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While hundreds attended the Bay Street Festivities, more than 2,500 people enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and family activities all over the park.

Florence Mayor Joe Henry helped man the barbecue, a Kingsford four-person charcoal grill.

“The turnout was fantastic,” he said. “I want to add my thanks to each and every one who participated, volunteered, contributed and those who just showed up for burgers and hot dogs. What a success. This is what a small town is all about — and especially thanks to our community members for their support of our police department and the city.”

Civic Leader Ternyik Dies

Well-known and respected by political leaders at both the local and state level for decades, long-time Florence resident Wilbur Ternyik passed away April 2 at the age of 92.

Ternyik was an iconic civic leader who served multiple terms as mayor of Florence, as well as 16 years on the Florence City Council and 29 years as a commissioner for the Port of Siuslaw. He was a veteran of World War II and received the Purple Heart award after being wounded by machine gun fire in a battle on Okinawa in 1945.

He often used a tomahawk peace pipe to gavel meetings to order, pulling from his heritage. He was descended from Solomon Smith, a Bostonian that emigrated to Oregon in 1832, and Celiast Cobaway, a daughter of a chief of the

Clatsop Indian tribe. He was also was an avid collector of native artifacts.

Ternyik had a lifelong interest in plants and the unique ecosystem of the Oregon Dunes and was a driving force in establishing the Oregon Coastal Conservation and Development Commission (OCCDC). The OCCDC was empaneled in 1971 by Gov. Tom McCall and its 24 elected officials and six at-large representatives were tasked with the responsibility of developing guidelines for the management of coastal resources. The makeup of the OCCDC was a mixture of environmentalists, developers and landowners and the work done by the commission was considered a model for other states, when developing protocols for coastal conservation, and sensibly managed development.

Ternyik's 1979 book, “Beach and Dune Implementation Technique” was initially considered a blueprint for coastal dune restoration, but later lost favor as European beach grass was determined to be a danger to the fragile snowy plover.

Ternyik testified before Congress on numerous occasions, notably lobbying for Federal funding to support the dredging of Oregon coastal ports. His efforts played a key role in building the extensions of the North and South Jetties and in obtaining the funding needed for dredging on the Siuslaw River.

He represented his community on the Lane Council of Governments and the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association and

continued his involvement in wetland and marsh restoration for many years. Ternyik and his wife, Joyce, were involved in wildlife preservation and spent many years as wildlife rehabilitators for a variety of ill or injured birds and animals. Because of his dedication to the community and action on civic issues, he was honored as Florence's First Citizen in 1971.

On Nov. 22, Joyce passed away, joining her spouse in their next great adventure.

Housing on the Coast

Housing continues to be big on the City of Florence's agenda, along with much of the Pacific Northwest. In June, Florence City Council approved a partnership with the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) to seek grant funding for an affordable housing development in Florence. The grant was approved in September and the planning process began for a community land trust development on Airport Road.

The city also updated the Florence Realization 2020 Comprehensive Plan regarding housing, economic development and tsunami mitigation. The revisions included two new objectives: to maintain and upgrade housing supply through enforcement and encourage rehabilitation of substandard housing to reduce costs of housing and conserve housing stock.

Beginning July 1, Oregon now allows accessory dwelling units in cities and counties.

“Affordable housing is starting to move forward, al-

beit slowly. It's the shadow of things to come,” said Florence Mayor Joe Henry.

Other housing issues that came up this year included first successes for First Step, which assists individuals with transitional housing; Florence Habitat for Humanity completed its 30th home for area families; and Florence Planning Commission approved plans for the new Cannery Station, a mixed-use development project that will allow residential and commercial uses. The project could take up to 10 years to complete.

“The hope is that it will be a vibrant, residential area that will include older people, younger people, little shops, restaurants and some amenities that will make it interesting to live in,” said Chuck McGlade, one of the project leaders and founders of Cannery Station.

In November, Oregon passed Measure 102, which amended the state constitution to allow counties, cities and towns to use bond revenue to fund the construction of affordable housing.

Dunes City Decides Future

While 2017 could have been described as the year Dunes City councilors fought marijuana production within city limits, 2018 could be viewed as the year the city fought for its very existence ... and possibly lost. The year was punctuated by attempts to bolster safety and services within the city, while at the same time fighting off financial threats from state regulations.

In March, Dunes City announced its intention to take

legal action against the State of Oregon. The city's move was in response to new rules handed down by the Building Codes Division (BCD) which restricted cities from contracting with third-party building inspectors. The rule would have forced Dunes City to hire its own building inspector instead of contracting out, which would have meant additional costs for the already cash-strapped municipality.

Multiple cities throughout the state protested against BCD's decision, but Dunes City was the first to announce legal action.

“I feel this is the biggest assault on Dunes City ... in the history of Dunes City,” said Councilor Duke Wells. “It will fundamentally change the way we live here in Dunes City if this goes through. ... I'd like the people of Oregon to know, this isn't just Dunes City. We're in the first 32. It's going to affect if not every, nearly every city in Oregon.”

The state has since backed off enforcement of the regulations until it can look at the constitutionality of the issue, though the issue is far from settled.

In April, the city looked into possibly contracting with the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) for more robust law enforcement coverage of the city, which for years has received complaints of long response times from local authorities, leading to a “why bother” relationship between many residents and law enforcement.

Dunes City held a public town hall with multiple enforcement officials but found

that the entire system of rural law enforcement is in trouble — LCSO is facing staffing and budget shortfalls that are some of the worst in the country. Any hopes that Dunes City could contract with Lane County were dashed when it was revealed that it would cost the city \$180,000 per year for one single deputy, far beyond what the city could afford.

“You need to fix the base services, the county, to be able to provide more law enforcement,” Florence Police Chief Tom Turner said, who previously worked with LCSO before coming to Florence. “That would be the permanent fix.”

Dunes City also opted to look into contracting with a municipal judge to begin enforcing code enforcement infractions.

“The city wants rules and they want regulations and they want us to do these things, but we have no teeth,” Councilor Tom Mallen said.

But to be able to contract with a judge, city residents had to vote in favor of it the November elections. The residents didn't, and now the city is left with very little recourse when it comes to law enforcement.

Also of importance in the election was the passage of a five year local option tax that would assure the city could keep receiving \$100,000 a year annually from state shared revenue tax. The option tax would have cost property owners \$3 a year, but residents, who never had a property tax, voted the option down.

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