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SPORTS — B



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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

OCHS must respond to Department of Justice

Assistant Attorney General pens letter to humane society board requesting financial info

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The October meeting of Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) Board of Directors was again held with the presence of a Florence Police Department officer when it met Thursday evening at the Laurelwood Community Center.

The meeting began with a statement from Board President Robert Bare, who told the 50 or so community members in attendance that, under advice of council and in consultation with the Oregon Department of Justice (ODJ), the organization was looking into the possibility of members of OCHS voting directly for the Board of Directors.

Bare stated that this had never been done before, and noted the board was considering the option and would make OCHS's intent known at some point in the future.

The introduction of official oversight into the controversy brewing at OCHS, in the form of consultations with the ODJ, has elevated the profile and the problems facing OCHS.

One of the individuals responsible for bringing the attention of the state's highest legal authority to the OCHS situation is Scott Bailey.

Bailey, a local attorney and former OCHS Board Member, said he feels the current board was improperly seated, which is why he brought his legal expertise in an effort to invalidate the standing of the current board.

Bailey recently met with ODJ officials in Portland and describes the meeting as informative and productive.

"I met with Liz Grant and Lottie Zorn at the Attorney General's office. Liz is the head of the charitable activities division, Lottie is the person who was assigned to conduct the preliminary investigation into OCHS in response to complaints (there have been 12)," Bailey said. "Apparently, Liz does not step in unless the situation is fairly rock solid."

See **OCHS 10A**

GOOD LIFE Boomer & Senior Expo



Senior Expo brings together lifestyle, healthcare options



More than 300 people attended the 2017 Good Life Boomer & Senior Expo at Florence Events Center on Thursday. Exhibitors showcased senior living options, community groups, volunteer opportunities and healthcare choices during the event. "The weather did not keep people away," said Siuslaw News Publisher Jenna Bartlett. "The vendors said they had a chance for meaningful interactions with everyone. We are very pleased with the success of the event." Siuslaw News presented the expo, and it was sponsored by Hillside Retirement Residences and Roby's Furniture and Appliance. BJ's Ice Cream Parlor provided complimentary scoops of ice cream during the free expo, where people were able to donate canned goods to Florence Food Share.

PHOTOS BY JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Miller Park to get new facilities

Updates include concession stand, restrooms and soccer field

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

Florence's Miller Park will soon be getting an upgrade with a new concession stand, soccer field, sidewalk, restrooms and additional security camera and repositioned softball fields.

"Miller Park is our signature Park and it has been a number of years since we have dedicated the resources to this wonderful feature that it deserves," said

Florence Mayor Joe Henry. "I believe that Miller Park is an untapped opportunity for our community, both in terms of economic development, as well as a wonderful amenity for the families and children in our community."

The project, which was just granted the notice to proceed, will begin construction in 2018.

"The current concession stand in the park will be demolished," Florence Public Works Director

Mike Miller said.

In its place, a new building will be constructed which will house restrooms, storage areas for local sports programs and a new concession stand.

"Traditionally, the concession stand has been used exclusively by the Siuslaw Baseball Association," Miller said. "But now it will be more of a community asset so you can have more activities

See **PARK 9A**

Port looks to public to plan future

Commissioners plan to build committees, create classes and reach out to entire district

BY JARED ANDERSON
Siuslaw News

It's time to reach out to the community to move forward in planning the future, Port of Siuslaw Commissioners concluded during their Wednesday, Oct. 18, public meeting.

"I think it's time to bring the public in and get some ideas. I believe there are a lot of people in the community, within this district, that have good ideas that we can listen to," Port Commissioner Mike Buckwald said.

The conclusion came after a lengthy discussion involving the repair of riverbank erosion damage and other expensive future projects.

Interim Port Manager Dina McClure started the conversation by announcing FEMA had unrestricted funding for repairing portions of the riverbank that were damaged in the unusually strong 2016 winter.

Last month, FEMA had frozen those funds due to hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, a freeze that was expected to last at least six months. FEMA is expected to pay 75 percent of the costs for the repair, which could cost up to \$200,000. Now that those funds are released, the port can move forward with the project.

However, there is still discussion on how to proceed with the project. The commissioners are still deciding how to approach the repairs, along with what the project will ultimately look like when completed.

The commission's dilemma was made clear when commissioners began discussing the future Siuslaw Estuary Trail that would run through port property. The final path of the trail is still being decided, but is currently planned to run along the boardwalk, riverbank and out to the east estuary, much of which is on port property. Part of that plan would have the trail running through the eroded riverbank as well.

"Where are we going to put that trail?" Port Commission President Terry Duman asked. "It belongs on the river."

See **FUTURE 7A**

New recycling rules extend from curbside pick-up to Florence Transfer Station, county

Residents of Florence are in the process of adjusting to major changes in the rules and materials that can be recycled in curbside pick-up, and most seem to be responding well to these changes.

New rules have been adopted by waste haulers in town that prohibit consumers from putting any kind of plastic in their recycling and by reducing the materials that the companies will accept from consumers.

Lane County has also announced that, beginning today, Oct. 21, the only plastic that will be accepted at county landfill sites and at transfer locations, including Florence, will be clear plastic milk jugs.

The list of materials no longer accepted will include all other types of plastic, including all food and beverage containers made from plastic.

This is a dramatic change from earlier policies in effect.

These changes were implemented in response to newly enacted Chinese governmental restrictions on the type and quality of recycled materials that will be accepted by the country, which is the world's largest purchaser of waste products.

The lowering of the percent of contaminated materials allowed has forced a dramatic realignment in the work American recyclers have to undertake to adequately prepare the waste materials to be exported.

This prompted the changes enacted by the commercial haulers in Florence earlier this month and by the county beginning today.

These changes affect both waste removal companies in the Florence area, although in marginally different ways.

See **RECYCLE 10A**

City discontinues 'Snowbird' program

Low-cost water turn off option ends for Florence residents

BY MARK BRENNAN
Siuslaw News

The City of Florence recently ended the low cost option by which residents can turn off the water to their property using what was called the "Snowbird" program.

Florence Public Works Director Mike Miller said that moving forward, Florence will no longer offer this service to residents.

"The city recently completed a thorough water, wastewater and storm water rate analysis. This work was performed by an outside consultant working with staff and an

advisory committee appointed by the mayor and approved by Florence City Council. Much of the analysis performed was to identify any inequities within the rate structure or operating policies," Miller said.

During the course of its work, the committee received information from city staff about the "Snowbird" program and supported staff's findings and recommendations to discontinue the program.

City council was briefed in a work session on the report, findings and recommendations, as well as an implementation plan, which included ending the "Snowbird" pro-

gram, which served a limited number of residents. In addition, the city did not promote the program, but honored it for those that knew about it.

According to findings and recommendations suggested by consultants Gel Oregon and CiviData, "Water and wastewater systems are capital intensive and are built and operated to serve the entire community. Whether those systems are used or not, these systems have significant fixed costs. These costs are allocated to all homes, businesses and other users, to be paid monthly."

See **WATER 9A**