

Tests from 1A

randomly click on answers.” Another concern Grzeskowiak shared was that unlike the older OAKS test, the state has mandated that students only take the test once for each grade level. “In previous years, a student could take the test three times if they wanted to,” he said. “When you graduate from law school, you can take the bar exam as many times as you want until you pass. Telling a 10-year-old in the fourth-grade ‘Everything rides on one test,’ is not really consistent with what we do in the practical

real world.” Grzeskowiak expressed some frustration over what he saw as inconsistencies with Oregon schools’ scores in the national Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) scores and the state testing scores. “We have a testing cycle where our state has an average of 33 percent of kids passing the math test. At the same time, earlier this week, Oregon Department of Education sent out a press release that said ‘Oregon students are doing better than the other state averages on the SAT,’” he said. “On our national tests we are doing better, but on the state test we have 30 percent pass-

ing. That tells me something needs to be adjusted on the state tests.” According to Grzeskowiak, the issue is compounded by the higher degree of learning expectations placed on students today. “When we look at Common Core, there is what we call a ‘push-down’ of curriculum. What kids are currently doing in fourth- and fifth-grade, three or four years ago they were doing in the latter part of their sixth-grade year. “What kids are now doing in the seventh- and eighth-grade you saw as ninth- and 10th-grade curriculum,” Grzeskowiak said.

He added that the same push-down extends into high school with college-level studies. “With only two years of data, compared to state averages, I would say we are doing OK,” Grzeskowiak said. “Yes, we need to do better in the late elementary and middle school grades in some of the testing.” Grzeskowiak said the district has implemented extended learning times (ELT) with a 30-minute buffer four days a week. During the ELT, students can make up tests and do assignments for classes. The high school has also added a program called Freshman Success.

“It is school orientation, but it also teaches how to study, how to ask for help and how to get the additional help you need between the bells,” Grzeskowiak said. “We know that some of the kids need help but we can only control what happens between the bells.” He also said, “Trying to fit everybody through the same college prep mold is kind of what the state has pushed.” Grzeskowiak explained that the goal is to round out as many of those other experiences with bringing back and maintaining auto shop and culinary arts to make sure that kids who are on a vocational track can go out

and get a job. Overall, Grzeskowiak sees the challenges of the new testing protocols as something that is becoming a part of the increasing demands society is placing on students. “Our kids are improving and they are doing better and better, but I do take their level of performance with a grain of salt, knowing that our kids now are doing many things I didn’t do 30 years ago in high school,” he said. “The level at which kids are expected to perform is much higher today and the number of credits it takes to graduate are much higher.”

Economy from 1A

about RAIN’s partnership with him and the development of his software app. Henry will also speak. Spencer said, “Because I talked to them, I know that the businesses are excited about all that’s happening here.” RAIN is also working with the cities of Florence and Coos Bay to hire someone to work specifically with entrepreneurs and businesses on the coast. “We’ve already made enough of an impact with RAIN that they are recognizing that we need to have some folks here all the time,” Spencer said. “Everybody is working together to make sure this succeeds,” Rose added. Committee members David Wiegand and Robbie Wright spoke about the committee’s role and the new Florence business website. “The best fit for the committee was for it to be part of the city,” Wiegand said. “We’re working to be an actual viable entity that becomes known and changes the dynamic of the area.” In addition, the Economic Development Committee and City of Florence are looking to

hire a part-time, temporary person to focus on economic development. “Our goal is to make sure we’re at the table to know when a lead comes into the state of Oregon,” Rose said. “We need to know if that business can fit the little basket representing our city.” He said that the economic development position would be on call and available to match businesses with the area. “And we’ve got to market the city different than a retirement city,” Rose said. “It’s all intertwined — places to live, places to work. We’re part of all that, and we have to work together to solve these issues so the town flourishes and grows.” Henry said the committee is working hard to “set the things in motion to begin to address these issues of jobs, skilled workers and housing.” Later in the meeting, Florence City Council took several steps to align with the city’s 2016 goals and work plan. Economic development is third on the council’s list of goals. The first was the sale of Lot 30 of the Pacific View Business Park to area residents who plan to move their business within

city limits. According to City Manager Erin Reynolds, it is the first commercial lot sale in the park since 2010. The second was the purchase of an acre of land near the Florence Events Center, owned

by Aspen Flo, LLC. The purchase ensures the land is available for the future expansion of the events center. “It’s very exciting,” Henry said. Florence Urban Renewal is also working on marketing

commercial properties, including the Lotus Restaurant property on Bay Street. For more information on economic development, go to FlorenceBusiness.org or ci.florence.or.us.

