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# Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON



## 22ND ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS 2017 fundraiser a success

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY  
 BY MARK DRENNAN  
 Siuslaw News

**Volunteers contribute time, pottery and crafts to the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser held by Florence Food Share. Money raised will allow the organization to maintain operations.**

Florence Food Share held its 22nd annual Empty Bowl fundraiser last weekend at the Florence Events Center. More than 30 artisans contributed work to the silent auction and bowl sale.

Food Share Executive Director Norma Barton said the fundraiser was quite successful and the group will use the money raised for the ongoing expenses associated with running the organization.

"The money raised will go toward

operating expenses," Barton said. She listed gas and insurance for the food share truck; insurance for the building and employees; office supplies; maintenance of refrigerators and freezers; staff payroll; janitorial costs; and garden maintenance and supplies for food share's 15,000-square-foot garden.

In addition, she said operation costs include stamps and envelopes needed to send thank you cards and

See **FUNDRAISER 11A**



## Siuslaw School District hopes to fill gaps with Wish List

BY ROLLIN OLSON  
 Special to Siuslaw News

When people don't get what they need, they sometimes wish for it. When they need more, they might make a list. That is what local schoolteachers are doing.

The Siuslaw School District Wish List began about three years ago when the district could not afford certain materials teachers needed to give their students a fair chance — both in class and in the working world.

"Either there aren't funds available," says Siuslaw Elementary Principal Mike Harklerode, or some requested materials would affect "so few students that it's not the most efficient use of our funds. The Wish List helps us to satisfy specific needs for staff and kids."

The current Wish List ranges from white boards to "AA" batteries for computer keyboards to video production equipment to fifth-grade teachers wishing for skilled workers to install classroom projectors in ceilings.

Such requests were cut from the district's budget to enable it to retain a full teaching staff.

"We chose to cut our materials and supplies across the district in order to balance the budget, preserving all staffing," says Business Manager Kari Blake.

She emphasizes that while "funding is up in total for Oregon schools, the per-pupil amount has not been increased. There are more students entering schools in Oregon, which leaves fewer dollars to spread around."

See **WISH 10A**

## City annexes Harbor Vista Park, acquires Oceanwoods

*Controversial property accepted as part of Lane County payment*

At the Dec. 4 meeting of the Florence City Council, city councilors voted 4 to 1 to join an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) with Lane County for the annexation of Harbor Vista Campground, with payment terms that include the purchase of the Oceanwoods Parcel.

Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds introduced the item.

"What brought us all here for this decision point is an IGA for the development and annexation of the Lane County Harbor Vista Park," she said.

Harbor Vista Park, located at 87658 Harbor Vista Road off Rhododendron Drive, consists of approximately 12.06 acres of campground and day-use area.

In a September public meeting held at Siuslaw Public Library, Lane County Parks and Animal Services Manager Mike Russell said Lane County received a grant from Oregon State Parks to bring city sewer services to the Harbor Vista Campground.

The county's goal was for the City of Florence to annex the site so the campground can get access to city services, mainly the sewage system. Florence will hook up 27 of the campground's 44 sites, as well as a dump station, the caretaker house and the bathrooms and showers.

In addition to providing sanitary sewer service to the campground, the gravity collection system will be designed to allow future expansion to serve additional residential areas to the east, within the city's urban growth boundary.

See **PARTNERSHIP 11A**

## TIME TO STEP UP IS COASTAL LIVING IN JEOPARDY? PART IV

*'People need jobs; jobs need people. And people need a place to live'*

BY CHANTELE MEYER  
 Siuslaw News

In recent years, the City of Florence has taken on the motto of "A City in Motion." One area that has seen renewed interest is economic development, and with that, housing.

"You cannot talk about one without the other," said Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds. "People need jobs; jobs need people. And people need a place to live. It's always been foundational in economic development materials and in the academia world."

She said traditional models for predicting population changes are not working for the new norm of American culture.

"Your traditional economic development theory has always been the mindset that people follow jobs — so jobs come first, then comes housing. It has played out that way for years. ... That mindset and professional stance are changing, as our culture and lifestyles are changing," Reynolds said.

Now, people are choosing quality of life as a main factor

for where they want to live.

"They are looking for whatever they want: clean air, clean water, recreation, trails, rivers, oceans, mountains — you name it. They go there, and then they find their job," she said.

Or people bring their jobs, especially those who work remotely or online.

"Where they want to live is so important that they're just going to make it work once they get there," Reynolds said. "That's happening across all economic strata. That's a very different way of living than before."

Under the older model, developers built affordable housing in communities that were experiencing a boom in their population. They avoided areas that didn't reflect healthy and sustained growth.

Florence is finally recovering from the economic recession 10 years ago, but the developers aren't coming yet.

"One way I look at it, the easy individual and market answer has not been happening for quite some time," Reynolds said. "If that's not meeting the true need or demand of the community, we

have to look

at the next steps. That might be doing something different than what has been done before."

According to Florence Mayor Joe Henry, Florence is "coming out of hibernation."

During a November city council meeting, he said, "Take a look back and see how much exactly was going on three years ago. We're playing catch up in many areas, and I'm just extremely proud of our city government and what we are doing to provide services to our community, much of it above and beyond the call of our responsibility provided for in our charter. I am thankful for our team as a council, for our staff and for the 'City in Motion' because we have many, many things going on."

Last week, Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich held a "telephone town hall" with constituents. During the call, which included up to 1,000 county residents, housing was a big topic.

"It has risen to every govern-



ment level. Everybody is talking about it," Bozievich said. "Housing and economic development are intertwined. There has been difficulty in the economic development side since it's hard to generate new business or revitalize established businesses when the county lacks workforce housing."

And it isn't just a local problem, but one dealt with in many areas of the state.

According to the governor's office, "Gov. Kate Brown heard time and again, from companies and communities alike, that the lack of workforce housing presents a clear threat to continued growth and prosperity. ... State agencies are looking at their current programs and tools to find opportunities to partner with communities, the business sector and private housing developers to address the workforce housing shortage in Oregon."

See **HOUSING 7A**

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