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“Those two measures are critical to the existence of the city,” Mayor Robert Forsythe said before the election. “If we have no teeth in our codes, and no tax money so we can get people to do those things, then why are we here?”

With both measures failing to pass, the city still under financial threat from the state and no way to bolster law enforcement, the city is facing an existential crisis. In the next few months, the city will look into the financial and legal ramifications of the events of 2018, and begin holding public town halls looking to answer the essential question: Does Dunes City really want to be a city?

**Airport, Port Receive Major Funding for Upgrades**

On Sept. 12, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, announced the attainment of \$1,050,000 for projects at the Florence Municipal Airport with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant. This is in addition to \$837,000 DeFazio obtained for dredging at the Port of Siuslaw earlier this year.

Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds stated, “The City of Florence is thankful to be receiving this funding to pay for significant improvements to our municipal airport. With this FAA grant, we are able to leverage local dollars with

state funding to upgrade the lighting and airport runway safety improvements.”

The funds for the municipal airport are designated for runway maintenance, improvements and the installation of a precision approach path indicator to improve the information received by air traffic using the airport.

“This is great news for the many businesses and general aviation pilots who depend on these airports,” said DeFazio. “These funds will allow for important maintenance and critical safety improvements to be made to our local air infrastructure. I’m proud to support infrastructure investments like this and will continue to push for increased investments as the top Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.”

In April, DeFazio and U.S. senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley wrote a letter to Army for Civil Works Assistant Secretary R.D. James, urging the administration to fund critical navigation needs of Oregon’s small coastal ports. To that end he sponsored and helped pass a bill that authorizes an additional \$15 million above what has been approved by the federal government for Oregon ports.

Port of Siuslaw Manager

Dave Huntington was pleased to receive the news regarding the unexpected monies

country and I will continue to fight for these smart investments on the Transportation

son for the seat.

The race for the office of State Representative for the 9th District was a two-person contest between Democratic incumbent Caddie McKeown and Republican Teri Grier. McKeown defeated Grier by a vote of 16,181 to 13,610 to secure her fourth term in office.

There were also five statewide measures decided by voters this November.

Measure 102 proposed a constitutional amendment to allow local bonds to construct affordable housing and was passed with 56.9 percent of those voting in support.

Measure 103 was a proposed constitutional amendment that prohibited the application of taxes or fees, based on transactions for groceries, which was defeated with 57.3 percent voting no.

Measure 104 was a proposed constitutional amendment that would have expanded the application of a requirement that a three fifths legislative majority approve bills raising revenue. Measure 104 was defeated, with 1,813,234 casting a no ballot.

Measure 105 would have repealed the law limiting the use of state and local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws. Measure 105 was defeated with 1,172,163 voters

opposing the measure.

Measure 106 would have amended the constitution to prohibit spending public funds directly or indirectly for abortions. This measure failed with 1,195,718 opposed.

Locally, Florence City Council had two openings, as term limits were up for councilors Woody Woodbury, who was appointed in 2018, and Susy Lacer, who completed her four-year term. In the election, Woodbury retained his seat and local business owner Geraldine Lucio defeated her opposition, Maureen Miltenberger, by a vote of 2,048 to 1,840.

Dunes City’s candidates for city council were all reelected, including Mayor Bob Forsythe and councilors Sheldon L. Meyer, Susan Snow and Duke Wells.

**Siuslaw School Bond Fails**

The Siuslaw School District spent hundreds of hours assessing district needs in 2017 and 2018, crafting a proposal to upgrade the elementary and middle schools with a bond that could be paid by area voters over the next 30+ years.

Eugene architectural firm Pivot coordinated the effort to determine the most needed areas of improvements and the necessary upgrades as all buildings in the district are seismically unsafe. The mechanical systems and the security of students attending school were also major factors in the thinking by SSD Administration and staff.

Public meetings were held at different points in the process and input from stakeholders was solicited and shared with voters. A Public Action Committee was formed and after many more meetings and consultations, the final plan to renovate and replace district buildings was estimated to cost \$108 million.

The action committee made presentations to civic groups with the hope that the information presented to the voters would be convincing and Measure 20-291 would pass. That hope was not realized as voters rejected the bond levy by a vote of 4,972 to 3,652.

**Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act Goes into Effect**

In a rare example of bipartisan law making, House Resolution (HR) 1306, The Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act conveyed more than 32,000 acres of land, currently under federal control, to three tribal entities in western and southern Oregon. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives in the summer of 2017 and the Senate approved the bill by voice vote for delivery to President Trump on Dec. 27, 2017. The bill took effect on Jan. 9.

The Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act places 17,519 acres of federal land, currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) into trust for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and 14,742 acres of federal land into trust for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. It would also amend the Coquille Restoration Act to require the Interior Department to manage the Coquille Indian Tribes’ forestlands in the same way as other tribal forestlands.

HR 1306 was introduced in March by District 4 Rep. Peter Defazio and the legislation was co-sponsored by District 2 Rep. Greg Walden. The legislation was co-sponsored in the Senate by Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden.

Coquille Tribal Chairwoman Brenda Meade is pleased with the change in the law and the shift in the position of the federal government.

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**“This is great news for the many businesses and general aviation pilots who depend on these airports. I’m proud to support infrastructure investments like this and will continue to push for increased investments as the top Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.”**

— U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio

*About the Federal Aviation Administration Grant received by Florence Municipal Airport*

obtained by DeFazio, as the federal administration had designated no funding for water-related maintenance in Florence during this fiscal cycle.

The additional \$5.6 million was authorized as a direct result of the Oregon delegation’s efforts.

“I’m pleased that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers included \$837,000 for critical navigation needs to ensure the safety and navigability of the Siuslaw River, including dredging, jetty monitoring and infrastructure management,” DeFazio said. “These investments will ensure that the local recreational and commercial fishing fleet continues to have safe passage to fishing and crabbing grounds, and it will sustain jobs directly tied to economic activity at the Port of Siuslaw. This is exactly the type of infrastructure investment we need more of across the

and Infrastructure Committee.”

The upgrade to the Florence Municipal Airport will begin in the spring of 2019.

**Election Recap**

The November 2018 election presented voters with significantly different choices on local, statewide and national issues as well as major differences in the experience and qualifications of candidates seeking office.

The election results saw Governor Kate Brown defeat her main rival for the office, Republican Knute Buehler, by more than 100,00 votes; 934,498 to 814,988. The race for U.S. Representative from District 4 was closer, but still a clear victory for long-time incumbent Peter Defazio, who received 208,710 votes to the 152,414 received by his closest competitor, Art Robinson. This is the fifth time DeFazio has defeated Robin-

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