

Florence regains Airport Advisory Committee

City Council approves reinstating committee to head up new projects

BY CHANTELE MEYER
Siuslaw News

Florence City Council voted Monday to re-establish the seven-member Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) for the Florence Municipal Airport.

After a work session on the history of the airport, a review of the 2010 Airport Master Plan and local and federal funding, the councilors agreed that an advisory committee was needed once again.

Florence Public Works

Director Mike Miller said, "The AAC was put on hiatus after their good work on the Airport Master Plan and involvement with the apron expansion of the airport. Since those projects were completed, and we had no other funding coming into the airport for capital projects, it was decided to put it on hiatus until such time as we had amassed projects or it was time to ... identify new projects."

Councilor George Lyddon has an interest in the airport and has attended several meet-

ings with volunteers.

"I've been out there numerous times," he said.

Based on talks between the councilors, pilots, hobbyists and businesses who use the airport, the council was confident that they could get enough people to apply to join the committee.

"I think the turnout and the volunteer hours for the airport are extraordinary," Councilor Ron Preisler said. "We certainly could use their help and their direction. I hope this will get more people involved."

Miller said, "We want a productive group. We don't want

them spinning their wheels and not producing something that you want."

City staff presented two timeline options for the committee selection process.

"We would like to go with the more lengthy route to give enough time to get some really highly qualified and interested individuals," Miller said.

The councilors chose to allow for a three-week recruitment process that will end with interviews on Wednesday, Oct. 21, during a council work session.

The application deadline will be Friday, Oct. 9.

For more information on the Airport Advisory Committee, or to apply, go to www.ci.florence.or.us.

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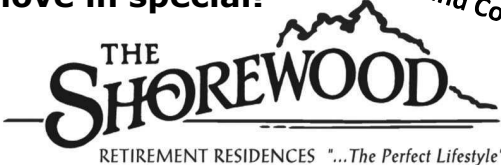
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Early Learning Florence works to bring quality child care back to area

Early Learning Florence (ELF) held its initial board meeting Thursday, Sept. 10, at the Little Brown Hen Cafe.

Present were the three founding directors, Rob and Alicia Spooner, and Margaret Hammer. The Spooners are publishers of Oregon Coast Magazine and Hammer is a former Siuslaw School Board member and director of Planned Parenthood's office in Florence.

"We're moving very quickly," said Rob Spooner. "Sonshine Kids child care closed at the end of last week and we're anxious to pick up the slack. In recent years, there have usually been three or four state-certified child care centers in Florence and now there are just two."

Amy Mendez-Galvant and Debra Edwards Rose, the former operators of Sonshine Kids, will be working with ELF with a target opening of Nov. 1.

"I've been interested in child care in Florence since my year as president of the Florence Kiwanis club a decade ago," said Alicia

Spooner. "This is the first time I've been actively involved and I'm looking forward to some hands-on work getting the new center off the ground."

Hammer sees ELF as a continuation of her long-standing dedication to education.

"Research has shown that babies only a few months old are learning machines if given the right stimulation," Hammer said. "ELF will make a difference in the development of dozens of our youngest citizens."

The board acknowledged the generous support of the Florence Kiwanis Club, which has contributed \$2,500 to launch the new center, along with contributions from individual Kiwanians.

The first children accepted into the center will be in the preschool range starting at three years. There is a critical need for infant and toddler care, but this more challenging segment will be on hold until the preschool operation is well established.

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Enjoy a frugal fall road trip

Road trips are a staple of autumn for many motorists. Fall foliage and moderate temperatures make the months of September and October ideal months to hit the open road for weekend getaways.

Fall road trips rarely take drivers too far away from home, but traveling can still be costly. Fortunately, there are many ways to make road trips more affordable without sacrificing fun.

- Bring your own food. Food is another big expense road trippers must account for. But you can save money on food by bringing your own meals along on the trip. Prepare some sandwiches the morning that you leave and keep them fresh in a cooler so you don't have to pay for lunch. In addition, pack some snacks so you and your passengers can quickly and affordably quell any hunger pangs that arise while you're on the road. If you plan to stay in a place with its own kitchen, cook your own dinners so you don't have to spend money dining out.

- Explore alternatives to more traditional lodging. If your road trip includes an overnight stay, consider alternatives to traditional lodging. Hotels might stretch your budget, but depending on where you plan to go, you might have some less traditional alternatives. Airbnb.com allows homeowners and even some apartment dwellers to rent their homes and apartments to travelers, and these listings may pale in comparison to rates offered by nearby hotels. If weather permits, look for local campsites and spend your nights sleeping outdoors under the autumn stars. If you prefer hotels, look for deals on sites like Priceline.com or Hotwire.com, which may offer heavy discounts on rooms.

- Take steps to conserve fuel. Lodging might prove your biggest expense on a fall road trip, but fuel likely won't be too far behind. Drivers can cut fuel costs in several ways. Before beginning your trip, take your car in for a tuneup so any issues that might affect fuel efficiency are addressed before you hit the open road. Poorly inflated tires force the engine to work harder and burn more fuel, so make sure tire pressure matches the levels recommended in your owner's manual before embarking on your trip and even along the way if you feel your car is not running as smoothly as it could be. Another way to conserve fuel is to remove excess items from the

trunk. If you don't plan to hit the links on your trip, leave your golf clubs at home.

- Plot your route. Spontaneity may make fall road trips more fun, but drivers looking to save money should plot their routes in advance so they can avoid potentially costly problems like detours or road work that can waste fuel and lead to hours sitting in traffic. Use a GPS device during your trip so you can be alerted to any unexpected developments that might cost you time and money. Plotting your route in advance also allows you to find affordable dining and lodging options and choose roads that don't require drivers to pay tolls.

- Invite some friends and family along. Inviting friends and family on a weekend getaway can make the trip more fun and more affordable. If you have room in the car, inviting friends along allows you to split fuel costs, and you may even save on lodging if you find a hotel that won't charge for extra guests in the room. Friends and family also can help split the cost of supplies.

Road trips are a staple of autumn, when drivers can still enjoy the open road without breaking the bank.



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