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MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

People may find their rhododendrons blooming late this year, due to the relatively dry winter and spring.

RHODY from page 1A

“There are so many different varieties, different colors and sizes even, and some rhodies are very fragrant — which a lot of people don't realize,” Bones said. “Some of these I planted 20 or 30 years ago, and they are still growing and getting bigger each year.”

He has hundreds of plants in pots of all sizes spread around his and wife Kathy's nursery. The couple lives in a house at the center of a swirl of color drawn from

the dozens of flower varieties that surround the house and make up the nursery.

One, a large, tree-sized rhody, is full of speckled white flowers with black stamens. The ground around the impressive hedge is covered in white and looks more like snow than flowers. The plant which is both visually striking and aromatic.

“That one is from Nepal and I just love it,” Bones said. “It is one of the first to blossom every year. I can always tell when the season

is coming because this one is always one of the first to flower and it has lots of blooms each year.”

This year has been especially dry, which pushes back the season for many rhododendrons. Only recently have bulbs started opening, and a lot of Bones' plants still have tight bulbs.

“But some of them are opening up and, during the next few weeks, it will be beautiful out here,” he said.

There are many other types of flowers scattered around Bone's property and

he has a greenhouse packed with small, dwarf Bonsai that he doesn't sell — he just grows them for his own enjoyment.

“None of these in here are for sale. They are kind of like my kids,” Bones said, only-half jokingly. “I love coming in here and seeing them all there, and I just keep adding to them and I look around and it just makes me happy.”

Bones Nursery, 90379 Highway 101, can be reached at 541-997-3082.

DUNES from page 1A

The couple said they are always available to receive any complaints which neighbors had and asked that the fines attached to the violations be waived.

According to the couple, they have also investigated the nature of the sound which has been the source of complaints and shared information indicating the distance and volume of sound travels farther and more noticeably during night and during other times of the year.

There were three members of the public on hand to share their observations of what prompted the com-

plaints, and all added there were other issues beyond the noise complaint — which they said were problems that had not been addressed.

The final statements from the Cournoyers were accommodating and suggested they would work to respond to all future complaints as promptly as possible.

“I know that there have been some issues and we want to work them out. This property has been in our family for a long time, So I want to work out a way that we can all get what we want,” John said.

Hannah added, “I think where we are coming from is we are doing everything in our power, putting quite a bit of time and resourc-

es into these issues. Our conversation to the council members is clearly to say that paying these fines would be counter productive to our efforts to be good neighbors.”

The council decided to keep the fines in place.

In the next portion of the meeting, Councilor Tom Mallen removed himself due to his direct involvement in a request for the city to repair Dunes City property negatively impacting drainage on his property.

After a brief review of city policies and prior actions taken, approval was given by the council to make the requested repair.

Mills than asked for and received permission to move forward with the hir-

ing of an auditor for the city by reviewing the résumés of those being considered. There was also a brief discussion of the openings on the Planning Commission and the Budget Committee in the city, which explored the possibility of changing or modifying the number or type of members who sat on those committees.

There was no immediate action taken on the last items discussed and the meeting was concluded after a brief report from Mills on a minor complaint and internal issues dealt with earlier this month.

The next Dunes City Council meeting will be May 26, beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, contact dunescityhall.com.

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Habitat for Humanity

We need your help! Florence Habitat ReStore is in need of cashiers on Saturdays. If you have spare time and want to give back to your community in a fun environment give Floyd a call! 541-997-5834

Helping Hands Coalition

We are in need of volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. We need volunteers to serve food, set up for meals and also prepare meals beginning at 11:00 am and finishing at 2:00pm. New Location: Community Baptist Church, 4590 Hwy. 101, Florence (Across from Fred Meyer)

Oregon Coast Humane Society

relies heavily on volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer and a variety of skills and talents are always in need. Volunteer interest forms may be found online, at the shelter and at our Thrift Shop on Bay Street. www.oregoncoasthumane.org/volunteer/

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