

Home & Garden from 1A

Mid-Valley Tractor's Jeff Rossow said, "You name it, we can do it. You can do anything with our products. We're going to have a couple units inside the events center. We'll be bringing our B-X series subcompact tractor, which is a small homeowners model, and we'll have a little bit larger one, either a B-2650 or an L-2501."

Although it is the Eugene-based tractor company's first home show in Florence, Rossow said the company has a long history working with the coast.

"We've had lots of customers from Florence," Rossow said. "We want to go over there and show we are here, we are your local Kubota tractor dealer and we'll support you with our products."

Besides the tractors, the company

will also show a zero-turn riding lawnmower.

"We cover everything, pretty much," Rossow said, from tractors and mowers to ATVs and attachments such as mowers, tillers and post-hole diggers.

Tiny SMART Homes of Albany will park one of their completed tiny home models outside the events center to show off the finer points of living small.

Owner Nathan Watson said, "We're bringing one of our California Cabins, which is pretty close to our standard model with a few upgrades."

He said that the Florence community could really benefit from the tiny house movement, from first-time homeowners who don't want to be tied down to a 30-year mortgage to retirees who want to deal with smaller homes to maintain.

SMART offers sustainable and eco-

friendly features for people wanting to reduce space — and their carbon footprint — without having to give up comfort. The homes can be mobile or permanent, and some people set up communities of small houses.

"Our tiny homes are way more spacious than you'd think. This gives you an opportunity to walk inside and look around and see how much space you really need to live," Watson said.

For people who like small buildings, but maybe don't want to live in one, Mark and Company will be showing off a greenhouse made from recycled windows.

For even tinier models, Laurel Bay Gardens is taking potted plants and transforming them into something magical.

"Laurel Bay has been with us for every show," said Thompson. "This year they are back again and, in keeping with the theme of doing some-

thing a little different, they'll be talking about how to create tiny gardens and fairy gardens."

Laurel Bay staff will be presenting seminars on both tiny and fairy gardens during the weekend. Anyone can learn how to create their own or explore the fairy land of the "Taste of Spring" exhibit.

Then, let Laurel Bay and exhibitors such as C.James Nursery, Winter Green Farms and Florence Rhododendron Society show you what kinds of plants, vegetables, fruits and flowers grow in Oregon, or taste samples from a variety of vendors including Face Rock Creamery, Kimo's Dips and Spiritopia.

The Home and Garden Show focuses on local vendors and products while bringing in goods and services that may not yet be available locally.

"We try to bring a fresh look and

lineup to the show every year," Thompson said. "We bring back some of the favorites, and then bring in a lot of new stuff and fresh vendors with good products."

Interior vendors feature kitchen and home products, landscaping services, health care alternatives and more to facilitate spring home and garden to-do lists. Some vendors will also be on hand to help plan for those projects outside of the do-it-yourself range.

The Home and Garden Show is sponsored by Three Rivers Casino Resort, Bi-Mart and Central Lincoln PUD. It is presented by Coast Radio and the Siuslaw News.

It will run three days this weekend, Friday, March 3, to Sunday, March 5, at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Tickets are \$2, or free admission on Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Final Exit from 1A

that have led individuals to call upon him for assistance in "exiting." But he was willing to say that he has assisted a number of Oregonians on their final journey.

Peter also emphasized what he considers the flaws in the ODDA that he feels should be changed.

"I talk with many people who can't use the ODAA and they need to find other options — so they call us," he said.

The Final Exit Network is the second incarnation of the

Hemlock Society, which was founded by one of the authors of the ODDA, Derek Humphry.

He and others believe that all individuals have the inherent right to determine when the quality of their life has deteriorated to the degree that they no longer wish to continue living.

Humphry believes the circumstances of Florence resident Bruce Yelle detailed in the first installment of this series (Feb. 15) are real problems that should be addressed at the state level through changes in the ODDA — something Humphry doesn't believe is likely to happen.

It's a sentiment echoed by State Sen. Arnie Roblan.

"It will be very difficult to change the law. The final stage diagnoses and the soundness of mind requirements were put in the bill because there was a fear that someone other than the patient would be determining the final question of life or death," said Roblan, who recently lost a family member and understands the difficulty the current law poses to those with an unclear prognosis.

