

On the spot



COURTESY PHOTO

On Jan 12, Florence resident W.B. Foreman spotted this spotted owl sitting on the swing set in his back yard. The owl has since moved into a tree in Foreman's yard.

Dunes City seeks citizen input

DUNES CITY — The Dunes City Council has scheduled its annual special session devoted to setting City Council goals for the year.

The special session will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10, beginning at 2 p.m. Although no oral citizen comments will be heard during the meeting, Dunes City residents are invited to submit written suggestions for City Council goals, or comments on the goals, prior to the meeting and to attend the meeting in person.

The comments and suggestions will be presented to councilors for consideration during the special session.

Written suggestions and comments may be delivered to Dunes City Hall, 82877 Spruce St. in Westlake, mailed to PO Box 97, Westlake OR 97493, or emailed to recorder@dunescityor.com.

In order to be considered

during the City Council's special session, comments must be received at Dunes City Hall by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4.

At last year's goal-settings special session, the Dunes City Council determined that primary goals for the city should be financial stability, good governance, water quality and resources, and emergency preparedness.

Other significant goals for city councilors in 2014 included continuing their work to update the city's Comprehensive Plan by replacing outdated information, and to hold educational seminars that promote local awareness of Dunes City's septic program.

In addition, during last year's goal-setting session, councilors agreed to continue their commitment to making the annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon a sig-

nature event for the Florence and Dunes City area. The second annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon and Duathlon held in May 2014 was deemed a huge success, with more than twice the number of registered participants than the first event held in 2013.

Dunes City Mayor Rebecca Ruede reminds local residents and business owners that it is not too early to get involved with the 2015 event.

"Businesses and individuals can help support this unique, fun event by becoming a sponsor or by volunteering to staff the triathlon and duathlon race courses," she says. "Even though the event is in May, we're already looking for sponsors and volunteers."

Information about the event and sponsorship opportunities is available by calling Dunes City Hall at 541-997-3338.

December unemployment at six-year low

Oregon's unemployment rate dropped from 7 percent in November to 6.7 percent in December, the lowest level since August 2008, right before the worst days of the financial crisis which led to the Great Recession.

Jobs grew rapidly again in December. During the last three months of 2014, employment grew by a total of 24,300, the largest three-month gain since comparable records began in 1990.

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 8,200 in December. This followed a revised gain of 8,700 in November, with growth not as strong as the originally estimated gain of 11,200.

These monthly job totals are produced each month by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Gains in December were broad-based, as seven of the major industries each added at least 800 jobs. It is rare for so many industries to gain that many jobs in one month.

Retail trade (+2,000 jobs), government (+2,000), health care and social assistance

(+1,600), construction (+900), transportation, warehousing and utilities (+800), leisure and hospitality (+800), and other services (+800) were the industries adding the most jobs.

A large drop in the number of unemployed Oregonians coincided with December's employment growth. The labor force barely grew in December, unlike the rapid labor force growth seen in recent months.

Fewer unemployed and an unchanged labor force contributed to the drop in the unemployment rate.

All numbers above are seasonally adjusted.

The Oregon Employment Department plans to release the December county and metropolitan area unemployment rates on Monday, Jan. 26, and the statewide unemployment rate and employment survey data for January on Tuesday, March 3.

The Oregon Employment Department is responsible for releasing Oregon's monthly payroll employment and labor force data. The data are prepared in cooperation with the

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The BLS estimates of monthly job gains and losses are based on a survey of businesses. The BLS estimates of unemployment are based on a survey of households and other inputs.

The Oregon Employment Department publishes payroll employment estimates that are revised quarterly by using employment counts from employer unemployment insurance tax records. All department publications use this official Oregon series data unless noted otherwise.

This month's release incorporates the April, May and June 2014 tax records data. The department continues to make the original nonfarm payroll employment series available; these data are produced by the BLS and are revised annually.

For the complete pdf version of the news release, including tables and graphs, visit www.QualityInfo.org/press release, then within the Press Release Documents list, select Oregon Monthly Employment Situation.

To obtain the data in other formats such as in Excel, visit www.QualityInfo.org, then within the top banner select Economic Data, then choose LAUS or CES.

For help finding jobs and training resources, visit one of the state's WorkSource Oregon Centers or visit www.WorkSourceOregon.org.

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Oregon Neurology Associates

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