

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE



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VOL. 129, NO. 73
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly sunny with a high of 70 and a low tonight of 52.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



House Concert Series continues Friday
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



Mapleton beats Riddle
INSIDE — SPORTS

RECORDS

Obituaries & emergency response logs
Inside — A2

KID SCOOP

Activities and comics every Wednesday
Inside — B5

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings and public notices
Inside — B6

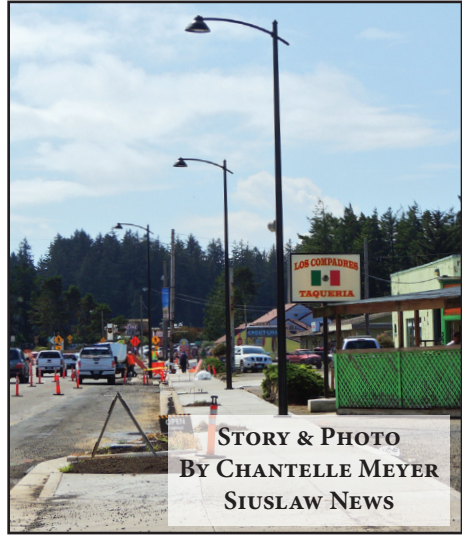
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ReVision Florence undergrounds utilities on highway



STORY & PHOTO BY CHANTELE MEYER SIUSLAW NEWS

This south-facing view of Highway 101 in Florence shows the new streetlights and lack of visible utility lines as part of the ReVision Florence Streetscaping Project, set to be completed by November.

On Tuesday, the City of Florence announced that new streetlights started going up on the west side of Highway 101 as part of the ReVision Florence Streetscaping Project.

The project is adding pedestrian amenities, sidewalk improvements, streetscape beautification and new paving to Highway 101 from the Siuslaw River Bridge to Highway 126 and on Highway 126 down to Spruce Street.

With this week's work, the utilities on the west side of Highway 101 have been moved underground, which means people won't see any of the lines running parallel to the street.

See REVISION page 7A

12TH ANNUAL RODS 'N' RHODIES SEPTEMBER 13 & 14, 2019



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO

This weekend offers something for nearly everyone with the long-standing combination of the 12th annual Rods 'N' Rhodies Car Show on Friday and Saturday and the seventh annual

Community-wide Garage Sale this Friday to Sunday.

Visit Siuslaw News Section C inside this edition to read more about the changes to this year's car show lineup, the new organizing entity Rods 'N' Rhodies, Inc., and how two days is hardly enough to spot every classic car coming to Historic Old Town Florence.

Then, follow the treasure map included on pages C5 and C6 to find your way to the best deals on the Oregon coast with Florence's Community-wide Garage Sale from Sept. 13 to 15.

Organized each year by the Siuslaw News and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, the community-wide sale features dozens of sales in and around Florence. People can find anything from vintage toys to name-brand clothing, project-worthy furniture to craft supplies just waiting for a new use, as well as tools, household goods, artwork and more. Each day offers new sales opportunities as well as the chance to strike a deal.

See more in the RODS 'N' RHODIES Special Section Inside



Rhodies accentuate Florence area

MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Spring-blooming rhododendrons have become an iconic symbol for the Florence area, even winning awards for shape and color during the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society's twice-yearly Rhody Flower Shows.

Local chapter of Rhododendron Society celebrates 50 years

Florence has been associated with the "rhody" for decades, even taking on the moniker "The City of Rhododendrons." This year, the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society is celebrating 50 years as an organization.

The rhododendron, while originally imported from Asia, has taken root and blossomed in the area for more than a century. The name is drawn from the ancient Greek and translates in English to "rose tree." There are more than 1,000 varieties of rhododendrons and a fair number of those can be seen in and around Florence, many in Gallagher Park.

While the plant blooms in the spring, the flowers are also one of the headliners for this weekend's

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Rods 'N' Rhodies Car Show.

For 50 years, Members of the Rhody Society have been teaching and sharing information on the many different varieties of rhodies available in this area, which is the mission of the chapter.

Day Farrald is a longtime member of the group and is working with the Rods 'N' Rhodies organizers to showcase the plant during the busy weekend. Unfortunately, the beautifully colored blooms of the rhododendron will not be on display this weekend, but information will be shared and unflowered plants will be available for sale.

"The mission of the Rhododendron Society is to disseminate information about the genus Rhododendron, and that includes a little bit of everything," Farrald said. "Not only is the group there to share information on the culture, which fertilizer to use, the right amount of sun or shade and the amount of water they need, but we also talk about the history of plant."

The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101 in Florence.

One of the main reasons the Siuslaw Chapter is involved with this week's event is let the community know about the group and invite interested people to the group's meetings.

See RHODIES page 7A

Habitat hosts annual Beachwalk

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Sometimes a walk on the beach is more than just a great way to relax; it can be an opportunity to help friends and neighbors. That will undoubtedly be the case this Saturday, Sept. 14, when Florence Habitat for Humanity holds its annual Beachwalk.

The event sign-in will be at the South Jetty Parking Lot and walkers — many with family dogs — will make their way along the sand a mile or so to the finish line at Driftwood Shores, where there will be refreshments, live music and a dog costume contest.

Alice Sichtung-Burns, one of the coordinators of the Beachwalk, shared her enthusiasm about this year's event.

"The Beachwalk Committee has been working hard the last few months rounding up sponsors and getting the word out about our annual Habitat Beachwalk," she said.

If people are still interested in participating, it's not too late to sign up.

"People can form a team, gather sponsorships, collect money or just donate to Habitat Beachwalk 2019," Sichtung-Burns said. "If



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Habitat for Humanity includes vibrant kites, music and large bubbles as part of the finish line of the nonprofit's annual Beachwalk fundraiser, coming this Saturday to the North Jetty and Driftwood Shores.

you raise at least \$100, you earn a T-shirt, or you can purchase the day of the walk. Come out and join the fun and walk the beach with us."

One of the most popular of the activities Saturday will be an assortment of large unique kites flown by Archie and Jeanie Clay of the Rogue Valley Windchas-

ers. The Clays are a retired couple that have participated in the Beachwalk previously, providing stunning aerial images using huge, multi-colored kites set against the sky. These will be flown near the Beachwalk's finish line at Driftwood Shores.

See BEACHWALK page 8A

VAN FANS FUNDRAISER WILL BE FUN AND GAMES

Get together with friends for a fun day of card games and lunch hosted by the Van Fans

Friends of Florence Van Fans is a nonpolitical organization that sponsors this event twice a year. All proceeds go to support the Cancer Bus which transports patients every weekday to and from Eugene and Springfield for radiation treatments.



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16

at the Elks Lodge 1686 12th Street. Check in time is 11:30/Lunch at Noon

Tickets are on sale now for \$15 and includes lunch.

To reserve a table for the game of your choice contact:
Sharon Gelmstedt 541-991-3209
Lynn Kayser 541-902-2547
Marianna McConville 541-991-3092