"Dementia and Alzheimer's were the biggest issues when we crafted the law," Roblan said. "There are also strong religious

beliefs that come into play when discussing this issue. This is an instance where religion often trumps the law for a lot of our citizens."

Hank Stern, an aide to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, responded with a statement that the senator doesn't usually comment on state issues, but said Wyden has defended the ODDA when it has been threatened in the Senate.

Stern also

expressed that Wyden has reservations about Supreme Court nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch's position on the Death with Dignity issue.

Sen. Jeff Merkley said, "Oregon's Death with Dignity Act is a pioneering contribution to independence and personal autonomy — an important right we'll fight to defend."

At the congressional level, Merkley is also concerned about how President Trump's Supreme Court nominee could affect the law. "Trump has named a nominee who has argued against death with dignity laws in the past," Merkley said. "But I will lead the charge to defend it."

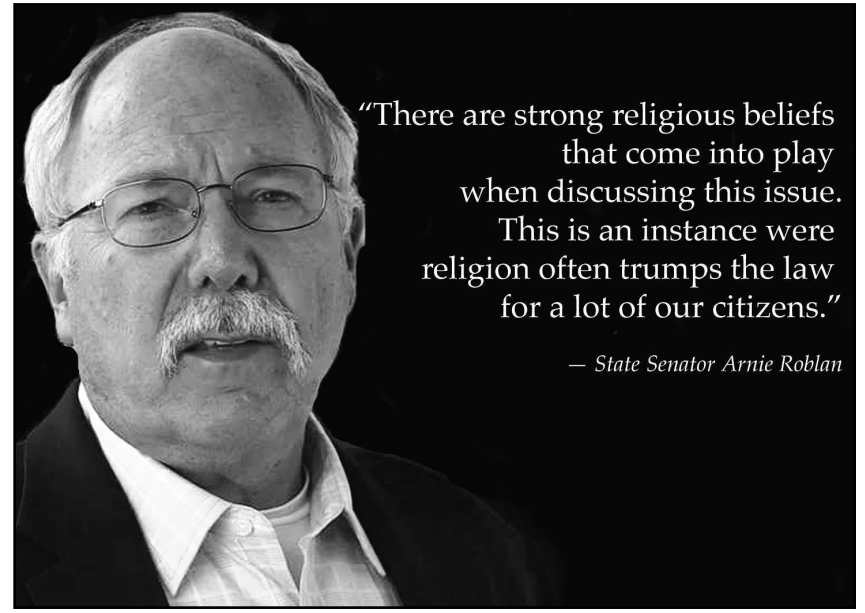
While concerns for the

preservation of the ODDA loom on the horizon and arguments for needed changes are raised within communities as well the state capitol, Yelle continues with the daily concerns of living a life he may someday choose to end — yet he is hopeful that this important conversation will continue.

"The grassroots response has been so overwhelming. It's blown me away," Yelle said. "When you communicate face to face with people and they read the articles, especially with older people, at least now they are willing to talk about it — and that is a big change."

When asked about what he plans to do when he is confronted by the inevitable, and the ODDA remains an obstacle, Yelle said he will be ready.

"I am prepared to take my own life. I will have saved up the medications I need," he said. "I don't want to have to depend on others for all of my needs. I just want to decide my own fate."



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— State Senator Arnie Roblan

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Contract from 1A

Beers added, "We are attempting to get a contract that will be fair to everybody. The bottom line is this: We want the hospital to invest in the community, just as the community has invested in the hospital."

According to Peace Harbor Hospital registered nurse and ONA negotiating team member Sandy Fleetwood, the major negotiating points between the nurses union and PeaceHealth are healthcare benefits, wage and hour issues, recruitment and retention, and security.

ONA union representative Gary Aguiar said, "Friday morning, we offered them a total package that would resolve all but one item."

According to Aguiar, PeaceHealth management representatives asked for a mediator during the morning negotiations.

No agreement was reached by the end of Friday afternoon's negotiations.

Hospice RN Kathy Callis said the nurses have requested one more round of negotiations the week prior to the April 10 mediation date, but the PeaceHealth management team is not sure if that can be arranged.

If mediation fails, the next step would be arbitration. In many cases, unions choose to strike rather than submit to forced arbitration.

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 A News Magazine for Florence

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