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FRESH CRAB

FISH TACOS

INGREDIENTS:
1 ¼ pounds ling cod, cut into 1-inch fingers
½ cup flour seasoned with 1/2 teaspoon paprika, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 cup flour
1 ¼ cups water
1 egg
½ teaspoon baking soda
Vegetable oil for frying
Coarse salt to taste
16 - 6 1/2-inch corn tortillas
2 cups shredded cabbage
2 cups medium tomatoes, chopped
½ cup chopped onions
½ cup chopped cilantro
Crema or sour cream

GARNISH:
Salsa and lime wedges

FOR ENSENADA-STYLE FISH TACOS:
½ cup mayonnaise
1 cup guacamole

PREPARATION:
Dust fish pieces with seasoned flour. Mix together flour, water, egg and baking soda. The batter should be the consistency of heavy cream. A few lumps are okay.
Heat oil to a depth of two inches in a deep pot to 375 degrees. Dip fish into batter and lower into oil, a few pieces at a time, and fry until golden and cooked through, about 3 minutes. Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with salt.
Steam or Microwave tortillas. Use two tortillas for each taco, laying one tortilla on another (to insure sturdiness), and fill with 1 to 2 pieces of fish, cabbage, tomato, onion, cilantro and crema or sour cream. (For Ensenada-style taco, thin the mayonnaise with 2 1/2 tablespoons of water and spread on tortillas.) Fill as above and top with guacamole. Serve both taco varieties with lime wedges and salsa.

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NEW LISTING
Covered breezeway to large covered outside deck. Guest room with ¾ bath. Carport with 2 sheds. 2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 924 sq ft
\$115,000 BH7352 ML#16108997

PRICE REDUCED
Woahink lakefront 1 acre lot located at Woods at Woahink. Some clearing, beautiful trees, sandy beachfront, amazing views, ready for your custom home.
\$349,900 BH6853 ML#14235405

NEW LISTING
Fawn Ridge East. Stunning custom home in quiet Cul-de-Sac, fireplace in living room, formal dining, kitchen nook & bar, split bedroom design + bonus room
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2158 sq ft
\$419,500 BH7327 ML#16009966

FEATURED LISTING
Woahink lakefront contemporary home. 89.54' of frontage w/dock, boathouse & lift. All new hardiplank siding, new granite counters
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2283 sq ft
\$599,900 BH7274 ML#16579718

NEW LISTING
Creekside Pines corner location. Beautiful home, split bedroom design. Wonderful kitchen, formal dining, double garage, extra parking, backs to Munsel Creek
3 Bdrm + den, 2 Ba 1400 sq ft
\$209,900 BH7348 ML#16036480

NEW LISTING
Florentine Estates corner lot. Beautiful home with 320 sqft sunroom off dining room, den, dbl garage. Move in Ready!
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1512 sq ft
\$242,000 BH7351 ML#16028359

FEATURED LISTING
Kla-Ha-Nee subdivision at the beach! Non buildable at this time, until City sewer is available. No yearly HOA dues at this time. Wonderful future investment lots .12 acre
\$34,000 BH7334 ML#16386243

PRICE REDUCED
Great investor buy or homeowner looking to downsize. Large corner, 2 tax lots, Fenced front & back. 1 car garage & sunroom
2 Bdrm, 1 Ba 792 sq ft
\$145,000 BH7282 ML#16079776

FEATURED LISTING
One of a kind 1 acre parcel. Commanding views of Siuslaw River, Old Town, Dunes & historic bridge plus frontage on river. Septic approval, well in-no pump
\$159,000 BH7288 ML#16510237