



112th Rhododendron FESTIVAL

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Cruise Starts @ 6:30pm

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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
Listings and public notices
Inside — B6

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2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES
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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 Falon Borgnino	Senior Princess Hope Garcia	Senior Princess Heaven Lewis	Senior Prince Tim Lowder

2019 Junior Court

Senior Princess Madison Reynolds	Senior Prince Patrick Rowley	Senior Princess Ella Stidham	Senior Princess Aylenne Vazquez	Senior Princess Marissa Wells

1st-Grade Princess KayDee Butler	1st-Grade Princess Adrianna Sneddon	2nd-Grade Princess Addison Ott	3rd-Grade Princess Payton Halverson

3rd-Grade Princess Noah Williams	4th-Grade Princess Abigail Stevenson	5th-Grade Princess Daisy Robledo	5th-Grade Princess Cheyanne Wiesner

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

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 (LES), the Mapleton School District and the Siuslaw School District Board of Directors, among other openings across the county.

See BALLOTS page 8A

The area's late-blooming rhododendrons are in full color this week, right on schedule for Florence's 112th annual Rhododendron Festival, which starts today.

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

BY CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

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

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

Hug-a-Tree and Survive

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

Sometimes a terrible tragedy can indirectly produce some good. Occasionally, that good takes root, grows and flourishes.

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



STORY & PHOTO
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

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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