud to know each and every one of you."

Turner presented the awards, with assistance from Mayor Henry.

Recognition awards included:
• Valorous Service Award:
 Commander John Pitcher
 Sergeant Brandon Ott
 Sergeant James Macfarlane
 Officer Rob Merryman
• Meritorious Service Award:

Corrections Officer Stephanie Sansom
 Communications Officer Yolanda Ross
 Communications Officer Tyler Marler
• The Purple Heart:

Corrections Officer Stephanie Sansom
 Police Officer Ken Larson

• Chief's Star:
 Executive Assistant Jamie Gorder
 Building Maintenance Technician Mike Wheeler
 WLAD Operations Manager Matt House
 WLAD Paramedic Supervisor David Rossi
 WLAD Paramedic Supervisor Ron Pearson
 WLAD Paramedic Rob Chance
 WLAD Paramedic Ali Gharib
• Unit Citation Award:
 Florence Police Auxiliary
 Turner closed the ceremony by thanking everyone who responded to the two events.

"Lastly, there are so many people that need to be recognized that helped with these two incidents. Thank you to all of the Public Works personnel who responded and helped us direct traffic and put up road signs, the

fire department personnel that never hesitated to help, the other city employees that often don't get mentioned, but have to receive the difficult calls when these incidents occur and, of course, to all of the other agencies, businesses and citizens that surround our city, help keep it safe, and never ask for recognition. All of you are what makes Florence such a great place to be," Turner said.

Unfortunately, not all who were honored at the recognition reception were able to attend the ceremony.

Turner has since presented those who were not in attendance with their awards and thanked them for their service.

"The overwhelming support this community shows for its Police Department is amazing," Turner said. "Truly a rarity in today's world."

— Submitted by Megan Messmer, City Project Manager and Public Information Officer



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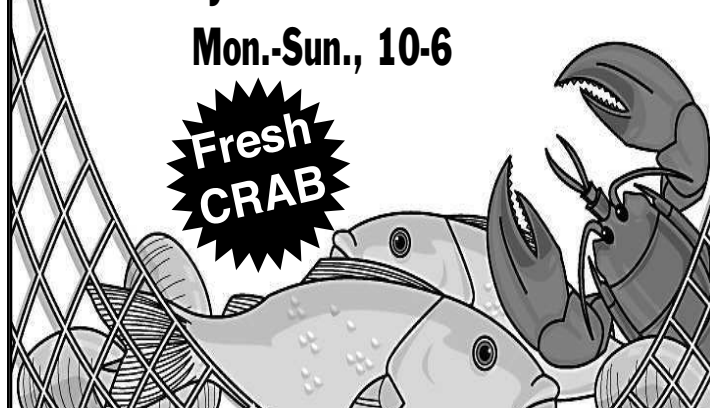
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Breach from 1A

Equifax has provided information and links on the company's website regarding the steps consumers can take to prevent or deter unauthorized use of the information that may have been hacked.

The National Consumer Law Center reports that one half of the entire U.S. population and nearly three quarters of Americans with a credit report could be impacted by this unprecedented breach, as Equifax organizes, assimilates and analyzes data from 820 million consumers and more than 90 million businesses worldwide.

The company then communitizes this information. In 2016, Equifax Inc. reported revenues of more than \$3.1 billion.

The company has also set up a dedicated call center to assist consumers concerned about the hack and is in the process of ramping up call center support to more efficiently manage the large numbers of incoming calls.

In addition, there have been thousands of reports of ongoing technical issues connecting to Equifax via telephone and online, with repeated error messages or busy signals, when connection is finally achieved.

The most effective and simplest remedies available to Equifax customers to possibly prevent unauthorized use, are relatively simple.

1. Consider a credit freeze. This step makes it harder for others to open a new account in your name. There are often minimal charges to free and unfreeze your accounts. There can also be a

delay before the freeze can be initiated or removed.

2. Check your credit report for unusual activity and for charges you don't recognize or did not authorize.

3. Monitor existing accounts for changes that you did not make.

4. File your taxes early, before a potential scammer has the opportunity to do so.

Two additional issues are likely to be investigated by the FTC and Congressional oversight committees.

The first is a report from a Homeland cyber-security unit that had warned Equifax of the "hole" in its software, three months before the breach was initiated; and the company was still unable or unwilling to prevent the incursion.

The second troubling aspect is

the report that three Equifax executives sold shares of the credit-reporting firm worth nearly \$2 million shortly after the breach was discovered. The sales came before the breach was announced to the public.

Equifax has also apparently realized the irony of selling credit monitoring services to detect identity theft, while being the victim of one of the largest data hacks in history.

Last Friday, the company announced the "resignation" of David Webb, chief technology officer, and Susan Mauldin, the company's top security officer.

Equifax has set up a website, www.equifaxsecurity2017.com, to provide additional information and to access credit monitoring and identity theft protection services.

Intern from 1A

sort of gave up on me in high school. I refused to see that as an excuse to give up on myself. I still have a lot of plans that I want to do."

When Anderson discovered speech and debate through her forensics classes, everything clicked into place.

"Forensics has a lot to thank for my self-confidence," she said.

Now, Anderson boldly wears 1950s-inspired clothes and makeup, and she is not afraid to give a controversial opinion. Thanks to her debate back-

ground, she can support her claims.

She had to learn when not to apologize — something Anderson believes women in Western society are ingrained to do — and when to speak up.

"I had to be confident in order to do well in the tournament and with my speaking," she said. "Now that I want to go into the media and share the news, that confidence is necessary."

In 2016, Anderson put her speech skills to the test during the 109th Rhododendron Festival. In the "talent" portion of the evening, she performed a humorous 1940s-style radio show she wrote about women in

World War II and changes in how modern women interact with the world.

"The Rhody Court was supposed to showcase what we could do. I wanted to put my best foot forward," Anderson said.

It paid off, for a panel of judges voted her as that year's Queen Rhododendra. Anderson spent her senior year as a representative of the Florence community, finally crowning the next queen, Claire Waggoner, in May. "I really learned to appreciate my town in that year, especially by being an ambassador for Florence," Anderson said.

Her love of the Florence area means she wants to stay in the

Pacific Northwest during and after college, but she also sees herself living in a bigger city someday.

"Having grown up in Florence surrounded by green and trees, it would be really weird to move to a city where there isn't some of that," she said.

There are things Anderson will miss in town, but close family remains in the area, including her parents Dirk and Kathy Anderson. She may even come back to write for the Siuslaw News next summer.

"If I were to give a final message before I go to college, it would be to tell people not to give up on what they want to do. You can do whatever you want. Just, don't give up," Anderson said. "I'm going out into the world and I can say, 'Hey, I care about myself, and I'm going to go do good things.'"

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