

Community EASTER EGG HUNT

Come Enjoy the Fun!

The Hunt begins at 10:00!

**Miller Park Field Area
18th & Oak Streets**

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 20TH
Ages 1-10**



Activities & Guests
The Easter Bunny
Florence Police Department
Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue
Face Painting

Rotary
Florence, Oregon

Co-hosted by
Siuslaw High School
Interact Club, & The
Rotary Club of Florence

DUNES CITY from page 1A

Next, the council discussed the possibility of the city creating a more complete social media presence. While the city does have a website, it does not communicate information through platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. The council originally thought that by utilizing such platforms, Dunes City could get more community involvement. However, social media accounts can be time consuming, particularly if staff has to monitor for appropriate public comments.

"My concern is the cost of man hours to try and keep up with social media today," Forsythe said. "It's not easy for a municipality to maintain and update. And quite honestly, the more you do, the more that is expected. I'm not big on it yet under our circumstances, with staffing and budgeting issues. I'm reluctant to head down that road."

Because the city already has its own website, the council decided not to pursue the creation of social media accounts.

Finally, the council debated the purchase of \$20,000 worth of new water meters in a discussion that dovetailed into the city's upcoming fight for water rights.

At issue was the city's plan to transition from traditional water meters in which residents have to read and report the readings to the city. Instead, the city has been look-

ing into purchasing meters that transmit readings via radio, allowing city staff to obtain meter readings.

"What triggered this conversation is that we have older residents in their crawl spaces that can't crawl down there to get their readings," Mills said. "It was more convenient for our citizens, rather than the benefit of the city, though it makes the readings easier."

However, the importance of reliable meter readings came to the forefront recently when the state threatened to rescind the water rights held by Dunes City.

"I think the water readings are going to be very important for our fight for water rights," Forsythe said. "This way, we're not reliant on the homeowner to be there, go down there, read the meter, get it to us. We'll be able to do it ourselves, rapidly."

Some council members had concerns with the contract for the new water meters, however. The contract, which would be done through Ferguson Meter and Automation Group, did not go out for bid.

"I did research on a company on the internet and found one that was \$70 for the meter, and it was internet capable," said Councilor Alan Montgomery, comparing that to the quoted price of \$142 for the Ferguson Meters.

"I prefer using people who are close to us," Forsythe said, stating that the City of

Florence also used Ferguson's services. "I like to use whoever Florence is using, not because of Florence, necessarily, but because of (City of Florence Public Works Director) Mike Miller and the people that have to deal with it. If we start to have problems with a particular vendor, they're a wealth of information about that vendor and that equipment. We don't have to reinvent the wheel."

Montgomery later countered with, "I'm reluctant to go into it because somebody else is using it. With the cloud, internet and Fed-Ex, nothing is more than two days away. I would do some more research, maybe look at a different company."

Councilor Tom Mallen also had concerns with spending city funds replacing meters that may not need to be replaced.

"I bought my own water meter and it is installed in my crawl space," he said. "I do read it, not every month, but I do read it at least quarterly. I do not feel that the city should pay for me to get a new water meter when I just bought one two and a half years ago."

Councilor Robert Orr was sensitive to Mallen's concerns, saying, "I think there will be individuals who recently did something, like Tom, but overall I like the idea of moving toward this standardization and electronic concept. I understand what Tom is saying, and cer-

tainly don't want the city to pay for things that are extra. But I think we need to look at the broader scope."

"Then maybe the broader scope would be, going forward, when you issue permits, that they are required to have these," Mallen said. "That I understand and completely agree with. And those that are out of compliance, whether they're not living here, that would comply. But it just doesn't make sense to make everyone do it, even if they are in compliance."

While the city has been looking at purchasing water meters for months now, they decided to table the issue for another month to address the councilor's concerns.

However, the council did not want to wait too long on making a decision, considering the issues of water rights the city will be facing.

"About the water rights coming up, I want the residents of Dunes City to know that I believe the battle we're going into with the state is going to be the biggest thing that we've ever done," Councilor Duke Wells said. "It's bigger than building inspectors, bigger than marijuana and bigger than the septic issue we had for years. It's going to be a real battle. But I truly believe it's one worth fighting. It's a big overreach by the state, coming down on us after doing 50 years of business a certain way. It is completely out of balance, and I'm ready for the fight."

112th Annual Rhododendron Festival
Coastal Canvas
May 17-19, 2019
Florence, Oregon

2019 Rhododendron Festival Court

Introducing KayDee Butler



Sponsored by:




Coronation: Wednesday, May 15th, 6:30 pm
FlorenceEvents Center 541-997-1994
Tickets \$13 Adults, \$9 Students
eventcenter.org

Florence
OREGON COAST
Area Chamber of Commerce

BOARD from page 1A

Vice Chair Bill McDougled Sneddon in the oath of of-

vice, where he swore to fulfill all responsibilities. Sneddon is also running in the May 21 Special Election to hold the

seat for the next term.

Later in the meeting, members of the board read Butler's letter and voted to fill the position, rather than leave it vacant until it is filled in the upcoming election.

Director Paul Burns read a statement about Butler, acknowledging her 12 years of service to the district as a director, chairman and volunteer who "advanced numerous causes," including for technology, smaller class sizes, the maintenance of staff and in support of athletics and academics.

"As a longtime Florence resident and business owner, Tammy brought unique skills and knowledge to the board," Burns read. "Those things also brought some of the greatest challenges of being a board member. With that history of the most widespread recognition in the community, that translated to people letting her know what they heard and felt more often than probably most other board members. She had the ear of a large part of the community, and that can wear on a board member, especially when we are required to make decisions when those decisions are not the most popular ones. ..."

"She continuously strived to keep the focus on what is

best for the kids in this district."

His sentiments were echoed by directors Guy Rosinbaum and John Barnett.

"If it wasn't for Tammy, I would have been lost," Rosinbaum said as he talked about his first term on the board. "I just can't thank her enough."

"I would second that," Barnett said. "I was vice chair for her for two year before I was chair, and I learned more from that lady than (I can say). ... She will be greatly missed."

"She was just so wonderful and patient in guiding us," Mann-Heintz added.

Rosinbaum made the resolution proposing that the seat be filled.

"We've got some new people that are looking to be on the board. It's an opportunity to get a head start, quite possibly," he said. "Let's give the public an opportunity to apply."

The appointed board member would serve through June, when newly elected board members will be sworn in.

The Siuslaw School Board has four open positions in the May 21 election.

April 30 is the deadline for voters to register. For more information, visit www.lanecounty.org/residents/elections.

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**Whats missing from this picture?
You Are!**

The Rhododendron Festival is only possible with your help, so what can you do?

- Be in the Parade!
Want to be a star of the show? You can apply from now until April 29th to be in the parade. Download the application at florencechamber.com.
- Kids can help too!
Banner Carriers needed. Participants get a free carnival pass! Ages 9 - 17, must be able to hold the banner for the whole parade (2 miles). Parental consent needed!
- Volunteers needed!
The lifeblood of the event, we need your help for set up, take down, staging, directing traffic, and anything you can pitch in!

Email events@florencechamber.com, call (541) 997-3128 or go to the Visitor Center at 290 HWY 101 to sign up or if you have questions.

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