

CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD

Special SPRINGFIELD section inside

Council focuses on housing issues

SPRINGFIELD – Housing dominated the Springfield City Council agenda this week, including a mobile home park rezone, a temporary homeless shelter designation and grant for low-income housing.

Council voted to rezone the 13.6 acres currently home to the 55-and-over Patrician Mobile Home Park.

Council also voted to allow for temporary emergency housing in governmental buildings to help provide winter shelter for the homeless. The City of Springfield, working with St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, have identified a building on A St. as a suitable location to provide emergency housing as an Egan Warming Center for Springfield.

And, Homes for Good was granted a \$750,000 one-year Community Development Block Grant loan to create 70 low-income housing units on 5th Street next to Fred Meyer. The funds will be paid back in time to provide funding for St. Vincent de Paul to acquire land for a new manufactured home park it is planning.

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New businesses are reshaping downtown

BY ERIN TIERNEY
THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL – Downtown Creswell is shifting and reshaping, and the proof is behind the “closed for renovations,” “coming soon” and “now open” signs taped on Oregon Avenue storefronts.

While Creswell bid adieu to a handful of businesses this year – Burlap & Lace, Joe’s Diner, Natural Path, Drumrongthai Café Spot, Farmstand Collective – entrepreneurs are working to ensure the future of downtown is bustling and bright.

Bill Spencer, owner of the Union 76 gas station adjacent to the diner, said he is “dreaming” of a bigger, better, new gas station, a convenient mart and maybe even a car wash. “The hope is to be able to use the current Joe’s location for that improved facility,” Spencer said. If the project goes forward, the goal would be to finish by Dec. 31, 2020, he said.

Dale Pallin of Pleasant Hill parked his “smoke shack” just off of Interstate 5 this summer. Since then, business has been robust, he said. Locals have been receptive to its pulled pork, ribs and signature sauces this summer. A winter menu of crab, salmon, and oysters is underway.

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Gourd big ... or go home

SPRINGFIELD –Thurston native Rhoman Ybarra, 16, picks the biggest pumpkin he can find at Herrick Farms just outside of Thurston. The Ybarra family have been long-time customers of Herrick Farms, enjoying its close proximity to their home and making annual trips to the pumpkin patch. CODY WARREN/THE CHRONICLE

MAILING LABEL BELOW

CERT emergency training creates certifiable leadership

BY ALIYA HALL
THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL – When a disaster happens in the area, the more trained hands on deck the better. That’s why South Lane County Fire & Rescue offers Community Emergency

Response Team (CERT) training.

For the past three years, SLCF&R has offered a teenage CERT program for 14- to 20-year-olds, and added a program for adults this year.

Nicole Wood, 17, was one of those teens who participated; she did the program in the fall of 2017. Even though she doesn’t want to be a paramedic or

firefighter, she wanted to participate because she thought these would be good skills to have in an emergency.

“They’re community heroes and I thought it would be interesting to learn their side of life,” she said.

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