

**Rhody** from 1A

The Rhody Court advisers are Jenna Bartlett and Nancy Bosket, along with Katie Libby and Dee Osborne. Wendy Krause and Jared Anderson will produce the Rhody Court Coronation on May 17, with Ned and Alicia Hickson as emcees.

“Rhody Rendezvous’ really is a chance to look at traditions,” Bartlett said. “Like we did for the 110th Rhododendron Festival, this year’s Rhody Court will be looking into stories of earlier festivals and sharing those on our site visits.”

In the months leading up to

the Coronation and the Rhododendron Festival on May 18 to 20, the court will visit community events, business leaders, senior living centers, youth organizations and civic groups.

Court advisers have dedicated the month of February to readying the students for their interactions with the public.

“We’re working with Toastmasters International and other community leaders throughout the month on things like comportment, public speaking, presentation skills and personal development,” Bartlett said.

Court members will receive one-on-one mentorship, and each Senior Princesses will

also mentor one Junior Princess.

The Rhododendron Court program provides scholarships for higher education, promotes community outreach and volunteerism and offers mentoring opportunities in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for 111 years of Rhododendron Festival history and tradition. There are options to sponsor a student.

In addition, the Rhody Court will sell pins featuring the Rhody Rendezvous logo. Proceeds go toward scholarships for Queen Rhododendra, the King of the Coast and members of the Rhody Court.

**Scam** from 1A

Dish representatives assured the resident that their policies would never entail a call from a tech person and took information to assist the company in tracking down the unauthorized caller.

After talking with Dish’s actual representatives, the man contacted the Oregon Attorney General’s office and filed an official report.

LCISO reminds residents they should not provide personal information to companies who have called unsolicited.

Personal information includes full name, maiden name, birthdate, social security

number (in full or in part), address, banking institution, bank account numbers, credit card numbers or names and information of loved ones.

Signs that a call is a scam include threats of harm or arrest if the person does not comply with a monetary transaction, demands for money in the form of gift cards or untrackable “money cards” or demands for information that the company should already have if the person is a current customer.

According to LCISO’s report, the North Fork resident acted correctly. If someone is unsure whether a call is a scam, they should hang up and contact the company at their publicly listed phone number.

“These calls can be scary, especially if the caller threatens your safety if you don’t pay or provide personal information,” Carver said. “If something doesn’t seem right, phone a friend and tell them about the call before you provide any information or money to the callers.”

“We are hoping that if community members start talking about these scams with each other, they will become more recognizable as being fraudulent and we can prevent others from becoming victims.”

Carver also said if someone is the victim of a scam call and has lost money as a result, they should report the incident to their local law enforcement agency.

**Alert** from 1A

The West Coast watch was lifted at 5:15 a.m., again, before most Oregonians were awake.

Althea Rizzo with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) reminds Oregonians that the likelihood of a tsunami hitting the Oregon coast is high, and residents should take precautions

to provide themselves with as much time to evacuate as possible.

“It’s a reminder that events like this can happen anytime. It is important for people to sign up for tsunami alerts and

**FEC calls artists to show ‘Love of Animals’**



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ashlee enjoys the artistic sights at last year’s “For the Love of Animals” event, held annually at the Florence Events Center.**

The Friends of the Florence Events Center is putting out a call to local artists so they may share their love of animals for a special February/March Exhibit at the Florence Events Center (FEC).

The Friends are celebrating all animals — domestic, wildlife, marine, birds and any other animal that strikes that artist’s pet fancy. The exhibit is open to all artistic mediums — photography, painting, fiber, multi-media, pastel or 3-D art.

Rods for up to three pieces

of artwork can be purchased for only \$20.

Items relating to this theme are also welcome for the display case, with up to three items being displayed for \$20.

Artists are asked to bring their artwork to the FEC’s Gallery One on Tuesday, Jan 30, between 9 and 10:30 a.m.

