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Siuslaw News

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SERVING WESTERN LANE COUNTY SINCE 1890

FLORENCE, OREGON

Of Parks and Pickleball ...

It takes a community to build a community
Part II

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

“We’re hoping that people are inspired to do something for their community,” said Vision Keeper and former co-chair of Siuslaw Vision Jo Beaudreau. “There’s a lot that we can do together.” She paused, then laughed. “I sound all touchy feely there,” she said. “But community building is touchy feely,” Siuslaw Vision Coordinator Stephanie Sarles said. Beaudreau and Sarles work with the Siuslaw Vision 2025, a community-led organization that looks for the needs of a shared community vision, and then works to make it a reality.

It’s a central hub of ideas, working closely with community organizations to navigate the intricate challenges of creating broad community organizations. Its main goal is to help build the community.

Siuslaw Vision isn’t very discriminatory in who it will help achieve their dreams, but one of the projects it is looking to help come to fruition is a community recreation center. There are a multitude of groups that could benefit from the Vision’s expertise — one of which are pickleball enthusiasts across the region.

As described in Part I of this article, a group of pickleballers, or picklers, have been having difficulties getting their vision of a dedicated pickleball court off the ground that would include indoor and outdoor courts, and be a hub tournament.

This Monday, some picklers attended a Florence City Council meeting to talk about their love of the sport, describing a plan that brings in tourism dollars through the sport.

The idea of painting in additional lines to the tennis court was floated, with picklers saying they would pitch in money. Even Mayor Joe Henry said he might raise some funds for the project, and Councilor Joshua Greene promised \$300 of his own money. But as far as a larger complex was concerned?

Henry explained the city’s predicament: “It’s going to take money to do this project,” he said. “I’m all in favor having a pickleball court and complex. ... But you guys have to get organized and spearhead this. This is not something the city is going to take on. We have very limited resources.”

The question goes back to how a group of picklers could begin fundraising and organizing such a project. The picklers stated they had an upcoming meeting with Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds about starting a grass roots project to get the project running.

So how does one start a project like this? Something that, as the picklers believe, could create a healthier citizenship and help make the Siuslaw region a better place to live.

It just so happens that Siuslaw Vision shares those same goals.

“Vision tries to find ways to support people with our resources for the community,” Sarles said.

And right now, the Siuslaw region is “on a roll.”

RECREATION CENTER
The picklers did work with Siuslaw Vision at one point, put the project fizzled out.

See VISION page 6A



JARED ANDERSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Members of the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative work to keep the Heceta Dunes clear of invasive species, such as Scotch broom.

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

“In Wales, we like to look after the Scotch broom and the gorse because it’s so pretty,” Dafydd Balston said. “But one of the invasive species there is rhododendrons. They’re a weed over there, spreading and taking over. But the Scotch broom, with its bright yellow in the spring time, we work to preserve those.”

Balston, who now lives in Florence, was volunteering for the Oregon Dunes Restoration Collaborative last Saturday, a group that is dedicated to restoring the Oregon dunes to their natural habitat. Once a month, the collaborative sets out to pull or cut the species that have wreaked havoc on the local dunes ecosystem.

But in his home country of Wales, Balston would be doing the exact opposite.

“Rhododendrons were introduced in Victorian times,” he said. “There are still some stately manors in the UK where you go in May, and it’s an abso-

lute blaze of color because there’s so many different species from all around the world. It is a big tourist attraction. But, they spread. In the ornamental gardens they’re controlled. Out in the wild it can be a real nuisance.”

So, in Wales, collaboratives would be set up to eradicate the wild rhododendrons and preserve the native Scotch broom.

“It’s a worldwide campaign to maintain some different ecosystems,” he said. “Trying to preserve different species.”

Balston and the collaborative were working in the Heceta Dunes area, just

northwest of Florence’s city limits.

“We try and come out once a month,” said Bill Blackwell, who helps organize these excursions. “In the spring, it was even twice a month. We work primarily here at Heceta Dunes, and we also went to Lagoon Campground at Siltcoos, Honeyman State Park and the Oregon Dunes day use area.”

Blackwell’s group was focusing on Heceta, starting a four-hour expedition that began with cutting down invasive species and ended up with a tour of one of the most pristine areas on the entire

See DUNES page 5A

County opens option to ‘round up’ recycling

September event to accept limited plastic waste

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

Plastic. The word once met unlimited possibilities, now it means unending pollution.

Plastic is most often produced using a process that includes petroleum-based materials to create the multitude of objects that fill the households of America and those across the globe.

Much of these materials will eventually make their way into a landfill or waterway and then into human and animal food chains. Toxic petroleum-based chemicals leach out of plastic waste and make their way into humans and animals, where exposure has been linked to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity responses and endocrine disruption.

Residents of Florence and the surrounding areas have had to deal with the changing world of plastics as recycling of the materials has been discontinued by local waste haulers since the end of last year due to changing relationships with those who accept recycling.

Lane County is also in the crosshairs of the plastic problem and is taking a step to answer concerns consumers have with throwing out the plastic containers they have purchased.

To that end, Lane County Waste Management will be hosting a plastic recycling event on Sunday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its Glenwood facility, 3100 E 17th St.

The event is called the Recycle Roundup and the transfer station will accept for recycling plastic bottles, tubs and jugs labeled number 2, 4 and 5.

Materials must be clean, free of labels and adhesives and sorted by number and shape. Incorrect, unsorted or unclean materials will not be accepted.

Kelly Bell is coordinator for Lane County’s Master Recycler Program and she has reached out to the

Master Recyclers in the Florence area to assist any individuals or groups who may want to participate in the September Recycling Roundup.

Bell is also working on the pre-event publicity for the county, providing information to clarify the details of the roundup.

“Lane County Waste Management is hosting this special collection event to provide residents an opportunity to recycle many of the plastic containers that were dropped from recycling programs in recent months,” Bell wrote in an email. “Because this material will be clean and collected in segregated, material types, they will be delivered to Denton Plastics and processed into plastic pellets for manufacturers of new recycled-content products, such as park benches, decking, flower pots, electronic components and much more.”

Locally, one of the organizations that has been most active in fashioning a plan for the future of plastic recycling in the Siuslaw region is Precious Plastics, a nonprofit formed in the wake of last year’s plastic recycling changes.

Precious Plastics is planning on coordinating a trip from Florence to Glenwood for the roundup, but the details of the trip are still being finalized.

Eileen Angilletta is the spokesperson for the group who wants residents to know that there are some solutions on the horizon for recycling in town.

“Precious Plastics Florence is hoping to participate in the Recycle Roundup, possibly to have a joint pick up spot, but details are in the works,” she said. “My understanding is that the status of plastic recycling at this time is pretty much at a standstill, but this could change as the rest of the county

See RECYCLE page 7A

Weekend accidents, emergencies lead to multiple callouts



STORY AND PHOTO
BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

A two-car collision resulted in a roll-over and the need for extrication on Aug. 19.

It was unfortunately a busy summer weekend for first responders at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (SVFR) and Western Lane Ambulance District (WLAD). Increased traffic in the area and on Highways 101 and 126 during the weekend resulted in heavier than expected callouts for both organizations.

Operations Chief Jim Dickerson reported that SVFR responded to 14 calls over the weekend and WLAD also ran many multi-call periods, often responding to multiple emergencies at one time.

“We ran six motor vehicle accidents, which are dual response situations where SVFR and WLAD work in tandem,” Dickerson said. “One of the motor vehicle accidents was a mutual aid with a partner agency upriver. Six responses were medical assists and one was to set up a landing zone for a critical transport.”

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Full Forecast, A3

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