



VOL. 129, NO. 39 **NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY**

FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



90% chance of rain with a high of 56 and a low tonight of 51. Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Rhody History INSIDE — A9

SPORTS



Siuslaw Seven **INSIDE** — **SPORTS**

RECORDS **Obituaries &**

emergency response logs Inside — A2

SIDE SHOW

Activities and comics every Saturday Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS

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112th annual Rhododendron Festival Court

Coronation to 'paint the town'

Festival begins with Rhody Court Coronation tonight

2019 Senior Court

Senior Princess

Madison Reynolds

2019

Junior

Court



Falon Borgnino

Senior Prince

Patrick Rowley



Senior Princess Hope Garcia

Senior Princess

Ella Stidham



Senior Princess Heaven Lewis



Senior Prince Tim Lowder



Senior Princess Aylenne Vazquez



Senior Princess Marissa Wells





1st-Grade Princess 2nd-Grade Princess 3rd-Grade Princess Addison Ott Payton Halverson



Noah Williams



1st-Grade Princess

KayDee Butler

Abigail Stevenson



Adrienna Sneddon

Daisy Robledo



3rd-Grade Princess 4th-Grade Princess 5th-Grade Princess 5th-Grade Princess

2019 Committee: Ienna Bartlett Jo Beaudreau Nancy Boskett Wendy Krause Dee Osborne

he area's late-blooming rhododendrons are in full color this week, right on schedule for Florence's 112th annual Rhododendron Festi-By Chantelle Meyer which SIUSLAW NEWS

starts today. The flowers

have inspired many things over the years, including Florence's nickname as the City of Rhododendrons, and

even Rhody Days' theme of "Coastal Canvas."

According to Bettina Hannigan, executive director of the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, which hosts the festival on the third weekend in May each year, "With 'Coastal Canvas' as the theme for the 2019 Rhododendron Festival, it highlights our arts community and opens the door to showing off the area's natural beauty

Cheyanne Wiesner

and the beauty crafted by local artists." To kick off the festival, the 2019 Rhododendron Court Coronation is tonight, when the Junior and Senior Rhody Courts will show their talents on the main stage of the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$9 for students and free for children 2 years old and younger.

See RHODY page 7A

Dunes City finds possible solution

City still faces upcoming legal issues, financial troubles

> By Jared Anderson SIUSLAW NEWS

Dunes City's fear of losing state shared revenue appeared to be tempered last Wednesday, as city staff and councilors discussed and passed a resolution to certify five official services the city offers its residents.

The issue of shared revenue has been a topic of debate in Dunes City over the past year, as city officials feared that the city would See DUNES CITY page 8A

Special Election ballots due

By Mark Brennan SIUSLAW NEWS

Completed ballots for the May 21 Special Election should be mailed to the county as soon as possible, or dropped off directly, to assure they are included in the results of next Tuesday's

vote.

This month's Special Election asks for voters to choose directors for Lane Community College (LCC), Lane Education Service District (LESD), the Mapleton School District and the Siuslaw School District Board of Directors, among other openings across the county.

See BALLOTS page 8A

Hug-a-Tree and Survive

Nationwide safety program, inspired by local mom, to be presented at Siuslaw Elementary

dy can indirectly produce some good. Occasionally, that good takes root, grows and flourishes.

Sometimes a terrible trage-

Fortunately, sadness and grief have a way of diminishing over time, allowing those impacted by death or loss to take the experience and use it to educate, inform and inspire others.

That is certainly the case when considering the life and work of Florence resident Jacquie Beveridge, who has turned a personal tragedy into a life-saving education template for search and rescue organizations across the country.

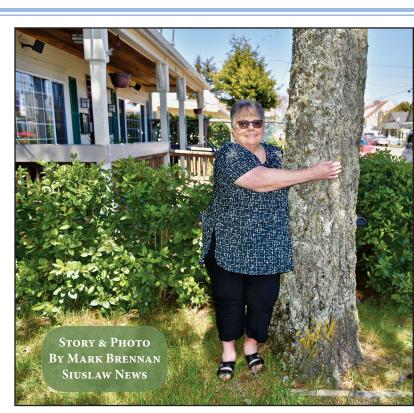
Beveridge, a retired law enforcement officer, is known for volunteerism and her long-standing

commitment to support first responders, service personnel, veterans and students. She has spent a great deal of time raising awareness on a variety of issues related to children's safety and education, in addition to being a leader in the Oregon Dunes Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

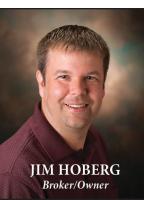
Beveridge is also a mother who has experienced the pain of losing a young child.

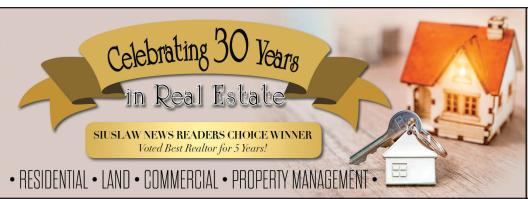
One of the most meaningful causes that Beveridge has embraced is a program called "Hug-A-Tree and Survive, which stems from a personal tragedy that struck her family in 1981.

See HUG-A-TREE page 6A



Florence resident Jacquie Beveridge helped create the Hug-a-Tree and Survive program in the wake of the tragic death of her son in 1981.





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