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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

2017 STATE OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE



Florence Mayor Joe Henry addresses a crowd of 150 at Florence Events Center as he presents the annual State of the City.

The vision of 'A City in Motion' becomes a reality

By JACK DAVIS
Siuslaw News

Florence Mayor Joe Henry gave the State of the City address at the Florence Events Center (FEC) Monday evening, focusing on the city's work plan, goals and current and future projects. Approximately 150 people attended the event that partnered with the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours hosted by the FEC and catered by Pavilion Catering. At the beginning of the evening, Chamber Executive Director Bettina Hannigan thanked the City of Florence for being a collaborative team with the chamber and its members. Boy Scout Troupe 721 presented the American and State of Oregon flags and led the

Pledge of Allegiance. The evening officially kicked off with a new "The City in Motion" video by Gary and Cyndie Quinn, featuring interviews by the Florence City Council, city staff and community members. City Manager Erin Reynolds introduced the mayor. "During this presentation, you will see that the City of Florence is not just any government, but your city — A City in Motion," she said. Henry said, "Early on we talked about our dream of being a 'City in Motion.' You will see our dream is no longer a dream, instead it is a daily reality and has turned into action and results. ... In early 2015 a new council took over and created a city work plan based on seven city council goals and our City Mission. ... In 2016 the city streamlined

that work plan down to five goals." Those goals are: City Service Delivery; Livability and Quality of Life; Economic Development; Communication and Trust; and Financial and Organizational Sustainability. With the help of a power point presentation, Henry walked the audience through the five goals, explaining what has been accomplished and what is still envisioned. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication of city employees and volunteers. Henry said, "Over 90 percent of the City's budget goes to operating the various city services." He also said the city has sev-

eral "once in a generation" projects in the works, including ReVision Florence, the new Public Works facility on Kingwood Street and the City Hall remodel project. According to Henry, the city is also expanding utility services to the north and east, bringing services to properties recently brought into the city. Under Livability and Quality of Life, Henry said the Community Development Department has revised Title 10 City Code — creating streamlined and over the counter

"Our dream of being 'A City in Motion' is no longer a dream. Instead, it is a daily reality and has turned into action and results."
— FLORENCE MAYOR JOE HENRY

See CITY 7A

COMMUNITY HEALTH Immunization 'Exclusion Day' arrives on Feb. 15

Schools require up-to-date vaccination records for school attendance after that date

Through recent communications, Siuslaw and Mapleton School Districts reminded parents and guardians of school age children, from preschool through high school, that "Exclusion Day" arrives on Wednesday, Feb. 15. This is the day that parents and students have to provide verification of all required age specific vaccines, or furnish school officials with the state approved certifications for either a Medical or Non-Medical exemption to immunization. Students who are unable to provide this information will not be allowed to attend school until the proper documentation is turned in to school authorities. The Mapleton and Siuslaw schools have previously distributed information regarding the required vaccines and the suggested immunization age. Mapleton School Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said, "Prior to the current school year, all parents fill out or supply immunization records for that student. The school medical staff then reviews those records and informs parents of needed immunizations." These assessments are usually given to the student's parents by Feb. 1, allowing time for students to receive the missing vaccinations. This process does not apply for those that have requested and received exemptions to immunizations. All Non-Medical exemption requests have to be submitted prior to "Exclusion Day." These requests should consist of a Certification of Immunization Status and a Vaccine Education Certificate, attained after meeting with a health care practitioner or from the on-line vaccine education module. Students that attend Siuslaw schools should have already received notifications of needed vaccinations, according to Siuslaw School Superintendent Andy Grzeskowski. "The biggest issue that we run into is parents trying to schedule appointments with the doctor at the last minute to get the vaccinations," Grzeskowski said. "But parents don't have to wait for a regular appointment with their doctor, immunizations can be given by laboratory staff on short notice." The Center for Disease Control encourages immunization for all students and cites a direct linkage between high immunization rates and a community's ability to fight numerous illnesses. It also reports that as recently as 2014, Oregon had the nation's highest rate of Non-Medical Student Immunization Exemptions at 7.1 percent.

See SCHOOLS 7A

Port holds special meeting, delays decision on storage shed removal

Board of Commissioners give Port Manager Steven Leskin high marks in annual performance evaluation

Port of Siuslaw commissioners met for a special session Monday, Jan. 30, to determine the fate of the two blue metal storage buildings located in the center of the port's campground and to review the port manager's annual performance evaluation. Prior to the discussion on the storage sheds, Port of Siuslaw Harbor Master Tracey David gave commissioners a tour of the structures. In addition to leasing dry storage space to others, the port also uses the sheds for port vehicle and boat storage and to house the port's maintenance operations. David addressed the myriad structural problems confronting

the 43-year-old corrugated steel sheds, including dry rot, roof damage, winter flooding of the exposed gravel floor and copious quantities of feces from nesting birds. Port Manager Steven Leskin proposed the port tear down the two aging structures and replace them with dry camping sites. According to Leskin, the storage sheds bring in approximately \$20,000 in annual revenue. "We estimate that replacing the storage sheds with dry camping will be about a



Port of Siuslaw Harbor Master Tracey David (center) points out structural defects to port commissioners Terry Duman (left) and David Huntington in one of two port-owned storage sheds. dollar to dollar replacement," Leskin said. Leskin proposed moving the maintenance operations and port storage into the third blue storage building, currently occupied by Vintage Blue Warehouse Estate Sales located at 80 Harbor St. Patricia Sapp acquired Vintage Blue Warehouse Estate Sales in December and is seeking to renew a one-year lease on the property. The prior lease expired January 1. After some lively discussion on possible maintenance, improvements and lease options, commissioners agreed to postpone the removal of the sheds and offer Sapp a one-year lease. In other business, President Ron Caputo summarized the results of the port manager annual performance evaluations completed by the commissioners and port staff. With few exceptions, Leskin received positive ratings in all categories.

See PORT 7A

INSIDE Classifieds B6
Community A3
Library Tidings A5
Opinion A4

Records A2
Scoreboard B4
Sports B
Weather Data A2

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER Full Forecast, A3

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
48 36	47 40	50 45	51 44

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