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VOL. 129, NO. 40
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER

Showers all day with a high of 58 and a low tonight of 49.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Florence's new park opens on Rhododendron Drive
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Vikings get All-League Honors
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS
Obituaries & emergency response logs
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SIDE SHOW
Activities and comics every Saturday
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Listings and public notices
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RHODY RULERS

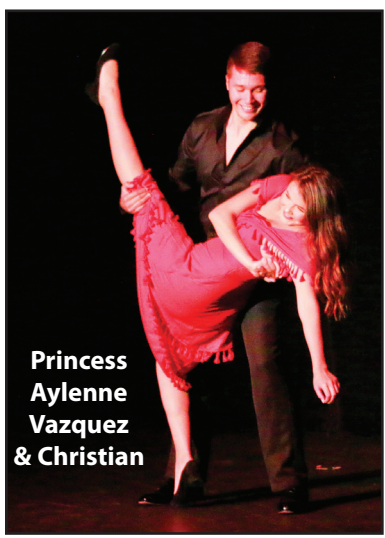


PHOTOS BY JO BEAUDREAU
STORY BY CHANTELE MEYER
FOR THE SIUSLAW NEWS

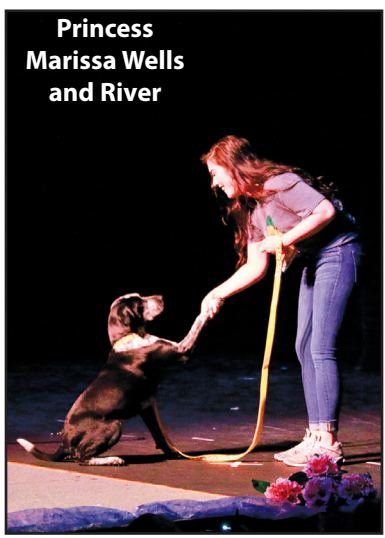
112th Rhododendron Festival names Queen Rhododendra Madison Reynolds & King of the Coast Patrick Rowley

On Wednesday, the 112th annual Rhododendron Festival crowned Siuslaw High School seniors Madison Reynolds as Queen Rhododendra and Patrick Rowley as King of the Coast. Prince Tim Lowder and Princess Ella Stidham are the runners up.

The Rhody Court Coronation celebrated more than five months of preparation undertaken by members of the Senior Courts and Junior Court, as well as their advisors, the Rhody Court Committee, Siuslaw Tale



Princess Aylene Vazquez & Christian



Princess Marissa Wells and River

Spinners and more. Referencing the 2019 festival theme of "Coastal Canvas," volunteers decorated the stage of the Florence Events Center with live rhododendrons from Bones Nursery, giant paint brush sculptures, artist tools and lights. In addition, the opening number, "Shine," performed by CROW's Flight Dance Team and the entire Rhody Court, used flashing lights and bright neon to introduce the court in full color.

See REIGN page 10A

Port proclaims Safe Boating Week, selects hauler, approves major dock upgrade

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The May Port of Siuslaw Commissioners meeting took place Wednesday evening, with an agenda that included the selection of a waste hauler and a decision on accepting a bid for a major upgrade to the dock behind Mo's.

There were just over a dozen members of the public in attendance, but none came forward to speak directly with commissioners during the public comments part of the meeting. Commissioner Bill Meyer facilitated since Commission President Terry Duman was absent.

The evening began with the financial report presented by Port Administrative Assistant Kelly Stewart. The report highlighted the arrival of expected reimbursement funds from Business Oregon for \$21,500 and FEMA for \$64,530. Stewart also reported that campground occupancy was up 7 percent and moorage rental was down slightly.

The commissioners accepted Stewart's report and approved the monthly expenditures of \$55,304.

See PORT page 7A

Mural starts to take shape

STORY & PHOTO BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Much like beauty, art is in the eye of the beholder. This was never truer than when the Florence Public Art Committee and the Florence City Council approved the installation of what became a controversial mural on the Central Lincoln Public Utilities Building in April.

The debate engendered by the selection of the design submitted and awarded to Marino-Heidel Studios was at times contentious, with many area residents turning out at public meetings

to voice their opinion on the subjects chosen for the work, as well as the colors, style and appearance of the final design.

The Marino-Heidel work, entitled "Stitching Time, Weaving Cultures," includes iconic imagery from the Siuslaw region presented in a colorful, modern style.

The piece was created primarily by Angelina Marino, who has designed and installed dozens of murals around the country over the last 20 years. Her work is characterized as dynamic, vibrant and engaging, with

See MURAL page 7A

Artists begin mural installation this week



Angelina Marino of Marino-Heidel Studios, based in Portland, Ore., begins sketching elements of the city's newest mural on Quince Street and Highway 101. For more info, visit ci.florence.or.us.

'Helping people on their worst day'

New Chief Director Michael Schick talks Siuslaw Valley, Western Lane and his path to Oregon

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

"I have a vivid memory of my son, Alex, sitting on my lap watching Rescue 911 on TV. We just loved the show," Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SFVR) and Western Lane Ambulance District's (WLAD) newly installed chief Michael Schick said. That was 25 years ago when Schick lived in Louisville, Colo. "Driving by the fire department one day, they had a big sign out, looking for volunteers. I said, 'You know,

maybe I'll try that." Schick didn't think he would have a career in fire and EMS. He was a medical researcher by trade, working on producing synthetic blood.

"We were making blood in bacteria and using that for transfusions, a blood substitute," Schick said. But his company was soon bought out by a larger corporation,

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