An Artist Reception will be held for the community on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is requested to bring a can or package of dog or cat food as a donation to local

animals in need.

In addition to themed refreshments, the event will be offering families the opportunity to bring their pet in for a framed pet photo. All pets are welcome, either held by a family member, or on a leash. The photos are \$5.

To submit work, artists can visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org), click on galleries, and then on “For the Love of Animals” for more information and an application. They may also go in person to the FEC Office, 715 Quince St.



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Please attend one of the following meetings.

**First Meeting**  
Date and Time:  
**Tuesday, January 30, 1:30 p.m.**

**Second Meeting**  
Date and Time:  
**Thursday, February 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**Third Meeting**  
Date and Time:  
**Saturday, February 3, 10:00 a.m.**

All meetings will be held at the Florence Habitat for Humanity office, 2004 Highway 101, Florence, Oregon



to keep their phones nearby so they can hear them,” Rizzo said.

On Thursday, the USGS reported a magnitude 5.8 earthquake had struck off the coast of northern California at 8:40 a.m., with a magnitude 5.8 aftershock hitting approximately 45 minutes later. No tsunami warnings or alerts were issued for this event.

The USGS is one of the lead federal agencies tasked with monitoring earthquakes and related events. It has the responsibility to assist the public in understanding the science behind seismic activity in order to prepare them to act during a cataclysmic natural event.

One way to assure that areas that are in a tsunami zone are better prepared to evacuate when an earthquake hits is to warn them as soon as an event occurs.

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and USGS,

**Deadlines for press releases are Mondays and Thursdays by noon. Email them to:**  
PRESSRELEASES@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM.

this might best be accomplished by an effective early warning system.

Many departments in the federal government are currently working with scientific and academic institutions to develop reliable early warning systems. These systems are meant to decrease the time between when an event occurs and when the public is informed of impending inundation. These include The Advanced National Seismic System and ShakeAlert, an early warning system designed to cover the west coast states of California, Oregon and Washington.

ShakeAlert will identify and characterize an earthquake a few seconds after it begins and deliver a warning to residents and infrastructure in the path of any incoming waves. While it does not yet have an active public notification function, the USGS has announced it will be rolling out this critical element in 2018.

Florence Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator Frank Nulty spoke to the dangers posed by the Alaskan earthquake.

“The Jan. 23 earthquake

was located far enough out on the Pacific Plate that no damage to persons or property would be expected. This was a strike slip earthquake, much like that which threatens California.”

Nulty then went on to warn residents of an upcoming high tide, expected at the end of the month, which may present a more immediate danger for Florence residents.

“The next big Alaskan earthquake could come as soon as Jan. 31, which is the next big ‘King Tide Event,’ where the tide at the mouth of the Siuslaw River is forecast to rise by nine feet at 11:21 a.m. and then fall 10 feet by 6:16 p.m. This rapid rise and fall during a six-hour period increases the probability of movement along existing fault lines,” Nulty said.

These warnings from Florence’s CERT coordinator make one of the warnings in the state’s audit report even more concerning.

“Oregon’s government is at serious risk of failing to continue with or to reestablish its key operations following a catastrophic event,” the report stated.

Oregon OEM Director Andrew Phelps said he agrees with the points made in the new readiness report and his agency is prepared to comply with the reports recommendations.

“I think Oregonians can see the emergency management community across the board can meet our mission, but there is always more work to be done, and I think that’s what the report is saying,” Phelps said.

Towards the end of the report, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown wrote, “Oregon is home to diverse communities and geographies that each present incredible opportunities and challenges as we work to build a more resilient state. For our communities and economy to thrive, Oregon must be resilient and ready to recover from not only the expected 9.0 Cascadia earthquake and the ensuing tsunami, but also a myriad of possible disasters and emergencies.”

For more information or to read report, check out the “latest news” at the Oregon Secretary of State website, [sos.oregon.gov](http://sos.oregon.gov).

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