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Siuslaw News
NEWS & VIEWS THAT DEFINE OUR COMMUNITY
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FLORENCE, OREGON

WEATHER



Partly cloudy with a high of 53 and a low of 43.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Soroptimists donate to Food Backpacks
INSIDE — A3

LIFESTYLE



Siuslaw places at district meet
INSIDE — B

RECORDS

Obituaries & response logs
Inside — A2

TV GUIDE

Inside — B5-B6

KIDS CORNER

Activities for kids
Inside — A9

CLASSIFIEDS

Listings & notices
Inside — B6

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2 SECTIONS | 18 PAGES
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Florence council decides to increase waste removal rates, approve annexations

The Florence City Council met virtually for its regular session on May 17. The evening agenda was extensive, with councilors considering the final disposition of two annexation requests, a rate increase for waste haulers and the sale of city owned property in the Pacific View Business park.

All councilors were in attendance as Mayor Joe Henry brought the meeting to order and read into the record three separate proclamations. The first was in recognition of Public Works Week from May 16 to 23, the second was in recognition of Building Safety Month and the third was a reminder about Boating Safety Week, which is from May 22 to 28.

Next up for the council was consideration of four items, all of which required a public hearing. There were no public comments related to any of these ordinances, other than very brief comments from the petitioners.

The first two action items were pending requests in the form of Ordinance No. 5 and 6, Series 2021, asking for an annexation and related zoning change.

As part of the approval process for annexation, referrals were sent to Florence Public Works and police departments, Lane County Transportation and Land Management Divisions, Charter Communications, Century Link, Central Lincoln PUD and Heceta Water PUD — all of which supported the ability of the city to annex the locations in question.

The first was from Stonefield Investments and owner Robbie Wright, who was on hand for the meeting. Stonefield had submitted the appropriate documents and permitting for annexing and assigning a zoning designation to property described as Assessors Map No. 18-12- 04-44, TL 03800, located approximately 410 feet northeast of the intersection at Rhododendron Drive and Sebastian Street. The proposed zoning is medium density residential.

See COUNCIL page 6A



In recognition of Rhody Days



PHOTOS BY MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

People honor 114th festival even without many formal events

BY MARK BRENNAN & CHANTELE MEYER
SIUSLAW NEWS

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce's Rhododendron Festival, usually an annual event, was cancelled again this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, some elements of the weekend still took place on Saturday, May 15, as people honored the event's 114-year history.

The morning began with the Rhody 5K/10K Run-Walk, which took place at the Florence Events Center. More than 100 people participated in the event, with all ages of runners represented.

The sunny weather and the return of an in-person activity made for high spirits and lots of smiles being shared by runners and the support team from Eclectic Edge racing, which oversaw the race. All proceeds from the U.S. Track and Field-sanctioned race will benefit Florence Habitat for Humanity, which helps the Florence community in the areas of job training and creating affordable housing for low-income level households.

A complete list of finishing times and winners is available at eclecticedge.com.

During a year when more formal Rhody Days events are held, vehicles make up a big

portion of the festivities. This year featured a new way to incorporate cars with the Rhody Days Poker Run, which featured classic cars, motorcycles and other automobiles.

Five nonprofits were the beneficiaries of the event: Florence Food Share, Florence Habitat for Humanity, Food Backpack for Kids, Oregon Coast Humane Society and Oregon Coast Military Museum.

"We were able to donate \$200 to each of the five non-profits, in addition to an average of \$159 that they reported receiving at their on-site stops," reported Oregon Coast Military Museum Committee Chair Gary Cargill.
See RHODY page 7A

Governor declares May 22 to 28 as National Safe Boating Week

STORY BY DEBORAH HELDT CORDONE, AUXPA1
U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

National Safe Boating Week is the official launch of the 2021 North American Safe Boating Campaign. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary wishes to help ensure the public has a safe, secure and enjoyable boating experience this season by bringing attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters.

In May, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed, with seal, an official proclamation declaring May 22 to 28, 2021 to be Oregon Safe Boating Week.

The Oregon Safe Boating Week proclamation encourages boaters to practice safe boating while enjoying the "many wonderful opportunities for recreational boating in lakes, rivers and the ocean" in Oregon.

According to the Oregon State Marine Board, there were 27 fatalities on Oregon waters in 2020, the



PHOTO BY CAROLE COHEN

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarists (from left) Joe Cohen, Deborah Heldt Cordone, AUXPA1, and Scott Philben from Florence hold a framed copy of the State of Oregon Safe Boating Week proclamation signed, with state seal, by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown. The proclamation and Safe Boating Week help promote safe boating during the beginning of the boating season and all year long.

most since 1987. Seven of the 27 both motorized and non-motorized victims were wearing life jackets. Recreational boating encompasses

such as kayaks, canoes, standup

paddleboards, and others. All these recreational vessels are included in the numbers.

According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics for recreational boating, on average, 600 people die each year in boating related accidents in the United States. Approximately 79 percent of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 86 percent were not wearing a life jacket. Where instruction was known, 70 percent of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction. Only 20 percent of deaths occurred on vessels where the operator had received a nationally or state approved boating safety education certificate.

Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents. Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience, excessive speed and alcohol use rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.
See BOATING page 5A

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