

# SAILORS LAND EAGLES

SPORTS — B



# Chamber invites people to take vacation

INSIDE — A6



# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

## Sheriffs warn of scammers posing as companies

*Upper North Fork resident reports scam phone call to authorities*

Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) has released a statement warning residents to be aware of potential scammers soliciting information or credit card numbers from county residents.

"The sheriff's office has received reports that community members have received calls from someone identifying themselves as their insurance provider or their satellite network provider," said LCSO Public Information Officer Sgt. Carrie Carver.

According to Carver, the scammers ask the community member several questions in effort to help "clear up an issue" with their account.

"Callers so far have recognized the call as a scam, but some have provided information that may put them at risk for identity theft," she said.

On Wednesday, an Upper North Fork resident, who asked to remain anonymous, reported to the Siuslaw News that he had been speaking to authorities about a situation he perceived as a scam.

The man said he was called at home one morning by an individual claiming to be a representative of Dish Network.

The caller was a woman who offered to upgrade his viewing package. She said the upgrade would cost \$160 and he could pay for the improved service package over the phone with a credit or debit card.

The man told her he would consider an upgrade, but was only willing to pay \$100.

At that time, the caller turned him over to a supposed "tech" associate who attempted to coerce the man into providing his financial information, which he declined.

He then called Dish Network and inquired as to the nature and validity of the call he had received.

See **SCAM 7A**

# 2018 Rhododendron Court gets ready to RHODY RENDEZVOUS

## SENIOR COURT PRINCESSES



Thelma Gentry



Lainey Goss



Alex Saindon



Andrea Sanchez

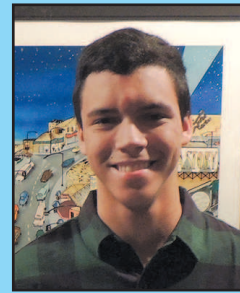


Denielle VanWinkle

## SENIOR COURT PRINCES



Trent Reavis



Colby Waters



## JUNIOR COURT PRINCESSES



Aleeya Thomas — first grade Siuslaw



Jasmine Krause — second grade Siuslaw



Abigail Mendez — third grade Mapleton



Kylee Stinger — fourth grade Siuslaw



Brittney Adams — fifth grade Siuslaw

COURTESY PHOTOS

## ELECTION RESULTS Measure 101 passes by wide margin

Measure 101, which upheld health care taxes to fund the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) through 2019, passed overwhelmingly during the Tuesday, Jan. 23, Special Election.

The current vote count sits at 61.60 percent for the state of Oregon and 67.12 percent for Lane County. Precinct vote counts were not available at press time.

"I'm especially proud of our state tonight," said Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, who supported the measure. "The voters have said loud and clear that everyone deserves access to affordable health care."

A "yes" vote means that the state will continue taxation on hospitals and certain health insurers to pay for OHP, which is Oregon's version of Medicaid. The taxes raise up to \$320 million for the program.

Proponents of the measure believe it guarantees healthcare for Oregon's most vulnerable — children, seniors and people with disabilities. If the measure did not pass, the state would be forced to siphon OHP funding from other sources, including schools.

Opponents believe the measure increases healthcare premiums, disproportionately taxes certain businesses and delays a more robust debate on how OHP should be funded.

The taxes are short term, with the measure only guaranteeing taxation until 2019, when lawmakers will have to create a more long-term funding plan.

"Rhody Rendezvous" is the theme of the 111th Rhododendron Festival, and the 2018 Rhododendron Court will continue the grand tradition of Rhody Days.

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
Siuslaw News

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual festival.

"This year's 'Rhody Rendezvous' theme intends to evoke a feeling of coming to Florence and meeting up with friends and family for a great time here in Oregon's Coastal Playground," said Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan.

For the Rhody Court, this means a new batch of high school seniors and elementary students have been selected from the Siuslaw and Mapleton school districts.

Seven Siuslaw High School students make up the Senior Court this year. Princesses are Thelma Gentry, Lainey Goss, Alex Saindon, Andrea Sanchez and Denielle VanWinkle. The two princes are Trent Reavis and Colby Waters.

For the Junior Court, four Siuslaw students and one Mapleton student are this year's princesses. They are first-grader

Aleeya Thomas; second-grader Jasmine Krause; Mapleton third-grader Abigail Mendez; fourth-grader Kylee Stinger; and fifth-grader Brittney Adams.

The students found out about their placement on the court through a Siuslaw Elementary School assembly right before Winter Break, through a special visit to Old Town Florence and a meeting at Siuslaw High School. Florence Mayor Joe Henry delivered roses to each prince and princess.

See **RHODY 7A**

## RECENT QUAKES HIGHLIGHT ALERT SHORTCOMINGS

*Tsunami watch issued early Tuesday morning missed by most coastal residents*

BY MARK BRENNAN  
Siuslaw News

Offshore earthquakes this week have reminded residents of Oregon and the West Coast that the possibility of a tsunami is ever lurking.

Two separate seismic events, two days apart, also helped to point out fundamental flaws in Oregon's tsunami alert system.

These flaws add credence to a new and unflattering report released from the office of the Secretary of State, "The State Must Do More to Prepare Oregon

for a Catastrophic Disaster," on Jan. 25.

The report found the state does not meet standards established in 2007 that cover basic elements of an effective emergency management programs.

"State planning efforts for a catastrophic disaster are incomplete and inadequate," the report stated. "Critical plans to insure continuity of government services in the wake of a disaster are either missing or incomplete."

On Tuesday, a magnitude 8.2 earthquake struck in the Gulf of Alaska at 12:31 a.m., according to

the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service issued a combination of tsunami warnings and watches through the U.S. Tsunami Warning System at 2:32 a.m.

A tsunami warning is issued when a tsunami with the potential to generate widespread inundation is imminent, expected or occurring, while a tsunami watch is issued when a tsunami may later impact the watch area. A tsunami advisory is issued when a tsunami

with the potential to generate strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or near the water is imminent, expected or occurring.

Tsunami warnings were issued from the Aleutian Islands to British Columbia and watches were issued along the West Coast of the U.S., including all of Oregon.

Due to the early hour, many Oregonians were asleep at the time of the alerts and were not aware of the potential danger that might have been headed to shore.

See **ALERT 7A**