

TOOLS *from page 1A*

Tatum is enthusiastic about the future of a more hands-on type of educational experience for his students.

He also wanted to thank the local businesses that have already donated tools and equipment to assist him with the task of rebooting the construction program.

“So many of our local businesses have stepped up and made donations,” Tatum said. “John LaRocco at Pro

Lumber, Michael Parr at Cascade Wholesale and Richard Erickson and Sunbelt Rentals have made donations totaling over \$3,000 to this point.”

The program is looking for donations of money, tools and materials.

To find out how you can contribute to the building of the Siuslaw School District construction toolbox, contact Tatum at ctatum@siuslaw.k12.or.us or call 541-997-8241, ext. 7436.

CITY CLUB *from page 1A*

The City Club is experiencing a problem that is becoming an operational issue for many local nonprofits and public service groups: a lack of volunteers. The important role that volunteers play in Florence is becoming more apparent as time passes and older members of the community are forced to stop assisting at area organizations.

These retiring volunteers are not being replaced by younger residents and important services are being impacted.

The Florence Senior Center, Florence Food Share and Meals on Wheels are struggling with reduced staffing and increasing demands for the services they provide, joining City Club in a desperate search for new members.

“I’ve been involved for the last five years or so,” Nichols said. “There was a time when we were a little more formalized and we had officers and things like that, but as the group has diminished, either through illness or moving away, we are down to just the two of us. So now it’s a partnership or a co-chairmanship.”

As the years passed and new members failed to come in, current City Club members began to look into keeping the club afloat.

“Three years ago, we started a discussion about what we were about, where we were going and what we could do to address flagging membership,” Nichols said. “So we thought about all the dif-

ferent components, whether it was the speakers or the lunch, and we decided that it was more about the topic than anything else.”

Former City of Florence City Manager Craig McMicken is one of the founding members of the Florence City Club. He spoke about the inspiration that stirred a small group of friends to form the group.

McMicken remembers listening with great interest to the Portland City Club, which was established in 1916, and continues to hold weekly meetings that are broadcast on public radio stations across Oregon.

“My interest was prompted by listening to the City Club of Portland and the City Club of Eugene. We listened to their shows every month and decided to start a club here. We had video cameras that we could use in our meeting room and send the show to other clubs. And we had a telephone connection and people, after listening to the speakers, could ask questions and we could answer them,” McMicken said.

City Clubs across America have been organizing civically oriented discussions and public presentations since the formation of the New York City Club in 1892. There are more than 100 active City Clubs across the country, which host politicians, educators, entrepreneurs and advocates for causes from the far left to the far right.

The hope for these clubs across America is that talking about dif-

ferences and the basis for these differences will lead to a better understanding among those that disagree. Attention drawn to issues highlighted at City Club meetings has helped to shape the debate on a wide array of issues, including the establishment of a minimum wage, expansion of rapid transit and voting rights for women.

Voting and civil rights have been subjects of club discussion in the past, helping to shape public opinion and the political future of candidates that spoke to City Club groups during that time.

Now, Election-related debates continue to be an integral part of City Club programs.

Last spring’s debate between West Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich and challenger Nora Kent was held before a full house on a weekday afternoon in Florence.

The two candidates were asked questions presented by voters, selected randomly by Nichols, and Baumrucker acted as the moderator for the debate. The response to the candidate forum was positive and social media comments posted during and after the debate was considerable.

The debate between Bozievich and Kent is one of the examples that Baumrucker points to when describing the role her now small group plays in civic discussions.

“The event with Nora Kent and Jay Bozievich was standing room only, with people standing outside and looking in the windows.

There was obviously a lot of interest in the community about the race, and the turnout was great,” she said.

There was a clear local focus at City Club of Florence for 2018. Guests included Florence Mayor Joe Henry, Siuslaw News Editor Ned Hickson, Siuslaw School Board President Suzanne Mann-Heintz, Public Arts Committee member Harlen Springer and Old Town entrepreneur Marianne Brisbane.

“Now, what we need is to find some new people to come in and infuse the group with some new ideas and new energy,” Nichols said. “We could really benefit by having someone step forward to help who knows about social media and they could help us get the word out.”

October’s guest speaker will be Florence City Council candidate Maureen Miltenberger, who is part of the Nov. 6 General Election. Miltenberger will be speaking at noon on Thursday, Oct. 18, at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

November’s scheduled speaker is Oregon author Bob Welch, who has just released a new biography of track and field innovator Dick Fosbury titled, “The Wizard of Foz.” He will speak to the to the City Club and interested community members in the Bromley Room at the Siuslaw Public Library on Nov. 2 from noon to one.

City Club is also broadcast on Saturday mornings on KXCR 90.7.

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3356 sqft home on 3.51 acres, lake access. Approx. 32x56 RV barn w/upstairs storage. 3+ car attached garage, bonus room/studio fully furnished with 1/2 bath. Landscaped w/pond.
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\$825,000 BH7729 ML#18280268



NEW LISTING
2 acres of peacefulness. Community dock & boat access. Approximately 191 ft of paved road frontage. May be lake view. If you can dream it, you can build it.
\$109,900 BH7767 ML#18419852



FEATURED LISTING
Enchanted Valley community dock on beautiful Mercer Lake. Build your dream home
.77 acre
\$39,000 BH7568 ML#17341221



NEW LISTING
Ranch home borders Ocean Dunes Golf Links. Lots of room for RV parking & additional toys. Large private backyard and circular driveway
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1816 sq ft
\$219,900 BH7768 ML#18094037



PRICE REDUCED
Great home with adorable studio. This home is neat & clean, has 12x16 addition, vinyl siding. Studio has loft & heat. Corner lot, park-like backyard, ample parking
2 Bdrm, 2 Ba 1272 sq ft
\$205,000 BH7720 ML#18101435



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\$195,000 BH7765 ML#18078503

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